COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 2.

MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 88, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January 1891.

LONDON:
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1891.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
69	Trinidad (Tobago) - - - - - -	
70	Basutoland - - - - - -	1888
71	British Honduras - - - - -	1888–9
72	British Guiana - - - - -	1888
73	Western Australia - - - - -	"
74	Gold Coast - - - - - -	"
75	Sierra Leone - - - - -	"
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports) - - -	"
77	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
78	Ceylon - - - - - -	"
79	Fiji - - - - - -	"
80	Lagos - - - - - -	"
81	Victoria - - - - - -	"
82	Leeward Islands - - - - -	"
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic) - - - -	"
84	Hong Kong (Further Report) - - -	—
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry) - - - -	1889
86	Heligoland - - - - - -	—
87	Newfoundland - - - - -	1889
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues - -	1888
89	Zululand - - - - - -	"
90	Gibraltar - - - - - -	1889
91	Grenada - - - - - -	"
92	Bermuda - - - - - -	"
93	St. Vincent - - - - -	"
94	St. Vincent - - - - -	1888
95	Bahamas - - - - - -	1889
96	St. Lucia - - - - - -	"
97	British Bechuanaland - - - -	"
98	Turk's and Caicos - - - - -	1888–9
99	Gambia - - - - - -	1889
100	Straits Settlements - - - - -	"
101	St. Kitts-Nevis - - - - -	"
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit) - - -	1886
103	British New Guinea - - - -	1890
104	Natal - - - - - -	1888–9
105	Malta - - - - - -	1889
106	British Guiana - - - - -	"
107	Barbados - - - - - -	"
108	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	"
109	Western Australia - - - - -	"
110	Gold Coast (Agriculture) - - - -	"
111	Labuan - - - - - -	1890
112	Jamaica - - - - - -	1889
113	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
114	Basutoland - - - - - -	"
115	Sierra Leone - - - - -	1889–9
116	Fiji - - - - - -	1889
117	Hong Kong - - - - - -	"
118	St. Helena - - - - - -	"
		"

NEW SERIES OF COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

1	British Honduras - - - - - -	1889

No. 2.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 88, Old Series.)

Sir C. C. LEES to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Mauritius,
December 9, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a report upon the Blue Book for 1889 by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

COLONIAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR.

Port Louis,
December 2, 1890.

SIR,

I BEG to forward to you for transmission to the Secretary of State a short report on the Blue Book for 1889.

Revenue.

2. The revenue, which was estimated at Rs. 7,280 803, realised Rs. 8,744,864 or Rs. 1,464,061 more than had been anticipated, and Rs. 170,806 more than in 1888.

3. This increase is mainly due to the transport of sugar by rail, the receipts of the railway showing a surplus of Rs. 267,444 over those of 1888, and indicating a remunerative cane crop, the export having been 11,716,916 kilos. more than in the preceding year.

Expenditure.

4. The expenditure of 1889 was heavy. It was only Rs. 13,984 below the total receipts, and was as much as Rs. 788,695 in excess of the expenditure of 1888.

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5. During the five years which end with the year 1889, large sums have figured in the expenditure of the Colony which do not properly come under its ordinary expenditure, such as moneys spent on re-afforestation, defence works, the Mare aux Vacoas, and sundry purchases of public utility.

6. If these, amounting for five years to a total of Rs. 1,197,390, be deducted from the total deficits in the five years amounting to Rs. 2,381,630 you will notice that the expenditure has yearly exceeded the revenue by Rs. 236,848.

7. It will be necessary to remedy this state of things, but taking the last figure to be the average expenditure for five years inclusive of 1889, the balance of revenue in 1889 being even so small as Rs. 13,984, shows how much this Island is dependent on its main resource, namely, the sugar cane.

8. A good crop and fair prices at once go to swell the revenue in such items as transport and export dues, while the budget of the following year can depend on larger imports.

9. Thus the year 1888 was not so good a cane year as 1889, and the decrease in shipping in 1889 was 29 inwards and 8 outwards, while a general increase of 5 per cent. on customs duties whether fixed or ad valorem, with the exception of rice, flour, and salt fish, only gave an increase of about Rs. 270,000 over the year 1888.

Imports.

10. The imports for the last three years, exclusive of specie and bullion, have been valued as follows:—

	Rs.
1887 - - - -	23,434,100
1888 - - - -	15,341,202
1889 - - - -	15,612,056

Exports.

While the exports for the corresponding years have been valued at:—

	Rs.
1887 - - - -	25,998,086
1888 - - - -	32,201,978
1889 - - - -	32,806,815

11. The decrease in shipping which will be noticeable in the following table, is attributable mainly to the fact that the smaller vessels are giving way to the steamers of larger tonnage, and that sailing vessels are decreasing in number.

Shipping.

12. Thus in 1889 the increase in tonnage over 1888 has been 22,362, and the decrease in the number of ships 37.

—	Inwards.	Outwards.	Ships, both In and Out.
	Tons.	Tons.	Ships.
1888 - - -	314,432	307,912	914
1889 - - -	336,794	329,245	877

Population.

13. The estimated population for 1889 was on the 31st of December 372,664, being an increase of 3,362 over that of 1888 at the same date, of which the Indians number 254,465 against 118,199 of the general population.

Birth and Death Rate.

14. The births throughout the Colony exceeded the deaths by 1,134, which is 793 less than in 1888, while the number of deaths exceeded those of 1888 by 1,374; but if the death-rate exceeded that of 1888 by 3·4, the birth rate exceeded that of 1888 by 1·3.

15. The continued high death-rate of the Colony is now particularly arresting attention, and, it is hoped, will in a short time show an amelioration by the practical measures which a competent authority will advise and carry out.

Immigration.

16. 3,814 immigrants more than in 1888 were introduced into the Colony at an increased cost of Rs. 7·37 per male statute adult, and the total number of immigrants introduced was 4,527 during the year.

17. The table in the summary showing the number of coolies who have left the Colony during the last few years is very suggestive of the growing dislike of the Indian population to leave Mauritius after their term of contract is at an end. Thus the emigration in 1885 was 4,001, and dwindled in 1889 to 1,319.

Poor Relief.

18. The admissions into hospital or asylum were 10,065 as against 8,791 in 1888, and the paupers at the charge of Government were 1,514 against 1,414 in the previous year, the excess of cost of maintenance for 1889, being Rs. 14,767.

19. You will, however, notice that there was a slight decrease of admissions to the leper asylum and to the lunatic asylum as compared with 1888.

Education.

20. A decrease of 319 scholars on roll in 1889 is not a healthy sign, nor is the decrease of 457 in the average attendance of scholars, or the falling off by 47 in the number of pupils at the Royal College or Royal College schools.

21. It is to be hoped that when the commission of inquiry has finished its labours this state of things will be changed.

Judicial Department.

22. The judicial department appears to show an improvement over 1888. There were 306 offences less than in 1888 reported to the police or to the magistrates; 1,160 convictions less than the previous year, and 565 less admissions to the gaol, but it must be borne in mind that the revelations which caused the inquiry into the police force had demoralised that body for the time, and that the above improvement is scarcely, under the circumstances, a reliable factor in the appreciation of the morality of the people.

Forests and Crown Lands.

23. In order to obtain Rs. 67,338 for sales and leases of forests and crown lands, a sum of Rs. 108,284 was expended, which is however a very slight improvement on 1888, when, to obtain Rs. 57,522 01 the expenditure, exclusive of disbursements for purchase of land, was Rs. 102,488.

Railways, Post Office, and Telegraphs.

24. The railway receipts which in 1888 were Rs. 1,533,769 realised Rs. 1,801,213 in 1889, or an increase of Rs. 267,444, and the post office and telegraphs also showed a small increase of Rs. 7,109.

25. From these remarks your Excellency will see that, though no striking comparison can be established between the year under notice and its predecessor, still certain facts are becoming more noticeable and call for attention with a view to further legislation.

Establishments.

26. The yearly heavy charge for establishment is no doubt inherent to the great distance of this Colony from the larger centres of activity which might otherwise attract and give occupation to its inhabitants, but the increased charges upon the public charity caused by the large Indian population of this island who practically do not contribute to the revenue is matter for earnest consideration.

27. The change in the nature of the shipping which must eventually require the deepening of the harbour to meet the requirements of heavier tonnage is becoming a matter of necessity which the year 1889 has made clear.

28. In the same way the continued high death-rate has revealed the necessity in the interest of the Colony of attacking the problem of sanitation in a more practical manner than hitherto; and in conclusion I must add, that, if the comparison between 1889 and 1888 as indicated by the figures in the Blue Book does not reveal much change, there is no doubt in my mind that it suggests the urgency of remedial legislation and of adherence to sounder economical principles.

Legislation.

The legislation of 1889 does not call for much notice, except the Ordinance No. 9 to make further provision for preventing the pollution of rivers and streams which is likely to do good in a matter of great necessity if strictly enforced.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency the Governor.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(For Report for 1889 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 2.)

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No.	Colony.	Year.
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94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	"
96	St. Lucia	"
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	"
100	Straits Settlements	"
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	"
106	British Guiana	"
107	Barbados	"
108	Trinidad and Tobago	"
109	Western Australia	"
110	Gold Coast (Agriculture)	1890
111	Labuan	1889
112	Jamaica	"
113	Falkland Islands	"
114	Basutoland	1889–90
115	Sierra Leone	1889
116	Fiji	"
117	Hong Kong	"
118	St. Helena	"

NEW SERIES OF COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

1	British Honduras	1889
2	Mauritius	"
3	British Bechuanaland	1889–90
4	Victoria	1889
5	Newfoundland	"
6	British New Guinea	1889–90
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	"
9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	"
12	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
13	Gibraltar	"
14	Zululand	"
15	Sierra Leone	"
16	Barbados	"
17	Falkland Islands	"
18	Labuan	"
19	British Honduras	"
20	Basutoland	1890–91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	"
23	Grenada	"
24	Straits Settlements	"
25	British Guiana	"
26	St. Helena	"

No. 27.

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MAURITIUS.

[For Report for 1889 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 2.]

Sir C. C. Lees to Lord Knutsford.

Government House, Mauritius,
September 9, 1891.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Mauritius Blue Book for the year 1890, together with a copy of a report upon the Blue Book by Mr. Elliott.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. Lees,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Report to accompany the Blue Book for 1890.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue received in 1890 was Rs. 7,774,773, an increase of Rs. 376,440 over the amount estimated. This increase is in a great measure due to Customs duties paid on an unusual amount of goods withdrawn from bond towards the close of the year in anticipation of the passing of an Ordinance, which was under the consideration of the Council of Government, to authorise the levying of a surcharge of 10 per cent. on the principal items of revenue.

2. There was also an increase in the amount received from harbour dues, owing to the passing of an Ordinance imposing increased dues which came into force in September 1890.

3. The increased duty on rum issued for home consumption, which was imposed by Ordinance 17 of 1889, also contributed to the excess of revenue over estimates.

4. There was an increase in the revenue derived from the Post Office, a part of which is attributable to the establishment of the system of postal parcels.

5. There was a decrease in the revenue expected under the head of Interest and Exchange, which is owing to the rate of exchange having fallen below the rate at which it was estimated the amounts collected in England would be brought to account.

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6. The expenditure in 1890 was Rs. 7,705,311, which was Rs. 264,747 less than the amount estimated.

7. This decrease is attributable to savings on establishments, to the payment in 1890 of subsidy for the Colombo Mail Service for one quarter only, while provision had been made for the whole year, to a less expenditure on account of coal for the railway, the amount expected from Australia not having been shipped owing to strikes; and to the fall in the rate of exchange, so that the whole amount anticipated for that item was not required.

8. The saving on coal was able to be effected because the Railway Department drew from its reserve stock, which will have to be made good this year.

9. When the year opened it was estimated that the revenue would fall short of the expenditure by Rs. 571,725, but this deficit, owing to the causes previously mentioned, was converted into a surplus of Rs. 69,462.

Imports and Exports.

10. The trade for the year was valued at Rs. 44,323,642, against Rs. 50,875,235 in 1889, and Rs. 49,378,905 in 1888; divided into—

——	1888.	1889.	1890.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	16,538,469	17,676,556	16,702,818
Exports - - -	32,840,436	33,198,679	27,620,824

or, exclusive of specie and bullion—

——	1888.	1889.	1890.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	15,341,202	15,612,056	16,375,377
Exports - - -	32,291,978	32,806,715	26,962,930

11. The value of the principal imports for the three years 1888, 1889, and 1890 was as follows:—

——	1888.	1889.	1890.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals - - - -	394,788	295,383	332,744
Apothecaries' ware - -	165,739	171,118	182,670
Grain, flour, meal - -	5,261,574	4,038,773	5,153,773
Provisions - - -	1,363,911	1,258,111	1,434,549
Malt liquors, wines and spirits -	868,065	856,623	823,657
Cotton manufactures - -	1,046,684	978,420	1,254,631
Woollen manufactures - -	147,278	212,433	218,597

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——	1888.	1889.	1890.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Haberdashery - - -	354,076	333,307	407,245
Coal - - - -	351,168	839,385	542,372
Machinery - - -	80,014	135,285	209,607
Iron and steel - - -	144,536	198,639	193,691
Hardware and cutlery - -	450,247	566,340	1,043,452
Leather, wrought and unwrought - - -	217,287	260,465	243,721
Manure and fertilizers - -	1,256,042	2,155,611	1,100,217
Oil of all kinds - - -	526,941	601,562	764,064
Tobacco - - -	185,327	139,776	193,304
Total - - -	12,813,677	13,041,231	14,098,294

12. The value of the imports given in the Blue Book is the declared value at the port of shipment, value in sterling being converted into rupees at 10 per £. Nothing is added for charges and exchange, the amount of which is shown in a separate column.

13. Were the charges and exchange added to the declared value of the imports the great disparity between the amount of the imports and exports would be very much diminished, as will be seen from the following table, which shows the result of adding the charges and exchange to the value of the imports given in the preceding table:—

——	1888.	1889.	1890.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals - - - -	697,640	524,741	551,820
Apothecaries' ware - -	287,424	299,335	302,197
Grain, flour, meal - -	7,306,008	5,599,672	7,070,167
Provisions - - -	2,204,676	2,045,895	2,231,893
Malt liquors, wine, and spirits -	1,496,864	1,506,552	1,367,227
Cotton manufactures - -	1,651,627	1,543,804	1,949,851
Woollen manufactures - -	250,822	364,365	358,275
Haberdashery - - -	607,386	575,653	667,081
Coal - - - -	944,643	2,274,448	1,408,150
Machinery - - -	139,224	238,097	347,948
Iron and steel - - -	248,959	345,815	320,269
Hardware and cutlery - -	779,711	986,725	1,724,693
Leather, wrought and unwrought - - -	370,730	448,435	399,247
Manure and fertilizers - -	2,168,741	3,700,562	1,757,762
Oil of all kinds - - -	791,636	821,954	1,121,645
Tobacco - - - -	292,443	223,496	298,784
Total - - -	20,238,534	21,499,549	21,877,009

14. The principal export of the Colony is sugar, and the following table shows in kilogrammes (1,000 of which make a ton) the quantity exported in the years 1888, 1889, and 1890; the value in

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rupees as declared at the Custom House; and the rate calculated therefrom per 100 kilogrammes:—

Year.	Quantity exported in Kilogrammes.	Declared Value in Rupees.	Value per 100 Kilogrammes.
			Rs.
1888 - - -	130,066,518	28,754,798	22
1889 - - -	141,783,434	28,994,791	20
1890 - - -	128,405,938	23,483,868	18

From this it will be seen that the crop in 1890 was not only inferior in quantity to those of the two previous years, but that the selling price of sugar had fallen considerably; the value of 100 kilos. being in 1890 Rs. 18 against Rs. 20 in 1889, and Rs. 22 in 1888.

15. The principal markets for our sugar were:—

—	1888.	1889.	1890.
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
India - - - -	66,077,096	63,981,575	68,260,803
Australasia - - -	31,775,136	41,634,740	30,185,866
United Kingdom - -	12,291,913	14,112,787	14,995,667
Cape Colonies - - -	8,667,146	10,666,308	11,741,487
United States - - -	6,340,467	8,949,065	1,505,126
Ceylon - - - -	2,819,628	1,198,576	596,901

While the exports of sugar to India, the United Kingdom, and the Cape Colonies have increased, there has been a great decline in the quantity exported to the United States and Ceylon.

16. During the year 1890 a trial of the diffusion system for the extraction of sugar from the cane was made on Britannia Estate, belonging to the Oriental Bank Estates Company, and it appears from the figures given by the manager of the Company that the quantity of sugar obtained by this system was about 30 per cent. beyond the amount that would have been obtained by the ordinary process of sugar making.

17. The cost of the necessary apparatus and of its installation was advanced from the Colonial Treasury, and will be recovered by a small addition to the export duty on sugar.

18. While attention has thus been given to the question of how to extract from the cane the largest possible amount of sugar, the necessity of obtaining from the soil a larger yield of canes containing a larger amount of sugar has not been lost sight of, and with the

approval of the Council of Government a station at Agronomique is about to be created where experiments will be made with the object of improving the system of cultivation to its utmost limit.

Shipping.

19. The following table gives the number of ships and their tonnage, entered inwards and cleared outwards in 1888, 1889, and 1890 :—

Year.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1888 - - -	465	314,432	449	307,912
1889 - - -	436	336,794	441	329,245
1890 - - -	456	343,302	463	346,320

20. A commission appointed to consider what improvements should be made in the harbour with a view to provide better accommodation for the larger class of vessels that now frequent it has sent in a report, and the subject is under consideration.

Population.

21. The estimated population for 1890 was on the 31st December 377,986, being an increase of 5,322 over that of 1889 at the same date. The general population was estimated at 119,001, of which 62,101 were males and 56,900 females. Of the Indian population, estimated at 258,985, 149,264 were males and 109,721 females.

22. The births registered in 1890 were 13,303 and the deaths 12,781.

23. The birth-rate was lower than it has been of late years, 1888 excepted, when the rate was about the same.

24. The mean annual death-rate in 1890 was 34·3 per thousand, a very high rate. With the exceptions of the years 1882, 1883, and 1887, the mortality of 1890 was higher than that of any year since the time of the great fever.

25. The Sanitary Commission, which was appointed in 1890, having suggested that the services of an engineer well versed in sanitary and water supply questions be secured, Mr. Osbert Chadwick, sanitary engineer, is now considering what measures can be adopted to improve the public health.

Education.

26. The average number of pupils in the Royal College and Royal College Schools in 1890 was 475, an increase of 29 over the number who attended in 1889, but 18 below the number in 1888. 187 pupils belonged to the Royal College proper, which is in Port Louis; the College School in Port Louis had 140 pupils, and the College School at Curepipe 148.

27. The staff of the Royal College and College Schools consists of a rector and 42 professors and masters, besides which there are four religious instructors and four ushers.

28. The Royal College is affiliated to the University of London, and many of its pupils have graduated there.

29. Eight private schools in the Colony are received into association with the Royal College; their pupils following the course of secondary instruction prescribed for the pupils of the Royal College; and being required to submit to an annual examination held at the Royal College.

30. There are various classes of scholarships given as rewards to successful competitors at the annual examinations, the most valuable being those which are known as the English scholarships, awarded every year to the two most deserving pupils, who are sent to pursue their studies in the United Kingdom, and who receive an annual allowance of 200*l.* for four years, and the cost of their passage to and from England.

31. The average number of scholars on the rolls of the Government schools and grant-in-aid schools in 1890 was 15,743, an increase of 191 over the number who attended in 1889, but 128 below the number in 1888.

32. The average attendance in these schools in 1890 was about the same as in 1889, and the superintendent of schools says that considering (1) the fever which prevailed as usual in Port Louis, and in the low-lying parts of the Colony during the first four or five months of the year, after the setting in of the heavy rains; and (2) the epidemic of influenza which broke out in the middle of the year and lasted for several months, that attendance may be considered somewhat satisfactory, and bears favourable comparison with the attendance of previous years.

33. The expenditure on educational purposes in 1890 was Rs. 422,298, against a sum of Rs. 413,146 in 1889 and of Rs. 414,789 in 1888.

Post Office and Telegraphs.

34. The revenue collected in this department exceeded by Rs. 2,632 the amount collected in 1889. There was an increase of 86,674 in the number of letters which passed through the office, and of 5,792 in the number of postcards; but there was a decrease of 168,306 in the number of newspapers.

35. The mail service by the Messageries Maritimes Company was continued with great regularity, and a new mail service by

the vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company, was commenced in the month of June. This is a four-weekly service between Mauritius and Colomb, where the steamers connect with lines to England, Australia, India, and China. Half the subsidy is paid by the Imperial Government and half by the Colony.

Railways.

36. The receipts for 1890 were Rs. 1,575,889, a decrease of Rs. 225,324 as compared with 1889. The reduction in the sugar crop is the principal cause of this decrease. The expenditure in 1890 was Rs. 1,106,304, a decrease of Rs. 200,089 on the expenditure of 1889.

37. The Acting General Manager reports that the passenger service was conducted with regularity; no delay in the running of the trains was complained of by the public, nor is he aware that any passenger received any damage through the fault of the Railway Department.

38. An extension of the Moka line, from Montagne Blanche Station to Rivière Sêche Station, which will connect the existing line with the North Line, has been sanctioned, and the work is now in hand

Immigration.

39. The number of Indian immigrants introduced into the Colony in 1890 was 3,025 : 1,094 of whom were from Calcutta and 1,931 from Madras. They were conveyed in eight vessels, one of which was a sailing ship, while the others were steamers. Only one death occurred during the voyage from India, and that was on board the sailing ship.

40. The average cost of introduction per male statute adult was Rs. 154 . 32, a slight reduction on the cost of those introduced in 1889.

41. There was again a decrease in the number of immigrants leaving the Colony, the number recorded at the immigration depôt being 1,054.

42. The proportion of females to males among the immigrants who arrived in the Colony was 36 per cent., and the proportion of females to males in the departures was 27 · 6 per cent.

Poor Relief.

43. The expenditure under this head in 1890, including establishment charges, was Rs. 409,131, showing a diminution of Rs. 45,474 on the expenditure under the same head in 1889.

44. Indoor relief was given at Barkly Asylum and in several convents to infirm and destitute persons and to orphans : and at St. Lazare Asylum to lepers. In the public hospitals were received those unable to provide themselves with medical care and treatment.

MAURITIUS.

45. The number of persons assisted at the Barkly Asylum in 1890 was 954, against 754 in 1889, the number remaining on 31st December 1890 being 340. The number of deaths in the year was 67, against 65 in the previous year, and the ratio of mortality was 7·02 per cent., against 8·62 in 1889.

46. The number of lepers maintained at St. Lazare in 1890 was 314, against 303 in the previous year, the number remaining on 31st December 1890 being 156. The mortality in 1890 was 42 against 35 in the previous year, and the ratio of mortality was 13·37 per cent. against 12·02 in 1889.

47. The number of patients treated in the Public Hospitals in 1890 was 10,436, against 9,976 in 1889. Of these 8,331 were treated in hospitals in the rural districts, and 2,105 at the Civil Hospital in Port Louis. The total number of deaths in the several hospitals was 1,165, against 1,013 in 1889; and the ratio of mortality was 11·16 per cent. against 10·15 in the previous year.

48. Besides the medical care given to paupers in the public hospitals, there were 47,403 attendances of sick people at the public dispensaries, against 31,213 in 1889, showing the very large increase of 16,190 over the previous year, which is ascribed to a recrudescence of fever, and the epidemic of influenza.

49. Of the insane patients treated at the Government Lunatic Asylum, 473 were at the cost of the Poor Law Commission.

50. Out-door relief in the shape of rice and money was given to 11,977 persons against 12,848 in the previous year.

Criminal Statistics.

51. The following table shows the number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates in the last three years; the number of persons apprehended or summoned; the number of convictions in the inferior courts, and the number of acquittals.

Year.	Offences.	Persons.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1888 - -	26,880	17,706	13,707	3,805
1889 - -	26,574	17,183	12,547	4,455
1890 - -	30,085	21,405	16,173	5,055

52. The convictions and acquittals in the Supreme Court during those years were :—

——	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1888 - - - -	129	23
1889 - - - -	83	13
1890 - - - -	101	13

53. The number of committals to gaol in those years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	For Debt.	For non-payment of Fines and Costs.	For safe Custody or not furnishing Security.	For Penal Imprisonment.
1888 - -	17	2,224	1,550	4,160
1889 - -	10	1,848	1,591	3,937
1890 - -	13	2,037	1,885	4,943

54. The construction of a new central prison at Beau Bassin, six miles from town, has long occupied attention, and the building is being pressed on. The enclosure wall is finished, and one block containing accommodation for 520 prisoners is now occupied. When the work is completed there will be accommodation for 800 prisoners, and it will then be possible to close the existing central prison in Port Louis, and the district prisons at Flacq, Grand Port, and Savanne.

55. The reformatory for juvenile offenders is also under the management of the Superintendent of Prisons. 382 boys were sent to the reformatory in 1890, and the number remaining on 31 December was 128. The health of the boys was good, and there was but one death in the year caused by malarial fever.

Meteorological Observations.

56. Dr. Meldrum, the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory, has, as usual, contributed a valuable paper on the results of the Meteorological Observations taken during the year.

57. The mean temperature in the shade at the Observatory was 72 · 2 degrees against an average of 73 · 6 for the 16 years 1875–1890; the absolute highest temperature being 84 · 4 on 15th January, and the absolute lowest 53 · 5 on 26th July.

58. It should be stated that the Observatory is about three miles from the West Coast, and stands on a plain 178 feet above sea level.

59. The rainfall for the year at the Observatory was 53 · 17 inches on 208 days, against an average of 47 · 98 inches on 201 days for the last 16 years. The wettest months were February, March, and April, and the driest, September.

Legislation.

60. Thirty-two Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government in 1890.

Mauritius.

61. Ten of these deal with questions affecting the revenue of the Colony, the principal of which are Ordinances to amend the harbour dues, to impose a tax on the cultivation of tobacco, to amend the license laws, to levy a surcharge of 10 per cent. on the principal items of revenue, and to convert certain *ad valorem* Customs duties into fixed duties according to weight, measurement, or number.

62. The Ordinance to amend the law relating to the liquidation and partition of successions is of considerable importance. This Ordinance simplifies the procedure and renders less expensive the system of partition of successions such as it exists under the codes, and special provisions are made with regard to successions the assets of which do not exceed Rs. 6,000.

63. Another important measure was the Ordinance to provide for the payment of grants out of public funds in support of the established Church of Scotland, the Church of England, and the Roman Catholic Church in Mauritius, and for the distribution of such grants. This Ordinance was passed to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee of the whole Council of Government, which were practically accepted by all parties as a final and satisfactory settlement of the question of the redistribution of the Ecclesiastical grants.

64. Another Ordinance was passed to constitute the Presbyterial Committee of the Church of Scotland in Mauritius into a corporate body with defined powers of control and management.

65. Other Ordinances to which I may call attention are the following:— No. 12, to consolidate and amend the law relating to the emoluments of the Governor of Mauritius; No. 9, to amend the law relating to the Curatelle; No. 17, to consolidate and amend the law relating to the civil status; and No. 5, to amend the Quarantine Ordinance of 1887.

(Signed) THOMAS ELLIOTT,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

7th September 1891.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 40.

MAURITIUS (SEYCHELLES AND RODRIGUES).

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1889 & 1890,

WITH A

REPORT ON THE ISLAND OF ALDABRA.

(For Reports for 1888, *see* Colonial Report No. 88, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 1892.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
5	Newfoundland	1889
6	British New Guinea	1889-90
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	,,
9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	,,
12	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
13	Gibraltar	,,
14	Zululand	,,
15	Sierra Leone	,,
16	Barbados	,,
17	Falkland Islands	,,
18	Labuan	,,
19	British Honduras	,,
20	Basutoland	1890-91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	,,
23	Grenada	,,
24	Straits Settlements	,,
25	British Guiana	,,
26	St. Helena	,,
27	Mauritius	,,
28	Gambia	,,
29	Hong Kong	,,
30	Ceylon	1889
31	Lagos	,,
32	Lagos	1890
33	Ceylon	,,
34	Newfoundland	,,
35	Jamaica	1889-91
36	Victoria	1890
37	British New Guinea	1890-91
38	St. Vincent	1891
39	Bermuda	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.

No. 40.

MAURITIUS.

SEYCHELLES.

MAURITIUS

(SEYCHELLES AND RODRIGUES).

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1889 AND 1890.

No. 1.

Acting Administrator BROWN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Seychelles,
February 15, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward direct one copy of each of Blue Book Reports for 1889 and 1890, which your Lordship had expressed a desire to receive at an early date.

I have further the honour to enclose copy of my Despatch to the Governor covering duplicate copies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. M. BROWN,
Acting Administrator.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1889.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the year 1889 amounted to Rs. 208,967 against Rs. 200,095.56 in the preceding year, and the expenditure was Rs. 195,550.12 against Rs. 188,715.78 in the year 1888.

The following is a comparative statement of the principal heads of receipts in the years 1888 and 1889:—

—	1888.	1889.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Import duties - - -	106,325 71	121,941 19
Licenses - - - -	24,072 50	24,017 50
Local rate - - - -	28,849 71	28,707 06
Fines, fees, and forfeitures of court	7,067 73	4,354 23
Registration - - -	7,906 56	9,525 92
Mortgage - - - -	1,226 54	968 30
Rum duty - - - -	7,002 24	3,746 74
Stamps - - - -	3,493 00	3,376 00

	Rs.
Total revenue - - - -	208,967
Total expenditure - - - -	195,550
Balance in favour of revenue - -	13,417

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports, exclusive of specie, amounted to Rs. 653,102.37 against Rs. 529,675.18 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 123,427.19. This is mainly attributable to the increased exportation of vanilla during 1889.

Imports.

The imports show a total of Rs. 570,989.55 against Rs. 568,289.82 in 1888, showing an increase of Rs. 2,699.73. Such increase is mainly due to increased importation of coals, building materials, coffee, and cotton stuffs.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Dependency on the 31st December, according to a statement of the Treasurer duly audited, amounted to Rs. 79,748.40.

The liabilities amounted to Rs. 80,998.17, showing a balance of Rs. 1,249.97 against the Dependency.

SHIPPING.

Eighty vessels manned by 8,086 men, including mail steamers and men-of-war, with an aggregate tonnage of 168,325 tons, entered the Port of Victoria, during the year, namely:—

	Tons.
13 men-of-war - - - -	25,700
36 mail steamers - - -	133,674
31 merchant vessels other than mail steamers - - -	9,051

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Of the men-of-war—
- 9 were British.
- 2 were German.
- 1 was French.
- 1 was Austrian.

Of the merchant vessels—
- 30 were British.
- 37 were French (including mail steamers).

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered in the Dependency during the year 1889 was 508, namely:—

—	General Population.		African Population.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate - - - - -	174	157	25	21
Natural acknowledged - - -	9	7	0	0
Natural - - - - -	59	51	5	0
	242	215	30	21

The birth rate per 1,000 was 31·709 as against 32·40 in 1888.

The rate of still-births per 1,000 was 1·997 as against 2·21 in 1888.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 368, the rate per 1,000 being 22·970 as against 17·10 in 1888.

There were 155 marriages celebrated in 1889 as against 173 in 1888.

EDUCATION.

In 1889 there were 25 schools aided by the Government grants, attended by 1,733 children, against 24 schools in 1888 attended by 1,729 children.

Eighteen schools with 1,349 pupils were under the control of the Roman Catholic Mission, and seven schools with 384 pupils were managed by the civil chaplain and the Church Missionary Society.

The sum voted in 1889 for grants in aid was Rs. 8,000, the same amount as in 1888.

It was apportioned as follows, viz.:—

	Rs.	c.
Roman Catholic schools - -	6,038	78
Church of England schools - -	1,781	41
Church Mission school at Capucin -	179	81

MAURITIUS.

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JUDICIAL.

Criminal Side.

The total number of criminal informations filed in 1889 was 578, as against 859 reported for 1888. Out of the 578 informations filed, 531 were adjudicated upon, as against 796 in 1888; the number of informations in which no further action was taken, or which were not adjudicated upon within the year, were 47 as against 63 in 1888.

There were 452 persons convicted as against 778 in 1888.

The decrease was noticeable chiefly in cases of

Disturbance, for which 135 persons were convicted in 1889 as against 221 in 1888;

Drunkenness, for which 104 persons were convicted as against 130 in 1888;

Breach of license law, of which only two persons were convicted in 1889 as against 63 in 1888; Breach of laws for the repression of larcenies of produce for which there were 24 convictions in 1889 as against 59 in 1888, larceny and possession of stolen property for which there were 50 persons convicted in 1889 as against 87 in 1888; Breaches of the fishery laws, for which three persons only were convicted in 1889 as against 54 in 1888.

There were no cases of murder or manslaughter in 1889 as in 1888. The most serious offences were rape, swindling, wounds and blows, assaulting police, embezzlement, larcenies, adultery, defamation and slander, perjury and forgery.

Civil Side.

The number of civil cases entered in 1889 was 126 as against 200 in 1888.

Stipendiary Side.

Sixty six persons were charged in the Stipendiary Court as against 167 in 1888. 44 persons were *convicted* as against 166 in 1888.

There were five convictions for non-production of tickets against 85 in 1888.

The engagements and discharges before the stipendiary magistrate were as follows:—

——	1889.	1888.
Engagements - - - - -	66	58
Discharges - - - - -	56	54

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The total number of cases of all jurisdictions entered before the Courts in 1888 and 1889 stands as follows:—

—	1888.	1889.
Criminal - - - - -	859	578
Civil - - - - - -	200	126
Stipendiary - - - - -	144	47
Total - - -	1,203	751
Decrease - - -	452 cases.	

There were four appeals from decisions of the Court of Seychelles in 1889, all four were dismissed.

Gaol.

252 persons were committed to gaol in 1889 as against 472 in 1888. Of these 23 were sentenced to one year or more as against 15 in 1888, the remainder being sentenced to less than one year.

In 1889 as in 1888 there were no deaths in the prison.

HOSPITAL.

The number of persons treated in the public hospital in 1889 was 259 against 228 in 1888, as follows:—

—	1888.	1889.
Paupers - - - - - -	55	60
Prisoners - - - - - -	86	93
Paying patients - - - - -	87	106
Total - - - - -	228	259

Of these 259 persons—

196 were discharged as cured.
36 „ „ relieved.
2 „ „ unrelieved.
4 „ „ malingering.
9 died.
12 remained in hospital at the end of the year.
———
259
═══

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—

The principal ailments were measles (in the beginning of the year), dysentery, fever, anæmia, venereal diseases, rheumatism, wounds.

DISPENSARY.

The number of applications for medicines at the public dispensary was 5,365 against 5,169 in 1888.

VACCINATION.

253 children were vaccinated at the Public Hospital and 63 at the outlying station of Mahé. In the Praslin ward there were 48 vaccinations, making a total for the Dependency of 301, as against 547 in 1888.

LEPER CAMP.

There were seven lepers maintained in the leper camp of Curieuse Island during the year, namely:—

Males - - - - -	5
Females - - - - -	2

PAUPER CAMP.

Eleven aged paupers were maintained in the pauper camp at Curieuse Island during the year.

LUNACY.

There were five lunatics maintained at the expense of the Seychelles Government at the Mauritius Lunatic Asylum during the year.

Of these five were declared lunatics during the year.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

The census taken in 1881 does not show separately the number of adherents of each Church.

The number of ministers employed in 1888 was as follows:—

Church of England.

Civil chaplain - - - - -	1
Minister for South Mahé - - -	1
Minister for Praslin - - - -	1
Evangelists and catechists - - -	12
Total -	15

Roman Catholic Church.

Bishop	1
Priests in holy orders	13
Lay Brothers, Capucin	4
Lay Brothers, Marists	7
Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny	37
Total	62

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

Church of England.

Churches	2
Chapels also used as schools	7
Total	9

Roman Catholic Church.

Churches	12
Chapels	7
Total	19

PUBLIC WORKS.

Extension of Roads and Bridges.

North-east Road.—700 feet of road were opened on a width of 16 feet, including an embankment 200 feet long, with dry stone side walls from 5 to 8 feet in height.

Seven masonry bridges were built to replace rotten timber bridges, or across streams not bridged over before. These bridges involved the building of retaining walls on a length of 350 feet.

Anse La Mouche and Anse Poules Bleues.

Six bridges were built on the road from Anse Poules Bleues to Baie Lazarre, the spans varying from 6 to 12 feet. These bridges were built with masonry abutments and Capucin timber.

2,000 feet of road were opened at Anse La Mouche.

Anse aux Pins.—A bridge 82 feet long and 14 feet wide was built over the Mare Cayolle.

Forêt Noire Road.—3,237 feet of road were made, on a width of about 8 feet, from where the road was left off last year to the bridge on River Tanguin.

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850 feet were also cut on the other side of the river, but the road is there in an incomplete state and not joined to the finished portion.

South Road.—486 feet of road were made on a width of 17 feet, including a causeway 200 feet long with side walls 4 feet high.

Port Gland.—A causeway 14 feet wide and of an average depth of 4 feet was built on a length of 304 feet.

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges.

The road from Anse Boileau to Baie Lazare was cleaned on a length of 2,200 feet. The road from Anse Boileau to town (Misère Road) was cleaned on a length of 48,000 feet.

The same road was repaired, drains opened, &c. on a length of 8,000 feet.

The road from Pointe Laine to Anse Forbans was cleaned on a length of 37,000 feet. This work was done in the first days of January 1890.

The "Canelles" road, leading from Anse Boileau to Anse La Mouche, was cleaned, drains opened, &c.

The South Road, North-east Road, and Forêt Noire Road were cleaned and kept in fair order.

Timber bridges on all the roads were repaired. Our old ones on the South Road were replaced by masonry culverts, and a masonry arch bridge 14 feet span was erected in Malakoff Street in town.

The causeway joining the police station to the Roman Catholic church, which had been to a large extent destroyed by a flood at the beginning of the year, was thoroughly repaired, and two bridges which had been carried away replaced.

Coal Wharf.

The central portion of the wharf was raised about 18 inches on an area of 1,800 square yards. The granite side walls were repaired and raised to the same height on a length of 640 feet, and the wall was built on a length of 55 feet where it did not exist before.

Completion of Landing Warehouse.

A new landing warehouse alongside the pier was completed. The old warehouse was pulled down and rebuilt to the same height and breadth as the new one.

The building is now 79 feet long, 26 broad, and 12 feet high.

GAOL.

A small house, 13 feet × 10 feet, with barred windows, was erected at Curieuse for a leper prison.

CROWN LANDS.

No noticeable changes in connexion with Crown Lands took place in 1889.

The work of reforestation received attention during the year. Seeds of valuable timber trees were planted, and the young timber plants of the previous years were looked after and have thriven. The Coco de Mer valley at Praslin was looked after, a large number of nuts having been planted.

The produce of Curieuse and Félicité Islands considerably increased during the year, owing to many of the young cocoanut trees having commenced to bear fruit.

The following is Conservator of Crown lands' valuation of the produce of the property under his charge for the year 1889, including rent of property leased, and produce whether sold, supplied to departments, or utilised for reforestation, &c.

Revenue of Crown Lands for the Year 1889.

Name of Property.	Revenue. Rs.	ct.
Church Missionary Society		50
Coal Wharf	200	00
Messageries Wharf	600	00
Ilot on Reefs	50	00
Ilot Hodoul	210	00
Félicité Island	1,080	00
Ile Récifs	666	00
Mamelles Island	40	00
Ile ronde of Praslin	4	00
Right end side of Victoria Pier	40	00
Fibre Factory	400	00
Land between Factory and Sea	50	00
Amirantes Islands	553	00
Long Island	155	00
Coco de Mer Ravine	260	00
Curieuse Island	2,300	57
Sea Way New Oriental Bank	50	00
Sea Way alongside the Pier	160	00
Sea frontage along Victoria Pier	160	00
	6,979	07

The expenditure for Crown Lands for 1889 is stated as follows:—

	Rs.
Forest lands in Mahé	240
Long Island Guardian	192
Guardian and Labourers, Curieuse	467
Coco de Mer Ravine Guardian	144
Forest Ranger	360
Conservator of Crown Lands, &c.	1,200
	2,603

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Police.

The strength of the police force in 1890, as in 1889, was 46 of all ranks, including 1 chief officer, 1 sergeant-major, 2 sergeants, 3 corporals, 10 first class, 10 second class, 14 third class, and 5 boatmen constables, distributed over 9 stations, including the central station at Victoria.

The Police Reward Fund showed a balance of Rs. 418.03 on the 31st December 1889.

There were 19 reports against constables for misconduct during the year.

Detection and Repression of Crimes, &c.

The number of persons prosecuted by the police in 1889 was 512, of whom 439 were convicted and 73 acquitted.

The value of property alleged to have been stolen in 1889 was Rs. 373.56, and the amount recovered Rs. 210.56, as against Rs. 3,081.90 stolen and Rs. 1,284.83 recovered in 1888.

The total amount of fines inflicted in police prosecutions in 1889 was Rs. 2,926 as against Rs. 9,972 in 1888.

Liberated Africans and Labourers generally.

No liberated Africans or immigrants of any kind were introduced during the year 1889. The last liberated Africans were introduced in 1874.

The actual number of liberated Africans in Seychelles in 1889 cannot be stated with accuracy. The number in 1881 according to the census was 1,817.

It results from the Acting Inspector of liberated Africans' report that 363 Africans were employed on estates during 1889 against 313 in 1888, namely:—

In 1889—	
Under written contract - - -	85
Under verbal contract - - -	278
Total - - -	363
In 1888—	
Under written contract - - -	105
Under verbal contract - - -	208
Total - - -	313

The number of labourers of all classes reported to have been employed on estates in 1889 was 895 as against 819 in 1888.

The total of wages earned by labourers employed on estates in 1889, was according to the Acting Inspector's report, Rs. 72,005.70 as against Rs. 59,405.05 earned in 1888, and the total amount of wages lost by labourers through absences, sickness, &c., was Rs. 10,770.76 in 1889 as against Rs. 9,084.51 in 1888.

173 labourers are reported to have been employed on estates on the *share* system under Regulation 3 of 1888, of whom 98 were Africans.

There were no prosecutions by the Inspector of liberated Africans against masters or servants in 1889. There were none in 1888.

The number of marriages of liberated Africans in 1889 is reported to have been 30 against 12 in 1888, and of African creoles (*i.e.*, offspring of liberated Africans) 14 against nine in 1888.

There were 51 births among the African population in 1889 against 82 in 1888, and 21 deaths against 26 in 1888.

Eighty-seven liberated Africans were convicted on police prosecution for various offences in 1889 against 246 in 1888.

LEGISLATION.

The following Regulations were passed by the Board of Civil Commissioners in 1889:—

1. An amended Regulation—" To make better provision for " the repression and detection of larcenies of vanilla and other " produce."
2. A Regulation—" To consolidate and amend the laws relating " to prisons."

N.B.—This Regulation was not forwarded for approval. An Ordinance has since been introduced into the Legislative Council embodying its principal provisions.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council:—

1. " An Ordinance to confer upon members of the Legislative " Council all the powers, rights, and privileges vested in members " of the Board of Civil Commissioners by any laws or proclama- " tions in force in the Seychelles Islands."
2. " An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles " Islands for the year 1889."
3. " An Ordinance to amend Regulation 1 of 1888."
4. " An Ordinance to exempt the Administrator from the " payment of Customs Duties."
5. " An Ordinance to transfer the duties of stamp officer from " the District Clerk to the Postmaster."
6. " An Ordinance to regulate the practice of medicine, surgery, " and midwifery in the Seychelles Islands."
7. " An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles " Islands for the year 1890."

(Signed) R. M. BROWN,
Acting Administrator.

15th February 1892.

MAURITIUS.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1890.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the year 1890 amounted to Rs. 224,16.37 against Rs. 208,967.12 in 1889. The expenditure was Rs. 219,393.46 against Rs. 195,550.12 in 1889.

The following is a comparative statement of the heads of receipts in the years 1889 and 1890:—

—	1889.		1890.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
Import duties - - -	121,949	19	122,285	04
Licenses - - - -	24,017	50	24,808	50
Local rate - - - -	28,767	16	29,749	42
Fines, fees of court or office -	4,354	23	6,661	28
Registration - -	9,525	92	9,265	02
Mortgage - - - -	968	30	1,040	85
Stamps - - - -	3,376	00	3,791	46
Rum duty - - - -	3,746	74	6,109	38
Total revenue - - - -			224,169	37
Total expenditure - - - -			219,393	46
Balance in favour of revenue - -			4,775	91

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Exports.

The exports, exclusive of specie, amounted to Rs. 620,578.80 against Rs. 653,102.37 in the preceding year, showing a decrease of Rs. 32,525.57. This is mainly attributable to a decrease in the exportation of vanilla in 1890.

Imports.

The imports show a total of Rs. 657,512.20 against Rs. 570,989.55 in 1889, showing an increase of Rs. 86,522.65. This increase is mainly due to an increased importation of coals, building materials, and cotton stuffs.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets of the Dependency on the 31st December, according to a statement from the Treasurer duly audited, amounted to Rs. 85,314.32.

The liabilities amounted to Rs. 72,801.36, showing a balance in favour of assets of Rs. 12,512.96.

SHIPPING.

Eighty-eight vessels manned by 13,966 men and of an aggregate tonnage of 192,994 tons entered the Port of Victoria in 1890, namely :—

	Tons.
25 men-of-war - - - -	40,651
36 mail steamers - - -	141,597
27 merchant vessels other than mail steamers - - - -	10,746
88 Total - - -	192,994

Of the men-of-war—

21 were British.
2 were French.
1 was Italian.
1 was German.
25

Of the merchant vessels—

24 were British.
1 was Norwegian.
1 was American.
1 was Dutch.
36 were French (mail steamers).

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered in the Dependency was 623 as against 508 in 1889, namely ;—

——	General Population.		African Population.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate - - - - - -	210	201	24	33
Natural acknowledged - - -	20	13	12	0
Natural - - - - - - -	57	52	5	5
	287	266	32	38

Taking the population to be 16,021, as found at the census of 1881, the birth rate per 1,000 was 44·24 as against 31,709 in 1889; the rate of still-births 4·26 per 1000 as against 1·997 in 1889.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 257 as against 368 in 1889, and the death rate 18·25 per 1,000 against 22·970 in 1889.

There were 187 marriages against 155 in 1889.

EDUCATION.

In 1890 there were 24 schools aided by Government grants attended by 1,844 children, against 25 schools in 1889 attended by 1,733 children.

Eighteen schools with 1,498 pupils were under the control of the Roman Catholic Mission, and six schools with 346 pupils were managed by the civil chaplain and the Church Missionary Society.

The sum voted in 1890 for grants in aid was Rs. 8,000, the same amount as in 1889.

It was apportioned as follows, viz.:—

	Rs.	c.
Roman Catholic schools - -	6,122	84
Church of England schools - -	1,718	04
Church Mission school at Capucin -	159	12

JUDICIAL.

Criminal Side.

The total number of criminal informations filed in 1890 was 643 against 578 in 1889. Of the 643, 498 were filed by the police and 145 by private parties.

637 cases were adjudicated upon against 531 in 1889, six cases were not adjudicated upon or not pressed to conclusion as against 47 in 1889.

845 persons were charged in 1890, 673 by the police and 172 by parties, as against 675 in 1889.

There were 531 convictions in 1890 (462 upon police prosecution and 69 on prosecution by parties), as against 452 in 1889.

As in preceding years, the most numerous offences were drunkenness and disturbance, there being 112 convictions for drunkenness as against 104 in 1889, and 174 convictions for disturbance as against 135 in 1889.

There were 314 persons prosecuted for disturbance of which 140 were acquitted.

57 persons were charged with larceny as against 74 in 1889, and there were 35 convictions as against 50 in 1889.

Of the 57 persons charged with larceny there were 23 charged with larceny of agricultural produce. Of these 16 were convicted.

On the other hand, there were 67 persons prosecuted for breach of the special law for repression of larcenies of produce, resulting in 56 convictions, against 47 persons prosecuted under the old law, and 23 convictions, in 1889.

There was one prosecution for infanticide, which did not result in a commitment for trial; the accused was subsequently prosecuted and convicted for concealment of birth.

The most serious offences this year were burglary, wounds and blows, concealment of birth, defamation, embezzlement, escape of prisoners, facilitating escape of prisoners, attempt upon chastity, bestiality.

Civil Side.

The number of civil cases was 147 as against 126 in 1889, showing an increase of 21 cases; in addition to which there were 41 matters dealt with in chambers.

Stipendiary Side.

There were 65 persons charged in the Stipendiary Court against 66 in 1889, and 40 convictions against 44 in 1889.

The engagements and discharges before the Stipendiary Magistrate were as follows:—

——	1890.	1889.
Engagements - - - - -	168	66
Discharges - - - - - -	57	56

showing an increase in the number of labourers entering into written contracts of service of 60 in favour of 1890.

The total number of cases in all jurisdictions entered before the Courts in 1889 and 1890 respectively stands as follows:—

——	1889.	1890.
Criminal - - - - - -	643	578
Civil - - - - - - -	147	126
Stipendiary - - - - - -	65	47
Total - - - - -	855	751

Increase of 1890 over 1889 - - 104 cases.

There, in 1890, were three appeals, namely, one from a conviction and two from decisions in civil matters. All three were dismissed.

GAOL.

Three hundred and fourteen persons were committed to gaol in 1890 as against 252 in 1889. Of these three were sentenced to five years or more and 13 to one year or more, the remainder being sentenced to less than one year.

In 1890, as in 1889, there were no deaths in the prison.

MAURITIUS.
—
SEYCHELLES.

HOSPITAL.

The number of persons treated in the public hospital in 1890 was 170 against 259 in 1889, showing a decrease of 89.

There were as follows:—

—	1889.	1890.
Paupers	60	43
Prisoners	93	50
Paying patients	106	77
Total	259	170

Of these 170 persons—

113 were discharged as cured.
30 „ „ relieved.
5 „ „ unrelieved.
9 died.
13 were still in hospital at the end of the year.

The principal ailments were anæmia, dysentery, hernia, rheumatism, phthisis, syphilis, vulnus, ulcers, veruls.

There were 6,349 applications for medicines at the public dispensary in 1890 against 5,365 in 1889.

The vaccinations by the Government medical officers in 1890 were 311 at Mahé and 61 in the Praslin ward, in all 372.

Leprosy Camp.

There were seven lepers maintained in the leper camp on Curieuse Island during the year, namely:—

Males	5
Females	2
Total	7

Pauper Camp.

Twelve aged paupers were maintained in the pauper camp at Curieuse during the year.

Lunacy.

There were nine lunatics maintained at the expense of the Seychelles Government at the Mauritius Lunatic Asylum during the year. Of these four were declared lunatics during the year.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

As stated in previous reports, the number of adherents of the two Churches supported by the Government in Seychelles is not shown separately from those of other Dependencies in the returns of the census taken in 1881.

The following number of ministers were employed in 1890:—

Church of England.

Civil chaplain	1
Minister for Mahé	1
Minister for Praslin	1
Evangelists and catechists	10
Total	13

Roman Catholic.

Priests	13
Lay Brothers of the Capucin order	4
Marists Brothers	7
Sisters of St. Joseph	45
Total	69

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

Church of England.

Churches	3
Chapels	8
Total	11

Roman Catholics.

Churches	12
Chapels	6
Total	18

POLICE.

The strength of the police force in 1890 was 46 of all ranks, as in 1889, namely:—

1 chief officer of police,
1 sergeant-major,
2 sergeants,
3 corporals,
10 first-class constables,
10 second-class constables,
14 third-class constables,
5 boatmen constables,

distributed over nine stations, including the central station at Victoria.

The Police Reward Fund showed a balance of Rs. 819.27 on the 31st December 1890.

Detection and Repression of Crimes, &c.

The number of persons prosecuted by the police in 1890 was 673 against 512 in 1889. Of these 462 were convicted and 211 were acquitted.

The value of property alleged to have been stolen in 1890 was Rs. 4,893.89 against Rs. 373 in 1889, and the value of property recovered Rs. 327.28 against Rs. 210.56.

The total amount of fines inflicted in police prosecutions in 1890 was Rs. 4,906.50 as against Rs. 2,926 in 1889.

Liberated Africans and Labourers generally.

No liberated Africans or immigrants of any kind were introduced during 1890.

It results from the report of the inspector of liberated Africans that 300 Africans were employed as labourers on estates as against 363 in 1889. Of these 92 were under written and 208 under verbal contract.

The number of labourers of all classes reported as employed on wages on estates in 1890 is 718 against 895 in 1889. Of these 95 were under written and 613 under verbal contract.

It results from the inspector's report that 85 persons were registered for employment on the share system in 1890 as against 173 in 1889, and that of these 173, 62 were Africans and 23 Creoles.

From the same report it results that the total wages earned by labourers of all classes on estates in 1890 was Rs. 76 786.00 against Rs. 72,005.70 in 1889, and that the total of forfeitures for absences, &c. was Rs. 7,023.71 against Rs. 10,770.76 in 1889.

The number of marriages of liberated Africans is reported to have been 20 as against 30 in 1889, and of offspring of Africans, 16 against 14 in 1889.

Eighty-one births among liberated Africans are reported in 1890 as against 51 in 1889, and 19 deaths against 21 in 1889.

Ninety-four liberated Africans were convicted on police prosecutions for various offences in 1890 as against 87 in 1889.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1890:—

1. "An Ordinance to reorganise the Board of Health for the "Seychelles Islands and to regulate its powers and duties."

2. "An Ordinance to amend the law concerning penalties."

3. "An Ordinance to confer certain powers upon the Registrar "of the Court of Seychelles."

4. "An Ordinance to confer upon the Conservator of Mortgages "for the Seychelles Islands the custody of all papers, title deeds, "maps, plans, minutes, registers and memoranda of survey relating "to immovable property situate in these Islands."

5. "An Ordinance to empower the Administrator in Executive "Council to fix rates chargeable for postage and post office money "orders."

6. "An Ordinance to amend Mauritius Proclamation No. 36 of "1877 extending to the Seychelles Islands with certain modifica"tions Ordinance No. 19 of 1868 (Mauritius), which is "An "Ordinance to repeal certain provisions of the Code of Civil Pro"cedure, of the Civil Code, and of the Colonial Ordinances relative "to sales of immovable properties.'"

7. "An Ordinance to remove doubts as to the extent of the "powers of the Court of Seychelles under Mauritius Ordinance 16 "of 1869."

8. "An Ordinance to invest the Conservator of Mortgages of the "Seychelles with the powers and duties of Receiver of Registration "Dues."

9 "An Ordinance to provide for the summary punishment of "persons committing perjury in connexion with proceedings "before the Court of Seychelles."

10. "An Ordinance to repeal certain clauses of Regulation 3 of "1872 of the Seychelles Board of Civil Commissioners (for the "establishment of a public hospital at Port Victoria) and to make "other provision in lieu thereof."

11. "An Ordinance to compel notaries practising in the Sey"chelles Islands to keep double minutes of deeds drawn up by "them, and to make better provision for the custody of such "minutes and for the transcription of certain deeds."

12. "An Ordinance to empower the Court of Seychelles to issue "injunctions in certain cases, and to grant provisional execution "pending decision on appeal."

13. "An Ordinance to prohibit the keeping of pigs in the town "of Victoria within certain limits."

Mauritius.

Seychelles.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Extension of Roads and Bridges.

North-east Road.—200 feet of road were opened on a width of 16 feet. The bridge on Caiman river was pulled down and rebuilt in masonry with parapets 3 feet high on each side.

Forêt Noire Road.—1,560 feet of road were made on a width of 8 feet.

South Road.—540 feet of road were made with a deep cutting across the mountain and side walls in some places from 3 to 4 feet high

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges.—North-west Bay and Bel-ombre roads were cleaned as well as roads from Barbaron to Port Gland, Anse Boileau to Takamaka 39,600 feet. Anse la Mouche to Anse Royale 10,500 feet. Pointe Larne to Petit Paris 17,000 feet.

Repairs were made to bridges at Praslin and La Digne, and six bridges were repaired in town.

CROWN LANDS.

The boundaries of several portions of the Crown lands were settled during this year by the Government surveyor.

The plantations of young timber trees were increased during the year.

The following is the Conservator's valuation of the revenue of the various Crown lands and of the current expenditure during the year:

Revenue of Crown Lands for the Year 1890.

Name of Property.	Revenue.	
	Rs.	ct.
Messageries Coal Wharf	600	00
Admiralty Wharf	200	00
Fibre Factory	400	00
Ilot on Reefs	50	00
Ilot Hodoul	250	00
Capucin Land	400	00
Félicité Island	1,960	00
Church Missionary Society	00	50
Ile Récifs	666	00
Mamelles Island	50	00
Ile ronde of Praslin	4	00
Right end side of the Pier	40	00
Land alongside the Pier	160	00
Sea frontage alongside the Pier	160	00
Land between Factory and Sea	50	00
Amirantes Islands	399	83
Plaisance	40	00
Long Island	179	50
Coco De Mer Ravine	85	00
Curieuse Island	1,771	55
Anse Lagio	15	00
Aldabra Island	1,783	82
Total	9,265	20

The expenditure for Crown lands for 1890 is stated as follow:—

	Rs.	ct.
Plaisance Guardian	120	00
Long Island Guardian	19	00
Coco De Mer Ravine Guardian	144	00
Curieuse Island Guardian and labourers	624	00
Conservator of Crown Lands	1,200	00
Forest Ranger	360	00
Total	2,640	00

15th February 1892.

R. M. BROWN,
Acting Administrator.

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

No. 2.

REPORT ON THE RODRIGUES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1889.

Civil Commissioner's Office, Rodrigues,
March 28, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book report on this island for the year 1889.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. CLAN. O'HALLORAN,
Civil Commissioner and
Police Magistrate.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary,
Mauritius.

I.—TAXATION.

The only change made in the taxation of the island during the past year was the reduction from 1st January 1889 of the dog tax from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 1.50; but by Ordinance No. 43 of 1888 a surtax of 5 per cent. was levied on the usual tax on horses and dogs and by Ordinance No. 41 of 1888 a stamp of four cents was imposed on all receipts for Rs. 10 and upwards during the year 1889.

II.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	Rs.	c.
The revenue of 1889, exclusive of Customs collected in Mauritius, was - - - -	5,297	52
Showing a decrease of -	5,071	74
On the revenue of 1888, which was -	10,369	26
The expenditure of 1889, exclusive of payments made in Mauritius, was - - - -	18,421	58
Showing a decrease of - -	1,184	74
As compared with expenditure of 1888, which amounted to - -	19,606	32

The principal heads of revenue were land rent, pasturage, and licenses. Land rent was reduced to Rs. 2, pasturage for goats to 15c., and dog tax to Rs. 1.25.

The rate of revenue per head of population in 1889 was Rs. 2.67 and the rate of expenditure Rs. 9.31 against Rs. 5.38 and Rs. 10.19 in 1888.

III.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Offences for which prosecutions took place in 1889 numbered 57, being an increase of eight on the year 1888. There was an increase of five in the number of persons brought before the Courts in 1889 over the previous year. Of 49 persons brought before the police court on various charges, 34 were convicted, while seven out of nine charged before the Stipendiary Court were sentenced. The offenders comprised two Americans, one European, 52 Creoles (of Mauritius and Rodrigues), two Indians, and one Malagasy.

The most serious charges were two cases of larceny, two of possession of stolen property, one of swindling, and two of wounds and blows.

The number of civil cases amounted to 69 as against 143 in 1888.

IV.—PRISONS.

Twenty-one prisoners were committed during 1889 as compared with 31 in 1888.

—	1888.	1889.
For non-payment of fines and costs - -	3	3
„ safe custody until trial - - -	10	6
„ various terms of imprisonment - -	18	10
„ debt under Ordinance 16 of 1879 - -	—	2
Total - -	31	21

The chief officer of police is the keeper of the gaol, the constables acting as prison guards.

No offences were committed in the prison and no escapes took place in 1889.

V.—POST OFFICE.

The revenue derived from this source during 1889 stands at Rs. 203.26, being an increase of Rs. 91.20 on year 1888.

Money orders drawn on Mauritius amounted to Rs. 17,644.95, being an increase of Rs. 9,866.57 on previous year. Orders were drawn on Rodrigues to the value of Rs. 711.00, a decrease of Rs. 196.93 over year 1888.

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

In 1889 there was a decrease of 404 letters, and an increase of 572 newspapers received at the Post Office, and an increase of 499 letters despatched as compared with 1888.

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Rs. 1446.43 was expended on works (including sanitary) and buildings, versus Rs. 1569.55 in 1888. The following were the principal works:—

A wooden building was purchased for Rs. 500 to serve as a police station, and Rs. 235.00 were expended in converting the old police station and lock-up into a prison.

The roofs of the quarters of the Government Medical Officer and the police station, Mont Lubin, were recovered with latanier leaves, as well as a new kitchen erected at the latter place at a total cost of Rs. 108.00, while a new kitchen at St. Gabriel School cost Rs. 35.00.

A stone jetty was built at a cost of Rs. 82.50 to replace the old wooden one, which was rotten. The roads were repaired as required at a cost of Rs. 408.00.

Repairs to boats and Government buildings, excluding painting, were executed as required at a cost of Rs. 313.99 against Rs. 119.00 in 1888. Painting public buildings and boats cost Rs. 57.00.

VII—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of this Dependency on the 31st December 1889 was 1,978, an increase of 54 souls.

Population on 31st December 1888			1,924
Total births, 1889	91		
„ arrivals „	35		
		126	
Less deaths, „	33		
„ departures, „	39		
		72	
Increase in 1889			54
Population on 31st December 1889			1,978

Estimation of numbers employed at various callings and those unemployed:—

Government servants	19
Traders	9
Agriculturists	1,000
Artizans	13
Fishermen	300
Other callings	150
Unemployed, aged people, and young children	487
	1,978

There were 23 marriages and one still-birth in 1889 against 23 marriages and one still-birth in 1888.

There was an increase of one in the mortality of 1889 over 1888, 23 being infants and young children under six years of age.

One marriage *in articulo mortis* was celebrated.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

During 1889 no special laws were enacted by the Legislative Council of Mauritius for this island, but Ordinance No. 43 of 1888, for levying during the year 1889 a surtax of 5 per cent. on animals and licenses, changing to a fixed duty the ad valorem duty on salt and matches, and increasing by 5 per cent. Custom duty on all goods; and Ordinance 41 of 1888 imposing a stamp of 4 cents on all receipts for Rs. 10 and upwards was (made) applicable to this island.

Ordinance No. 34 of 1888 to exempt from Custom dues tobacco grown in Rodrigues.

Ordinance No. 35 of 1888.—To reduce certain dues payable in the Island of Rodrigues.

Ordinance No. 36 of 1888.—To empower the Civil Commissioner to accept payment in kind of taxes and other sums due to the Crown.

Ordinance No. 39 of 1888.—To empower the Governor to order the removal and detention in the Island of Rodrigues of prisoners detained in the Central Prison, -were passed by the Council of Government of Mauritius on 13th December 1888 and came into force in this island in January 1889.

Ordinance No. 5 of 1889 was enacted to confer powers on the Commissioners sent to hold an inquiry regarding charges brought against the Civil Commissioner of Rodrigues and Capt. Cadier (master of the ship subsidised by the Government for transport of mails) by the Hon. E. Antelme, one of the elected members of the Council of Government.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The Government schools at Port Mathurin and St. Gabriel were the only schools existing during the year.

At the Port Mathurin School the average number on roll was 58 and average attendance 49, against 54 and 47 in 1888.

At the St. Gabriel School the roll number was 87 and average attendance 58, versus 60 and 40 in 1888.

The cost of the Port Mathurin School was Rs. 2,095.92, and school fees received Rs. 98.25, while in 1888 it was Rs. 1,995.96 and fees received Rs. 97.52.

The St. Gabriel School cost Rs. 1,140.00, the same amount as in 1888. No fees are charged at this school.

The annual cost to Government of each pupil at both schools was Rs. 21.63 against Rs. 36.65 in 1888.

On December 19th, 1889, the scholars of the Port Mathurin School were examined at special request of the Civil Commissioner by the Rev. Père Jauny, curé of Rodrigues, and Mr. Darius Julien, Government schoolmaster of Mauritius, on leave in this island. 36 pupils were presented for examination, of whom 18 passed.

On the 21st December the examination of the St. Gabriel School took place, the examiners being the same as for Port Mathurin School. Of 45 pupils who were examined, 32 passed. The subjects of examination in both schools were reading, dictation, composition (in French and English), geography, grammar, arithmetic, and writing.

X.—ESTABLISHMENTS.

The cost of establishments in 1889 was Rs. 14,573.60 against Rs. 14,702.34 in 1888, being a decrease of Rs. 128.74, caused by the departure of the Rev. F. MacCarthy, Roman Catholic chaplain, on 31st October, and the payment of only half salary to his successor, the Rev. H. J. Jauny, from 24th November to the 15th December 1889.

XI.—EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The estimated value of exports for 1889 was Rs. 62,696.50, against Rs. 46,333 in 1888; and imports Rs. 134,806.50 as compared with Rs. 53,420.20 in the previous year.

Rate of export per head of population was Rs. 31.69 versus 24.08 in 1888.

Rate of import per head of population was Rs. 68.15 versus 27.76 in 1888.

XII.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Daily observations of the barometer, thermometer, winds and weather were made by Mr. C. Mason, Chief Officer of Police, who transmitted them to the Director of the Observatory at Mauritius.

The highest temperature (indoors) was 88.7 on the 17th Februatry 1889, and the lowest 68.9 on the 6th July 1889.

The average daily rainfall was one-eighth of an inch, the greatest fall was 4½ inches on the 11th March 1889.

No hurricane visited the island during the year.

XIII.—GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

Eight in-patients and 3,012 out-patients were treated at the hospital and dispensary during 1889. The prevailing diseases were burns, hernia, chicken-pox, alcoholism, rheumatism, and retention of urine.

There was a decrease of 15 in-patients at the hospital, and an increase of 357 out-patients at the dispensary during 1889 as compared with 1888.

The expenditure on account of hospital was Rs. 2,708.98 and receipts Rs. 11.50.

There was an increase of Rs. 40.66 in the total cost of hospital in 1889 as compared with 1888, and a decrease of Rs. 35.13 in the receipts for the same period.

The cost to Government of each patient in hospital and dispensary was in 1889 Rs. 0.89 against Rs. 1.00, in 1888. This is exclusive of cost of medicines.

The Government Medical Officer visited the dispensary at Mount Lubin once a week during the year.

XIV.—GENERAL REMARKS.

During the first few months of 1889 the rainfall was excessive; but from August to the end of the year a severe drought existed, the consequence of which was the failure of the usual food of the mountaineers.

The threatened famine was reported by the Civil Commissioner to the Governor of Mauritius, who sent 600 bags of rice for the relief of the island.

The sanitary condition of the island was good.

No men-of-war and no vessels beyond the one subsidised by Government for "conveyance of mails" and a small private schooner visited the Dependency during 1889.

On the 21st October the Rodrigues Inquiry Commission arrived and commenced their labours on the following day. They left on the 12th November 1889.

On the 31st October the Roman Catholic curé was transferred to Mauritius, and in December his successor, the Rev. H. J. Jauny, arrived.

J. CLAN. O'HALLORAN,
Civil Commissioner and
Police Magistrate.

Island of Rodrigues,
March 26, 1890.

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

No. 3.

Governor SIR C. C. LEES to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Mauritius,
January 15, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the report on the Rodrigues Blue Book by Mr. Colin, the Acting Magistrate, for the year 1890.

2. The report is accompanied by a report on the financial statements as directed.

3. I regret that I have not yet been able to transmit to your Lordship the Seychelles Blue Book Reports for 1889 and 1890*, but I have called the attention of both Mr. Griffith and Mr. Brown to the omission in furnishing the reports for these years.

I have, &c
C. C. LEES,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

The ACTING MAGISTRATE of RODRIGUES to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Rodrigues Magistracy,
November 3, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Annual Report for 1890, and regret not to have been able to send it sooner.

I have, &c.
B. H. COLIN,
Acting Magistrate.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary,
Mauritius.

REPORT on the RODRIGUES BLUE BOOK for 1890.

TAXATION.

No alteration was made in the taxation of this island during the year 1890.

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* *See* No. 1.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	Rs.	c.
The revenue of 1890, exclusive of Customs, collected in Mauritius was - - - -	6,766	72
Showing a decrease of - -	1,467	91
As compared with the revenue of 1889, which was - - -	8,234	63
The expenditure of 1890 under estimates and special votes (without including payments made in Mauritius) was - - -	20,846	04
Showing an increase of - -	527	77
On the expenditure of 1889, which amounted to - - -	20,318	27

The principal heads of revenue were land sales, land rent, pasturage fees, and sale of Government property.

The increase of expenses is to be attributed chiefly to the influenza which has prevailed at Rodrigues, to the sum which had to be paid for the continuation of St. Gabriel Church and to the extra expense incurred by having a new Roman Catholic priest at Rodrigues, *i.e.*, the Rev. Father Lefeuvre.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports, exclusive of specie, amounted to Rs. 63,852.65 in 1890 against Rs. 62,696.50 in the year 1889, showing an increase of Rs. 1,156.15 in the exportation of 1890.

The imports in 1890 are valued at Rs. 131,283.45 against Rs. 134,806.50 in 1889, showing a decrease of Rs. 3,523.05 in the importation of 1890.

The rate of export per head of population was Rs. 31.66 and a fraction in 1890, against Rs. 32.34 and a fraction in 1889.

The rate of import per head of population was Rs. 63.31 and a fraction in 1890, against Rs. 69.89 and a fraction in 1889.

SHIPPING.

Under this head the year 1890 compared with 1889 shows the following differences :—

	1889	1890
Inwards	10 - -	8
Outwards	10 - -	8

MAURITIUS.
—
RODRIGUES.
—

Number of Passengers.

—	1889.		—	1890.	
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
Arrivals - -	37	6	Arrivals - -	47	7
Departures -	46	12	Departures - -	33	5

List of Ships.

1889.

—	Arrivals.	Departures.
Marmion - - -	11th January.	19th January.
Marmion - - -	31st March.	11th April.
Hattonburn - - -	18th April.	27th April.
Marmion - - -	29th May.	25th June.
Hattonburn - - -	19th June.	2nd July.
Marmion - - -	12th August.	3rd September
Hattonburn - - -	21st August.	14th September.
Marmion - - -	8th October.	30th October.
Hattonburn - - -	21st October.	12th November.
Little Annie - - -	5th December.	26th December.

1890.

—	Arrivals.	Departures.
Hattonburn - - -	28th April.	9th May.
H.M.S. Garnet - -	12th June.	12th June.
Maggie Law - - -	17th June.	29th June.
Hattonburn - - -	4th July.	17th July.
Maggie Law - - -	25th July.	6th August.
Hattonburn - - -	1st September.	13th September.
Hattonburn - - -	18th October.	13th October.
Little Annie - - -	12th December.	24th December.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of this Dependency on the 31st December 1890 was 2,010 souls, against 1,943 on the 31st December 1889, showing an increase of 67 souls.

NOTE.—The number given by Mr. O'Halloran in his report for 1889 was but an approximate one.

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

The census of the island having been taken since, I have been able to obtain correct numbers.

Population on the 31st December 1889 -			1,943
Total births in 1890 - -	131		
„ arrivals in 1890 - -	54 =	185	
Less deaths in 1890 - - -	80		
„ departures in 1890 - -	38 =	118	
Increase in 1890 - - - -			67
Population on the 31st December 1890 -			2,010

Classification showing the number of those employed at various callings and those unemployed (year 1890).

Government servants - - -	21
Traders - - - - -	10
Agriculturists - - - -	400
Artizans - - - - -	18
Fishermen - - - - -	200
Other callings - - - -	14
Unemployed, aged people and young children under the age of 16 - - -	1,347
Total - -	2,010

The number of births in 1890 amounted to 131 against 91 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 40 births. There were 3 still-births in 1890 against 1 in 1889; 44 marriages were celebrated in 1890 against 23 in 1889; 7 marriages *in articulo mortis* against 1 in 1889.

The number of deaths amounted to 80 in 1890 against 33 in 1889, showing an increase of 47 in the mortality of 1890. This great mortality is to be attributed to the "influenza."

Classification of Religious Beliefs.

Roman Catholics - - - - -	1,930
Protestants - - - -	66
Musulmans - - - -	5
Hindoos - - -	7
Pagans - - - -	2
Total - -	2,010

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

—	1889.	1890.
In-patients treated at the hospital	8	67
Out-patients treated at the dispensary	3,012	3,549
Deaths in the hospital	1	7

The prevailing diseases throughout the island were :—Worms, influenza, rheumatism, throat complaints, a few cases of chicken-pox, bronchitis, uterine complaints.

The diseases treated at the hospital were:—Uterine complaints 7, bruises 1, phthisis 2, influenza 46, liver complaints 2, sore throat 1, foot diseases 1, ear diseases, 2, apoplexy 1, inflammation of the intestines 1, anthrax 1, lumbago 1, general debility due to old age 1 ; total, 67.

—	1889.		1890.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
Receipts on account of in-patients	11	50	13	50
Total expenditure on account of hospital	2,708	98	2,976	12
Cost of each patient in hospital and dispensary.	0	89	0	82

The rent of the hospital has been paid in Mauritius, and the medicines for the dispensary were sent from Mauritius—I must state here that several items of expenditure for the hospital, amounting to Rs. 87.73, and vaccination fees, amounting to Rs. 112.50, incurred in 1890 have not been included in the above sum of Rs. 2,976.12, the said items having been paid only in 1891.

POOR LAW COMMISSION.

—		1889.	1890.
Paupers provided for by Government.	Males	13	13
	Females	5	6

Each pauper received 500 grams of rice per diem, and an entire suit of striped drill at the end of the year. The rice and suit were sent from Mauritius. The sum of Rs. 284.35 for relief of poor during the influenza and for their funeral are included in the expenditure on account of the hospital.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

The number of adherents to the different creeds is given under the heading "Population and Vital Statistics." The Roman Catholic Church in the island is supported by Government, and the Church of England by the London Missionary Society.

There are two Roman Catholic priests at Rodrigues, both are paid by Government. The Reverend F. Jauny receives a salary of Rs. 2,000 per annum, and the Reverend F. Lefeuvre a salary of Rs. 1,000 per annum.

Mr. Ed. Gellé, the clerk of the magistrate acts as Catechist for the Church of England; he is paid by the London Missionary Society.

The two Roman Catholic chapels at Rodrigues are *The Sacred Heart* at Port Mathurin, and *St. Gabriel* on the mountain Gabriel.

The expenses incurred by the Government in 1890 for the continuation of the St. Gabriel chapel amounted to Rs. 1,000.00 (grant-in-aid fund).

Mr. Gellé performs his religious ceremonies in the Government school of Port Mathurin.

EDUCATION.

There were only two schools in operation at Rodrigues in 1890, *i.e.*, Port Mathurin's and St. Gabriel's schools. At Port Mathurin's school the number of pupils present at any time during the year 1890 amounted to 63 against 65 in 1889. The average number on roll was 59 against 58. The average attendance 46 against 49.

At St. Gabriel's school the number of pupils present at any time during 1890 amounted to 106 against 87 in 1889. The average number on roll was 106 against 87. The average attendance 73 against 58.

The cost of Port Mathurin's school was Rs. 2,095.92 against Rs. 2,095.92 in 1889. The school fees received in 1890 amounted to Rs. 103.75 and in 1889 to Rs. 98.25.

The cost of St. Gabriel's school was Rs. 1,140.00 in 1890 and Rs. 1,140.00 in 1889. No fees are charged at this school.

The annual cost to Government of each pupil at both schools was Rs. 18.41 and a fraction in 1890, against Rs. 21.63 in the preceding year.

POST OFFICE.

The revenue collected in 1890 was Rs. 158.64 against Rs. 203.58 in 1889.

MAURITIUS.
—
RODRIGUES.
—

The letters and newspapers which passed through the office were as follows:—

	Letters received	Newspapers received
1889	978	1,009.
1890	826	327.

	Letters despatched
1889	1,382.
1890	1,178.

Money orders drawn on Mauritius amounted to Rs. 15,826.46 in 1890 and to Rs. 17,644.95 in the previous year. Orders were drawn on Rodrigues to the value of Rs. 373.79 in 1890 against Rs. 711.00 in the year 1889.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police Court, Criminal Side.

Number of informations filed - - 48 in 1889—41 in 1890.
" persons tried - - 50 " —46 "
" persons against whom cases given up - - *nil* " — 5 "
" persons convicted - - 35 " —35 "
" persons acquitted - - 15 " — 6 "

Police Court, Civil Side.

Number of plaints entered - - 69 in 1889—141 in 1890.
" plaints adjudged upon - 55 " —134 "
" plaints withdrawn or struck out - - - 9 " — 7 "
" judgments for plaintiffs - 55 " —128 "
" judgments nonsuited or dismissed - - - 5 " — 6 "

There were two applications for search warrants in 1890 against five in 1889. One application for rectification of an act of birth, and one for the appointment of a guardian *ad hoc* for the marriage of a minor in 1890.

Stipendiary.

Number of informations filed - 9 in 1889—10 in 1890.
" cases tried - - 7 " — 9 "
" cases given up - 2 " — 1 "
" convictions - - 7 " — 7 "
" acquittals - - — " — 2 "

The number of engagements amounted to four in 1890 against three in 1889, and the number of discharges to four in 1890 against three in 1889.

The total number of cases of all jurisdictions entered before the District and Stipendiary Courts during 1889 and 1890 stands as follows:—

Criminal - 48 in 1889— 41 in 1890.
Civil - - 69 „ —141 „
Stipendiary - 9 „ — 10 „

Showing a decrease of 7 cases in criminal matters, an increase of 72 civil cases, and an increase of 1 stipendiary case.

LEGISLATION.

By Ordinance 16 of 1890 the titles of Police Magistrate and Civil Commissioner of Rodrigues were abolished, the holder of the appointment to be styled "Magistrate of Rodrigues." Ordinances *6, 14, 18, 22, 26, and 31 of 1890, though not specially enacted for this island, are applicable to it.

GAOLS.

Twenty-four prisoners were committed during 1890 against 21 in 1889.

——	1889.	1890.
For nonpayment of fines and costs - -	3	1
Safe custody until trial - - -	6	3
Various terms of imprisonment - -	10	17
Debt under Ordinance 16 of 1879 - -	2	3

Nationality of Offenders.

——	1889.	1890.
Creoles - - - - -	14	17
Malagasies - - - - -	5	5
Réunion - - - - -	0	1
Indians - - - - -	2	0
Chinese - - - - -	0	1

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* Subsequent to the enactment of Ordinance 6 of 1890, Proclamation 20 of 1891 extended the delay for taking the census at Rodrigues to the 3rd May 1891.

The chief officer of police is the keeper of the gaol, and the constables act as prison guards.

No offences were committed in the prison and no escapes took place in the years 1889 and 1890.

The prisoners' extra rations amounted to Rs. 20.12. Rice and salt were sent from Mauritius.

POLICE AND FOREST RANGER.

The police force of Rodrigues is composed of a chief officer of police, of one police corporal, of one first-class Creole constable, of one first-class Indian constable, of two second-class Indian constables. These constables act also as prison guards.

There is but one forest ranger for the whole island; he acts also as special constable. There were eleven reports made against the members of the police in 1890 with the following results:—

Neglect of duty	Cautioned. Cautioned. Cautioned. Rs. 5 fine.
Disobedience of orders	Six hours' extra duty. Cautioned. Six hours' extra duty. Cautioned. Six hours' extra duty.
Drunk when on duty	Rs. 2.50 fine.
Insubordination	Rs. 5 fine and two days' cells.

The expenses incurred in 1890 for the police force and forest ranger amounted to Rs. 4,179.84 against Rs. 4,174.20 in 1889.

The chief officer of police, the corporal, and constables of police and the forest ranger received each two serge suits, three pairs of drill trousers, four white shirts, three pairs of boots, and two caps in 1890; the same in 1889. These things were sent from Mauritius.

The allowances paid to the police and forest ranger for rations amounted to Rs. 481.80 in 1890 and to Rs. 481.80 in the preceding year.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

The cost of establishments in 1890 was Rs. 15,463.80 and Rs. 14,729.60 in 1889—showing an increase of Rs. 734.20 as compared with 1889. This difference is due to the Roman Catholic priest, Father McCarthy, being paid in 1889 part of his salary in Mauritius, and to the arrival at Rodrigues of the Rev. F. Lefeuvre, a second Roman Catholic priest.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Daily observations of the barometer and thermometer were made by the Chief Officer of Police, Mr. Mason, who transmitted them to the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory at Mauritius.

The highest temperature (indoors) was on the 10th January 1890. Thermometer, 88.1. Barometer, 30.170 at 3 p.m.

The lowest temperature (indoors) was on the 25th July 1890. Thermometer, 67.0. Barometer, 30.270 at 9 a.m.

During the month of June 1890, which was the month in which there were the heaviest rainfalls, the rain-gauge marked 1,279 lines, which is equivalent to a little more than 12¾ inches. From the 19th at 9 a.m. to the 20th June at 9 a.m. a little more than 5¼ inches of rain had fallen during these 24 hours.

No hurricane visited the island during the year.

REGISTRATION.

There were 27 documents registered at Rodrigues in 1890 against 24 in 1889. The revenue derived thereby amounted to Rs. 13.50 in 1890 against Rs. 12.00 in 1889, showing an increase of Rs. 1.50 in favour of the year 1890.

FORESTS AND CROWN LANDS.

In 1890 there were 512 acres of land leased to agriculturists, from one to four acres, at Rs. 2 per acre, and 460 acres in 1889, showing an increase of 52 acres on the previous year.

The same number of fishing posts, island and town lots (on Pas Géométriques for boat shed), were leased in 1890 as in 1889, and all. with the exception of Gombrany island, fetched the same price during these two years, *i.e.*, 42 fishing posts at Rs. 5 each, Hermitage island Rs. 5, Gombrany island Rs. 15 in 1889 and Rs. 16 in 1890, Ile-aux-chats at Rs. 10, Ile-aux-fous Rs. 5, and four town lots at Rs. 5 each.

The number of Government lessees in 1890 was 258 against 267 in 1889.

The revenue actually received under the heading of land rent amounted to Rs. 1,025.30 in 1890 against Rs. 1,262.50 in 1889.

The pasturage dues brought a revenue of Rs. 554.30 in 1890 against Rs. 1,159.80 in 1889.

The pasturage revenue for 1889 and 1890 is exclusive of Rs. 2,205.75 due by Mr. James Martin on the 31st December 1890.

Twenty-one acres and four lots were sold for Rs. 604.25 in the year 1890 against one acre sold for Rs. 30 in 1889.

The amount derived from forest produce amounted to Rs. 161.61 in 1890 against Rs. 147.75 in 1889.

No land was bought by Government in 1889 and 1890.

The outstanding land rent for 1890 amounted to Rs. 231 on the 31st December 1890 against Rs. 00 in 1890.

There was still a balance of Rs. 381.30 due for pasturage fees on the 31st December 1890. The forest ranger was in charge of the forest branch during the years 1889 and 1890.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Rs. 979.59 were expended on works (including sanitary) and buildings in 1890, against Rs. 1,446.43 in 1889. The following were the principal works, *i.e.*, completing a stone wall round the prison; adding a verandah to St. Gabriel school; re-roofing Government House. In the above sum of Rs. 979.59 I have not included the sum of Rs. 20 for repairs of boats, and the sum of Rs. 107.75 for cleaning Mountain Reserves lines.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The crop was very fair in 1890, unfortunately towards the end of the year an epidemic of influenza prevailed here with great violence, and prevented the cultivators from continuing their plantations.

The arrears of payments may be chiefly attributed to that fact.

As many as 46 persons died from the influenza, and 36 from other diseases.

Mr. de La Peyre arrived at Rodrigues on the 1st September 1890, and he took over the administration of the island on the 13th of that month, date of the departure of Mr. O'Halloran for Mauritius.

On the 28th November 1890 the title of Civil Commissioner and Police Magistrate was abolished, and the officer in charge of this island to be styled Magistrate of Rodrigues.

On the 12th December Mr. B. H. Colin (the Acting Magistrate) arrived at Rodrigues and relieved Mr. de La Peyre. No man-of-war visited the island during the year 1890.

B. H. COLIN,
Acting Magistrate of Rodrigues.

Rodrigues Magistracy,
5th November 1891.

REPORT BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

THE accounts of the revenue and expenditure of Rodrigues kept in the audit office are extracted from the quarterly accounts sent by the magistrate, but our figures as regards the revenue and matters of account for 1890 do not agree with those given by the magistrate in his Blue Book Report.

According to the audit books the revenue collected at Rodrigues in 1890 was Rs. 6,875.19, and the total of the matters of account was Rs. 17,245.06, making the total receipts in 1890 Rs. 24,120.25.

The magistrate gives the revenue as Rs. 6,766.72, and matters of accounts as Rs. 18,152.35, or a total receipt of Rs. 24,919.07.

As regards the expenditure, both real and matters of account, the audit books give the same total as stated by the magistrate, but there is again a difference in the items. The audit books give the real expenditure as Rs. 20,817.04, and matters of account as Rs. 438.79, making a total of Rs. 21,255.83.

The magistrate give Rs. 20,846.04 as the real expenditure, and Rs. 409.79 as matters of account, making the same total of Rs. 21,255.83.

I consider that the audit figures should be accepted, because the following statement shows, I think, that they are correct:—

	Rs.	c.
Balance in chest on 31st December 1889, as per magistrate's return - -	14,687	99
Receipts in 1890 as per audit books - -	24,120	25
	38,808	24
Deduct disbursements - - -	21,255	83
Balance - - -	17,552	41

This balance is made up of the following items:—

	Rs.	c.
Deficit of Mr. O'Halloran - - -	5,390	00
Remitted to Mauritius on 24th December 1890 - - - - -	8,500	00
Balance in chest on 31st December 1890, as per magistrate's return - - -	3,662	41
Total - -	17,552	41

I annex a statement of the revenue and expenditure of Rodrigues for 1890 showing in parallel columns the figures as given by the magistrate and by the audit office.

THOS. ELLIOTT,
Auditor General.

Revenue of Rodrigues for the Year 1890.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount shown by Rodrigues. Rs.	c.	Heads of Revenue.	Amount shown by the Audit Books. Rs.	c.
School fees	103	75	School fees	103	75
Land sales	604	25	Land sale	517	91
Postage	158	64	Postage	158	64
Pasturage	554	30	Pasturage	485	90
Mortgage	13	50	Mortgage	12	50
Licenses	1,230	75	Licenses	1,230	75
Stamps	158	66	Stamps	128	62
Dog tax	301	81	Dog tax	301	81
Miscellaneous receipts	2,101	02	Miscellaneous receipts	1,410	79
Land revenue	1,025	30	Land revenue	898	30
Fees of office	7	00	Fees of office	3	75
Forest revenue	161	61	Forest revenue	208	09
Fines, &c.	289	10	Fines, &c.	323	89
Sale of Government property	57	03	Sale of Government property	1,090	49
	6,766	72		6,875	19
Matters of Account.			*Matters of Account.*		
Advances:			Advances:		
Payment by Government debtors on account of rice	2,241	05	Refund from police for stores	620	46
			„ „ Mr. Henrison „	69	77
			„ rice to sundry debtors	643	53
Deposits:			Deposits:	1,333	76
Money orders Rs. 15,826.46			Money orders Rs. 15,826.46		
Widows and orphans 84.84	15,911	30	Widows and orphans 84.84	15,911	30
Total matters of account	18,152	35	Total matters of accounts	17,245	06
„ real revenue	6,766	72	„ real revenue	6,875	19
Total receipts	24,919	07	Total receipts	24,120	25

MAURITIUS.

RODRIGUES.

Expenditure of Rodrigues for the Year 1890.

Heads of Particulars.	Amount shown by Rodrigues.	Heads of Particulars.	Amount shown by the Audit Books.
	Rs. c.		Rs. c.
Salaries	14,346 00	Salaries	14,309 67
Allowances	1,168 20	Allowances	1,117 80
Pensions	1,336 32	Pensions	1,336 32
Administration of justice	118 75	Administration of justice	102 75
Miscellaneous — Meteorological Department	180 25	Ecclesiastical	1,000 00
Poor Law Department	284 35	Meteorological observations	180 25
Boat, stores, &c.	20 00	Special repayment	118 91
Provisions for prisoners	20 12	Boat, stores, &c.	24 12
Vaccination fees	73 50	Provisions for prisoners	18 60
Miscellaneous	2,580 53	Rent of hospital	54 08
Maintenance of buildings	675 42	Vaccination fees	73 50
Petty supplies	33 35	Miscellaneous services	1,738 76
Do. for schools	9 25	Addition to house of Civil Commissioners	21 00
		Maintenance of buildings	696 28
		Petty supplies	16 75
		Do. for schools	8 25
	20,846 04		20,817 04
Matters of Account.		*Matters of Account.*	
Deposits:		Advances:	
Money orders	359 79	Landing 600 bags of rice ex "Little Annie."	40 0
Police Reward Fund	50 00	Deposits:	
		Money orders - Rs. 373.79	
		Police Reward Fund - 25.00	398 79
Total matter of account	409 79	Total matters of account	438 79
„ real expenditure	20,846 04	„ real expenditure	20,817 04
Total expenditure	21,255 83	Total expenditure	21,266 83

MAURITIUS.

ALDABRA ISLAND.

No. 4.

Governor SIR C. C. LEES to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Mauritius,
August 24, 1891.

MY LORD,

I BEG to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the following Despatch from the Administrator covering an interesting report from Mr. James Spurs, the lessee of Aldabra Island.

I should be glad if the suggestion made by Mr. Griffith in the last paragraph of his Despatch might be adopted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, Seychelles,
August 14, 1891.

SIR,

IN my Despatch of the 3rd May 1890, I had the honour to inform your Excellency that I had asked Mr. Thomas James Spurs, the lessee of the Aldabra Islands, to furnish me with information as to the land tortoises and the resources of the islands generally.

2. Mr. Spurs, who has recently paid a visit to Mahé, was good enough to hand me before his redeparture for Aldabra on the 20th July a report, of which the enclosed is a copy, containing much valuable information concerning the group, but especially as to the island of Aldabra itself.

3. It is gratifying to learn that the fears which were entertained as to the possible extinction of the land tortoises owing to the occasional depredations on the part of crews of Arab dhows, small vessels from Bourbon, and the turtle fishermen from various places, have not been altogether realised; and that, in consequence of the natural difficulties which present themselves to persons who occasionally come in search of these interesting creatures, and the peculiarly seclusive nature of the animals themselves, there is improbability of their becoming extinct.

4. The views expressed by Mr. Spurs in the closing paragraphs as to the possible extinction of the shell-giving turtle throughout the various groups of islands under the Seychelles Government are not altogether shared by other persons competent to form an opinion on the subject. No doubt if legislative enactments could be effectively carried out much might be done to encourage and increase the growth of the carets or hawks-bill turtle; but legislation is one thing, and the enforcement of laws against fishermen on the open sea or in uninhabited places is another.

ALDABRA ISLAND.

5. There are one or two other items of interest relating to the Aldabra group omitted by Mr. Spurs which it may not be out of place here to mention.

The shallower waters around these islands contain large quantities of the beche-de-mer, or sea cucumber, the tripang of the Malays.

Mr. Spurs has taken with him some Chinese from Mahé who are experts at preparing this article of diet, which finds a large and ready sale in the Chinese markets.

Orchilla weed or rocella lichen of good quality is also found in no inconsiderable quantity on the islands, and doubtless the lessee will discover its collection and shipment to be a remunerative industry.

Mr. Spurs personally informed me that he expected to obtain annually upwards of 12,000 of the green turtle or edible turtle, the meat of which he proposes to dry and ship. Some idea of the value attaching to these islands may be obtained from the above particulars.

6. Although the rent at which the islands have been leased may be considered trifling, I think the Government are fortunate in having secured Mr. Spurs for a tenant; for it will be gathered from his report, which is interesting reading, that he is an observant man and a lover of Nature, nor do I think he is likely, to use an old and homely phrase, to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs by exhibiting that rapaciousness which has characterised the actions of others who have been there before him.

7. Your Excellency might perhaps be disposed to make the suggestion in transmitting Mr. Spurs's report to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State that it should be printed as an Appendix to the Annual Reports for 1889 and 1890 upon which I am engaged, or, if deemed of sufficient interest, as a separate miscellaneous Colonial paper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. RISELY GRIFFITH,
Administrator.

His Excellency
Sir Charles Cameron Lees, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Mauritius.

MAURITIUS.

ALDABRA ISLAND.

To His Honour T. RISELY GRIFFITH, Esq., Administrator of Seychelles Islands.

Port Victoria, Seychelles,
July 19, 1891.

SIR,

THE island of Aldabra, situated between 9° 24′ south latitude and 46°22′ east longitude from Greenwich, is the most westerly island of the group of that name composed of the islands of Aldabra, Astove, Cosmoledo, and Assumption.

By its extent, formation, flora, and fauna, Aldabra is, from a scientific point of view, more interesting than the sister islands. It is completely covered with trees and stunted shrubs, but very green. Its aspect is agreeable. Here and there mangrove trees of 55 feet in height show their thick foliage and adorn the landscape. It is undesirable and unnecessary to venture into these inextricable bushes, inhabited as they are by myriads of large mosquitoes, the sting of which makes one suffer.

The island is flat, and the land to the westward extends from north-west to nearly south east. Its length is 20 miles, the eastern part bending crescent shape to its two extremities and forming a basin in the interior, which is closed on the east side by three islands. These fragments are separated by four channels, of which only one gives access to the lagoon at low water. The narrowness of this channel, and the strong currents that are met with there, render it practicable only for steamers.

The geological formation of this group differs from those of other known fossil coral islands. This is owing to volcanic eruption, whilst the Farquhar Islands, Providence, the Amirantes, and the Chagos are the products of degradation or subsidence, as fully explained by the celebrated Darwin.

Yet in the Chagos group, at Diego Garcia, there is a basement of 100 feet in length to the south promontory of the island. The small island to the north-east, which has raised promontories, has not undergone the course of degradation. At Aldabra the raised promontories remain the same as they have been from their formation.

At first sight it seems extraordinary that an island essentially madreporic and so vast should not be interspersed with sandy plains; but throughout its extent it is a solid madreporic mass. When, however, it is known how strong the currents and surf are in these latitudes it is easily explained. In fact the sea bursting with great violence on the reef (which had not yet reached the level of the water) swept off all the calcareous detritus, throwing it into great depths.

This natural sweeping maintained a great cleanliness, and imparted to the different sorts of corals an extraordinary strength of growth, especially observable on the cliffs, which, corroded by the sea and disintegrated by the atmospheric agents, expose to view the mighty fossil coral masses of which they are formed. Hence the total absence of sandy fields.

MAURITIUS.

ALDABRA ISLAND.

In the other formations such as the Chagos group, when the reefs had attained their last stage of growth, which is nearly one foot above the strong ebb tides, the masses of sands and rolled-up corals were accumulated by the effect of the surges which met in an inverted shape on the point of the reefs. The latter must have remained stationary in order to be able to form a great deposit, or it might be that their movement of degradation was extremely slow.

In these conditions the sands and the rolled-up corals solidly aggregate, but then it is easy to give an account of their mode of formation, since it is by the infiltrations of lime across these masses that they solidify, and this solidification remains always some inches below the level of high water.

The most elevated promontory of solid masses at Aldabra is to be found on the west section of that island called Picard Island, and measuring 25 feet above the sea. Here andthere walls are to be found being the result of the degradation of the mass, or else proceeding from the decomposition of a great porite, which builds its haunt in a cylindrical or cisternlike form. It is only in the Aldabra group that I have seen this sort of coral in a fossil state, and I have been unable to find even one alive.

In decomposing this coral yields a yellow vegetable mould, which is of very great fertility. Unfortunately there is very little of it, so as to enable one to derive any profit or advantage.

In almost all the western part of Aldabra, from the south to the north, there is a reef of from 100 to 200 yards in width. In the eastern part the sea breaks almost everywhere against the coral reefs.

This reef has been formed on one side by the destruction of the cliff, and on the other by the growth of reefs from the side towards the open sea. Upon this reef and around the island the corals grow no more with that prodigious vigour which they possessed many ages ago. Upon the interior belt, however, of the island, formed of a slimy depth which the destruction of the solid masses has left, there are to be found paludal trees, which from a distance present a green border.

The hurricane that in May 1889 laid waste Farquhar Island has here overturned or blown down almost all the large trees. But, apart from the havoc made by this hurricane, there are other injuries of a nature more severe, which I attribute mainly to the mephitic exhalations of the soil. In many places small paludal forests are to be met with but all dead, of which some trees are still standing, while others have been apparently blown down by the wind. Their death seems to have been caused by violence. One thing which will, I think, lead you to accept these remarks of mine is the fact that your Honour was kind enough to read to me a paragraph from a report which Commander Needham, R.N., who visited Aldabra in H.M.S. "Reindeer," addressed to Vice Admiral Fremantle last year, in which he states having seen a remarkable occurrence, in the rising many times of a jet of vapour

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ALDABRA ISLAND.

of large quantity from the water which appeared around it to be depressed as in a whirlpool. The inference is that Aldabra is still liable to volcanic action.

It has been my duty to study at Aldabra some very curious climatic phenomena. In the months of December, January, and February some very strong squalls of rain are constantly formed towards the west and the north-west of the island, but as they gradually approach the land they disperse without a single drop of water falling upon the earth. The rain only falls when the squalls which have passed above the island are driven back by a contrary wind. This rain is then but local and of short duration.

On the 12th January of the present year (1891) the island was visited by a small cyclone, the barometer falling to 29°, which is a strong depression for our latitudes. During the 24 hours of the duration of the bad weather, nearly six inches of water fell. From the beginning of this epoch to the end of February the weather was very dry, the thermometer ranging in the shade, from 9 o'clock a.m. to 3 o'clock p.m., 92, 94, and 96 degrees Fahrenheit, and the barometer falling to 27 degrees. Whereas during my 18 years of abode at Diego Garcia, and five years at Farquhar Island, I have never seen the hot season bring about a barometric depression of more than six to eight-tenths of an inch.

The flora of Aldabra, compared with that of other fossil coral islands, is very rich; about 30 species and varieties of trees and shrubs exist, but very small, seeing that they grow on the corals where they hardly find means for growth.

Foremost among the fauna we find the big tortoises. These chelonians are still numerous. It is only on the section of the island called "Picard" that they have been destroyed by the harpooners, or "vareurs," who usually encamp at that place when they come to fish at Aldabra.

Upon my arrival there I caused to be taken 11 large tortoises on the principal section of the island and set them loose on the Picard Island, where I took measures to destroy the rats, which are the most redoubtable enemies of young tortoises. Thanks to this precaution the tortoises will multiply at the usual and proper rate.

On seeing a tortoise of Aldabra, which seems so heavy, one cannot believe that it is able to move about in the place where it lives. In fact it is impossible to meet with a place more liable to cause accidents and filled with more obstacles than this group. Yet this shapeless reptile opens its way everywhere with a comparatively remarkable skill and swiftness. One day I caused some of them to be placed in a natural ditch for the purpose of setting them loose on the morrow, but what was my astonishment a minute afterwards to see one in the plain running away as fast as its legs could carry it. With the help of its nails it succeeded in getting out of the ditch, a thing which I was far from believing it capable of doing. From May to September these beasts enter in the woods, where they conceal themselves in the most bushy places, and only come out in October, where they show themselves with the first rain. It is then that they couple together, and the female lays eggs in November, January, and February. Each time they lay from six to eight eggs.

The sea-birds are numerous. The grallics, or waders, are represented by several varieties, and a species of macrodactyl, which seem to have originally belonged to Aldabra. As they are neither flying nor swimming birds, they could not have come from Madagascar or Africa. The sparrows form a group of six families an varieties, after which we find a climber.

The sea-turtles are numerous throughout the whole group, but it is curious to note that the males alone inhabit the bay and the elevated grounds which are around the islands. It is the same in the Chagos Archipelago and the Amirantes, &c., &c. As soon as a female has attained the age of producing (which takes place usually at from 20 to 25 years) she disappears—whither, is a mystery no one knows But when they return and approach the coasts to lay eggs they are covered with barnacles which show a development of two or three weeks. As the turtles swim up on the surface of the water in deep places, these shells adhere to their carapace during the journey. I think the absence of the females from the coasts is due to the rather considerable number of the males. The females have more value and are more easily caught than the males, so much so that at the present time there are nearly 10 males to one female, while the proportion which is met with in bringing them up from the eggs is 10 females to one male. Hence the desperate fights between these animals during the breeding season, from which the sharks derive an immense advantage. The species of dog-fish which frequent these latitudes is too small to be able to eat a big turtle; it cuts off its fins, the head, and the tail. Once I caught one of 10 feet long, which had in the paunch three heads and the remainder of the fins of big turtles, and a young entire turtle which I estimated weighed nearly 30 pounds.

A female turtle lays eggs three times in each season, and on each occasion produces 125 eggs. As soon as the young turtles are hatched, and before reaching the water, they become the prey of land crabs, of the grallics, and frigates, or man-of-war birds. Once in the water the danger is not over, for they are there the prey of all the fish large enough to swallow them. For this reason they do not live on the coasts, but allow themselves to be carried by the currents and surges, which they are not strong enough to resist, far out into the sea. In these depths their lives are still uncertain, but it is only there that they can better escape the grasp of their enemies.

In former times the "carets," or hawks-bill turtle, were an important branch of the productions of Aldabra, their scales being particularly large Their number, however, has greatly diminished owing to the destructive practices of the harpooners. They proceed in the following manner:—

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ALDABRA ISLAND.

The water of the bay is saline; at low water, therefore, they go near the corals where they know these animals feed. It is with difficulty that they are able to distinguish in this disturbed water whether they are large or small, but, disliking to miss a big turtle, they throw the harpoons at all they meet with. As the implement they use for this purpose has a spring which opens or straightens when it has penetrated into the interior of the animal, it is cut open to disengage or free the implement, which invariably kills the poor beast.

The laws which regulate turtle fishing in Seychelles have been made, doubtless, by intelligent men, but they could not have known the habits of these interesting beasts. And if these laws are not amended and strictly enforced, before 10 years turtles will be no more in Seychelles.

The turtle is a valuable object of commerce and a veritable curiosity.

On the whole the Aldabra group is very interesting from a scientific point of view, but it has little or no prospect of a good future from a commercial standpoint, as it is improbable that anything can be done there by way of cultivation.

Trusting that this information and these few remarks will be of some interest to your Honour,

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES SPURS.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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MAURITIUS
(SEYCHELLES).

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1891.

(For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 40.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1892.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	"
12	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
13	Gibraltar	"
14	Zululand	"
15	Sierra Leone	"
16	Barbados	"
17	Falkland Islands	"
18	Labuan	"
19	British Honduras	"
20	Basutoland	1890-91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	"
23	Grenada	"
24	Straits Settlements	"
25	British Guiana	"
26	St. Helena	"
27	Mauritius	"
28	Gambia	"
29	Hong Kong	"
30	Ceylon	1889
31	Lagos	"
32	Lagos	1890
33	Ceylon	"
34	Newfoundland	"
35	Jamaica	1889-91
36	Victoria	1890
37	British New Guinea	1890-91
38	St. Vincent	1891
39	Bermuda	"
40	Seychelles and Rodrigues	1889 and 1890
41	Gambia	1891
42	Barbados	"
43	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
44	Bahamas	"
45	Fiji	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.

No. 46.

MAURITIUS.

SEYCHELLES.

MAURITIUS

(SEYCHELLES).

[For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report [Annual], No. 40.]

Acting Governor JERNINGHAM to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Mauritius,
May 23, 1892.

MY LORD,

THE following despatch from the Acting Administrator transmits his Report on the Seychelles Blue Book for the year 1891.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, Seychelles,
May 14, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit my Report on the Seychelles Blue Book for the year 1891.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. M. BROWN,
Acting Administrator.

His Honour Hubert E. H. Jerningham, C.M.G.,
Officer Administering the Government of Mauritius.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1891.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

According to the figures supplied by the treasurer, the receipts of the year 1891 amounted to Rs. 217,322.10 against

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Rs. 224,169.27 in the preceding year, and the payments to Rs. 210,724.96 against Rs. 219,393.46 in the year 1890.

The excess of receipts over payments in 1891 was Rs. 6,597 against Rs. 4,765.91 in 1890.

The actual receipts in 1891 exceeded the estimated receipts by Rs. 7,172.16.

The actual payments fell short of estimated expenditure by Rs. 3,827.90.

The changes made in the form of the estimates in 1891, and as a consequence, in the classification of revenue and expenditure in the Treasury books, render it somewhat difficult to give a comparative statement of the details of revenue and expenditure.

The following may, however, be noted: Customs duties in 1890 gave 122,285.04, whereas in 1891 they yielded only 112,776.37, showing a decrease of Rs. 9,508.67. The revenue from this source fell short of the estimates only by Rs. 72.363.

Licenses, excise, and internal revenue not otherwise classified, produced in 1891, according to the Treasurer's report, Rs.41,863.42, the receipts under the items comprised under that heading, having been (according to the printed estimates) in 1890, Rs. 41,370, showing consequently a slight increase (Rs. 493) in favour of 1891.

Taxes (local rate, dog tax, and water rates) produced in 1891 Rs. 31,165.45 as against Rs. 29,749 in 1890, showing an increase of Rs. 1,416.45 in favour of 1891.

Fees of court or office produced in 1891 Rs. 15,337.07. In 1890 the aggregate revenue of the items now included under that heading is stated in the estimates to have been *Rs. 11,819.* This shows an increase of Rs. 3,518 in favour of 1891.

Pilotage shows a difference of Rs. 300 in favour of 1891.

Post office and money orders produced in 1890 Rs. 9,268, whereas in 1891 this head produced only Rs. 5,782.02, showing a decrease of Rs. 3,485.98; this was foreseen, there having been a large sale of new postage stamps in 1890, which was not likely to be renewed in 1891—the revenue under this heading has, however, exceeded the estimate (Rs. 4,838) by Rs. 944.02.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Exports.

The imports, exclusive of specie, amounted to Rs. 798,698.45 against Rs. 620,578.80 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 178,119.65 in favour of 1891.

This increase as due to an exceptionally large crop of vanilla.

Imports.

The imports show a total of Rs. 610,325.50 against Rs. 657,512.20 in 1890, showing a decrease of Rs. 47,186.70. This is attributed to the following causes:—

Previous to 1891 the number of Indian traders was abnormal, and I am afraid the importations were somewhat recklessly made

The result of this was felt in 1891. The progress of the Chinese, who are gradually getting the trade of these islands into their hands, who work steadily and avoid rash speculations, who import their own goods and have a vessel of their own, seriously interfered with the Indian custom of importers.

One importer with a large Indian clientèle, closed his business in December 1890, and as this entailed the closing of accounts of his customers, the result was the closing of several Indian firms, a series of law suits, levy of stock-in-trade, and consequent diminution of imports.

The very high rate of exchange, and the very low prices of vanilla, in the European market, have also necessarily affected the imports of the year.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Dependency on the 31st December 1891, according to a statement from the Treasurer duly audited, amounted to Rs. 97,143.87.

The liabilities amounted to Rs. 82,744.45, showing a balance in favour of assets of Rs. 14,399.42.

SHIPPING.

Seventy-nine vessels, manned by 8,356 men, and of an aggregate tonnage of 185,750 tons, entered the Port of Victoria in 1891, namely:—

		Tons.
19	men-of-war - - - -	24,252
36	mail steamers - - -	150,138
24	merchant vessels (other than mail steamers) - - -	11,360
79	Total -	185,750

Of the men-of-war—

13 were English.
1 was French.
1 was Italian.
2 were German.
2 were Portuguese.

Of the merchant vessels—

19 were British.
4 were Norwegian.
1 was French.
36 were French (mail steamers).

MAURITIUS.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

SEYCHELLES.

A census of the Seychelles Islands was taken on the night of the 5th April 1891, showing a total population, exclusive of shipping, of 16,440, against 14,191 in 1881, showing an increase of 2,249 in 10 years.

What is called the general population, as distinguished from the African population, amounted to 14,686, of which 7,267 males to 7,419 females.

The African population amounted to 1,754, of which 1,035 males and 719 females.

Taking the whole population, the number of males exceeds that of females by 174.

The population of the principal Island of Mahé was 13,351, as against 11,436 in 1881.

The population of Praslin in 1891 was 1,235, as against 974 in 1881, and Ladigue 866, as against 742 in 1881. The other Islands showed an aggregate population of 945, as against 1,039 in 1881.

Of the total population of 16,440, there were 16,106 British subjects, 229 French subjects, 45 Chinese, 28 Portuguese, 10 Americans, 9 Arabians, 4 Germans, 2 Turks, 2 Swiss, 1 Swede, 1 Dutch, 1 Italian, 1 Spaniard, 1 Greek.

The natives of the British Isles numbered in all 84.

Natives of France numbered 76.

The total number of Europeans may be stated at 200.

It is not possible to state the number of inhabitants of European extraction, as they are merged in what is called the general population, as distinguished from the African.

The natives of Seychelles numbered 13,639.

Those of Mauritius and its minor dependencies, 391.

Natives of Africa, 1,754.

Asiatics, 293.

Natives of Réunion, 141.

The number of births registered in the Dependency was 619, as against 623 in 1890, namely:—

—	General Population.		African Population.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate - - - - - -	203	173	29	30
Natural acknowledged - - - -	20	18	2	3
Natural - - - - - -	69	65	4	3
Total - -	292	256	35	36

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SEYCHELLES.

The birth-rate per 1,000 was 37·53, as against 44·24 in 1891.

The rate of still-births per 1,000 was 2, as against 4·26 in 1890.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 302, as against 257 in 1890, and the death-rate 18·37 per 1,000, against 18·25 in 1890.

There were 150 marriages, against 187 in 1890.

EDUCATION.

In 1891 there were 26 schools aided by Government grants, attended by 1,844 children, against 24 schools in 1890 attended by 1,844 children.

Twenty schools, with 1,542 pupils, were under the control of the Roman Catholic Mission, and six schools, with 302 pupils, were managed by the civil chaplain and the Church Missionary Society.

The sum voted in 1891 for grants in aid was Rs. 8,000, the same amount as in 1890.

It was apportioned as follows, viz.:—

	Rs.
Roman Catholic schools - -	6,542.61
Church of England schools - -	1,300.98
Church Mission school at Capucin -	156.41
	Rs. 8,000

JUDICIAL.

Criminal Side.

The total number of criminal informations filed in 1891 was 713, against 643 in 1890. Of the 713, 570 were filed by the police and 143 by private parties.

Six hundred and ninety-two cases were adjudicated upon, against 637 in 1890, 21 cases entered within the year had not been adjudicated upon or had not pressed to conclusion on the 31st December 1891, as against six in 1890.

Nine hundred and seventy-nine persons were charged in 1891 (308 by the police and 171 by parties) as against 845 in 1890.

There were 699 convictions in 1891 (628 upon police prosecution and 71 on prosecution by parties), as against 531 in 1890.

As in preceding years the most numerous offences were drunkenness and disturbance, there being 99 convictions for drunkenness, as against 112 in 1890, and 230 convictions for disturbance, as against 174 in 1890.

There were 331 persons prosecuted for disturbance, of which 230 were convicted and 101 acquitted.

One hundred and ten persons were charged with larceny, as against 57 in 1890, and there were 80 convictions, as against 35 in 1890.

Of the 110 persons charged with larceny, there were 49 charged with larceny of agricultural produce. Of these, 34 were convicted.

On the other hand, there were 35 persons prosecuted for breach of the special law for repression of larcenies of produce, resulting in 29 convictions, against 67 persons charged and 56 convictions in 1890.

There was one prosecution for infanticide, which did not result in a commitment for trial, the accused was subsequently prosecuted and convicted for concealment of birth, and one charge of attempt at murder on private prosecution resulted in an acquittal.

The most serious offences this year were assaulting police, attempt at murder, attempt upon chastity, wounds and blows, concealment of birth, defamation, embezzlement, larceny, breach of Fishery law, adultery.

Civil Side.

The number of civil causes was 177, as against 147 in 1890, showing an increase of 30 cases; in addition to which there were 59 matters dealt with in chambers.

Stipendiary Side.

There were 136 persons charged in the Stipendiary Court, against 65 in 1890, and 78 convictions, against 40 in 1890.

The engagements and discharges before the stipendiary magistrate were as follows :—

——	1891.	1890.
Engagements - - - -	50	168
Discharges - - - - -	81	57

showing a decrease in the number of labourers entering into written contracts of service of 118 against 1891.

The total number of cases in all jurisdictions entered before the Courts in 1890 and 1891 respectively stands as follows :—

—	1891.	1890.
Criminal	713	643
Civil	177	147
Stipendiary	136	65
Total	1,026	855
Increase of 1891 over 1890	171 cases.	

There was in 1891 one appeal which was dismissed by the Supreme Court.

Gaol.

Three hundred and fifty-six persons were committed to gaol in 1891, as against 314 in 1890. Of these, one was sentenced to five years or more, and 11 to one year or more, the remainder being sentenced to less than one year.

In 1891 there were 5 deaths in the prison.

HOSPITAL.

The number of persons treated in the public hospital in 1891 was 197, against 170 in 1890, showing an increase of 27 ; they were as follows :—

—	1890.	1891.
Paupers	43	42
Prisoners	50	56
Paying patients	77	99
Total	170	197

Of these 197 persons—

127 were discharged as cured.
32 " " relieved.
8 " " unrelieved.
18 died.
12 were still in hospital at the end of the year.

The principal ailments were anæmia, dysentery, influenza, intussusception, meningitis, paralysis, pneumonia, rheumatism, ulcers, and vulnus.

There were 6,129 applications for medicines at the public dispensary in 1891, against 6,349 in 1890.

The vaccinations by the Government Medical Officers in 1891 were 310 at Mahé, and 74 in the Praslin ward; in all, 384.

LEPROSY CAMP.

There were seven lepers maintained in the leper camp on Curieuse Island during the year, namely :—

Males - - - - -	5
Females - - - - -	2

PAUPER CAMP.

Fifteen aged paupers were maintained in the pauper camp at Curieuse Island during the year.

LUNACY.

There were ten lunatics maintained at the expense of the Government of Seychelles at the Mauritius Lunatic Asylum during the year, three were declared lunatics during the year.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

In 1891, as in previous years, the only religious communities provided with churches and clergy, were the Protestant and Roman Catholic.

Of a population of 16,592 (including 152 forming the crew of H.M.S. "Marathon" then in harbour).

2,768	were returned as Protestants.
4	as Catholics Apostolic.
892	as Catholics.
12,610	as Roman Catholics.

The number of clergy, churches, and chapels employed by each community is as follows :—

Church of England.

Civil chaplain - - - - -	1
Minister for South Mahé - - -	1
Minister for Praslin - - - -	1
Evangelists and catechists - - -	8
Total -	11

Roman Catholic.

Bishop	1
Priests	13
Lay Brothers, of the Capucin order	4
Marist Brothers	7
Sisters of St. Joseph	45
Total	70

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

Church of England.

Churches	3
Chapels	8
Total	11

Roman Catholic.

Churches	12
Chapels	6
Total	18

PUBLIC WORKS.

The following are the principal public works attended to during the year.

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges.

Repairs were made to drains and streets, and to various bridges, some of which were pulled down and rebuilt. The roads were repaired and maintained partly by the Public Works Department, and partly by contractors.

Extension of Roads and Bridges.

The *Forêt Noire Road* was continued on a length of 270 feet, including a causeway 170 feet long, with side walls 5 to 10 feet high, and a wall 17 feet long and 2½ feet high built on each side. Three bridges were also built on this road.

Point La Rue Road was extended 1,486 feet, including a causeway 160 feet long and from 9 to 19 feet high, with side walls 2½ feet high.

North-east Road was extended 1,950 feet.

Water Works.

A reservoir was built at La Digue Island, and pipes laid down to supply the plateau with water which was very much needed.

A new reservoir was built and pipes were laid supplying the northern suburb of the town of Victoria with water. The Rochou River reservoir was repaired, and many of the pipes supplying the town with water were cleaned.

Other Works.

Repairs were made to Denis Island Light House, two legs of the tripod were repaired, portions of the ladders replaced, &c.

A pavilion was built for the assistant keeper.

The roof of the Custom House shed was repaired, and repairs were made to the market.

The cutter "Wave" was recoppered and repaired, and repairs were made to the Port Office boats.

The Government House Bungalow was reshingled, and the verandah repaired and re-covered.

Important repairs were made to the buildings of the Quarantine Station, the roof being completely reshingled.

A new female prisoners sleeping ward was built, with suitable Matron's quarters, in the Victoria prison, and a working shed was built for the male prisoners.

The walls of the pier and coal wharf have been repaired and continued, and the south-east corner of the pier walled and filled in.

A building for the accommodation of untried prisoners has been erected in the police yard.

Various articles of furniture have been made for public offices, and repairs have been made for departments.

The Government school house was completed this year, and supplied with the necessary furniture.

The printing office has been enlarged, and a ceiling made to it, and various fittings supplied.

CROWN LANDS.

The Crown Lands are as stated in previous reports. No additions or changes have been made. The trees planted in previous years are thriving, and about 10,000 new seeds were planted during the year.

The post of Government Surveyor having been vacant during the greater part of the year, no surveying work could be performed. A property called Concession Lavoquier, reported to be covered with virgin forest, and which the conservator reports was never taken possession of by the original grantee, and has returned to the possession of the Crown, is exposed to encroachments by neighbours, and could not be sufficiently protected, because not surveyed; when a Government Surveyor is appointed, this work should be attended to without delay.

Some Coco-de-Mer have been planted at Praslin and Curieuse, and timber seeds have been planted at La Digue.

The rent of Félicité has increased, and the revenue of Curieuse is daily increasing.

A special law has been passed for the protection of this valuable Island from depredators.

The Amirantes are not leased.

The Revenue and Expenditure of Crown lands during the year, including rent and produce, are reported by the Conservator to have been as follows:—

Name of Property.	Revenue. Rs.	ct.
Messageries Coal Wharf	600	00
Admiralty Wharf	200	00
Fibre Factory	400	00
Ilot on Reef	50	00
Ilot Hodoul	250	00
Church Missionary Land		25
Capucin Land	156	00
Félicité Island	1,950	00
Ile Récifs	450	00
Mamèlles Island	50	00
Ile Ronde Praslin	4	00
Land alongside the Pier	160	00
Land between Factory and Sea	50	00
Amirantes	605	47
Plaisance and other lands	145	00
Long Island	352	68
Coco de Mer Ravine	175	00
Curieuse Island	2,959	00
Aldabra	600	00
Sea Way alongside the Pier	50	00
Total - - - Rs.	9,207	40

Expenditure.

	Rs.
Plaisance, labourer	144
Long Island, guardian	192
Coco de Mer Ravine, guardian	144
Forest Ranger	360
Conservator of Crown Lands, &c.	1,200
Curieuse Island, overseer and labourers	600
Total - - Rs.	2,640

Police.

The strength of the police force in 1891 was 51 of all ranks, against 46 in 1890, namely:—

1 chief officer,
1 sergeant-major,
2 sergeants,
3 corporals,
10 first-class ⎫
10 second-class ⎬ constables,
19 third-class ⎪
5 boatmen ⎭

distributed over 9 stations, including the central station at Victoria.

The Police Reward Fund showed a balance of Rs. 958.24 on the 31st December 1891.

Detection and Repression of Crimes, &c.

The statistics of prosecutions and results are given under the heading *Judicial.*

The value of property alleged to have been stolen in 1891 is reported by the chief officer of Police to have been Rs. 792.40, against Rs. 4,893.89 in 1890, and the value of property recovered Rs. 225.40 against Rs. 327.28.

The total amount of fines inflicted in police prosecutions in 1891 was Rs. 8,378 as against Rs. 4,906.50 in 1890.

Liberated Africans and Labourers generally.

No liberated Africans or immigrants of any kind were introduced during 1891.

In the census of 1891 the number of members of the *African* population is returned as *1,754.*

It results from the report of the Inspector of liberated Africans that 293 Africans were employed as labourers on estates, as against 300 in 1890, 87 were under written, and 206 under verbal, contract.

The number of labourers of all classes reported as employed on wages on estates in 1891 is 882 against 719 in 1890. Of these, 89 were under written, and 793 under verbal, contract.

It results from the Inspector's report that 54 persons were registered for employment on the share system in 1891 as against 85 in 1890, and that of these 54, 39 were Africans and 15 Creoles.

From the same report it results that the total wages earned by labourers of all classes on estates in 1891 was Rs. 74,955.06 against Rs. 76,786.00, and that the total of forfeitures for absences, &c. was Rs. 11,401.01 against Rs. 7,023·71 in 1890.

The number of marriages of liberated Africans is reported to have been 15 as against 20 in 1890, and of offspring of Africans 8 against 16 in 1890.

Seventy-six births among liberated Africans are reported in 1891 as against 81 in 1890, and 29 deaths against 19 in 1890.

One hundred and thirty-seven liberated Africans are reported to have been convicted on police prosecutions for various offences in 1891 as against 94 in 1890.

LEGISLATURE.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1891:—

1. "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating "to Vagrancy."

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SEYCHELLES.

2. "An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the security of "Notaries and Attornies and to regulate the custody of monies "and other matters connected with the practice of Notaries."

3. "An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles "Islands for the year 1891."

4. "An Ordinance to amend the law as to licenses in so far as "it refers to the duty levied on licenses to be issued to Assurance "Companies and their agents, and to distillers."

5. "An Ordinance to make better provision concerning the "Promulgation of laws in the Seychelles Islands." (Disallowed.)

6. "An Ordinance to provide for the refund of Customs Duty "paid on goods imported or purchased for the use of the "Administrator of the Seychelles Islands."

7. "An Ordinance for regulating pensions, compensations, "and allowances to be granted in respect of offices held in Her "Majesty's Civil Service in the Seychelles Islands."

8. "An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles "Islands for the year 1892."

(Signed) R. M. BROWN,
Acting Administrator.

14th May 1892.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

No. 57.

Mauritius.
1891.

MAURITIUS.

[For Report for 1890 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 27.]

Acting Governor Jerningham to Lord Knutsford.

Government House, Mauritius,
August 24, 1892.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of the summary of the Blue Book and of a report thereon by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Elliott.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Hubert E. H. Jerningham,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Report to accompany the Blue Book for 1891.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue received in 1891 was Rs. 7,595,650, a decrease of Rs. 179,123 as compared with the revenue of 1890.

2. The estimated revenue of 1891 was Rs. 7,429,977, but as this amount was insufficient to meet the estimated expenditure of Rs. 7,911,571, additional taxation was imposed by Ordinances passed in December 1890. The amount that it was anticipated would be obtained in 1891 by the extra taxation was not reached, owing to the large quantity of goods withdrawn from bond before the close of December 1890, in order to avoid the additional duty leviable in 1891.

3. The customs dues in 1890 produced Rs. 2,645,186, and in 1891 Rs. 2,424,425, a decrease of Rs. 220,771, due principally to the cause mentioned in the preceding paragraph, and partly also to a falling off in the importation of tobacco.

Owing to the increase in the harbour dues, Rs. 18,048 more were received under this head in 1891 than in 1890.

4. The license, excise, and other internal revenue duties, which produced Rs. 2,565,910 in 1890, amounted in 1891 to Rs. 2,709,757,

MAURITIUS.
1891.

an increase of Rs. 143,847, attributable to the addition
leviable in 1891.

5. The revenue under the head of "Fees of Court o
"Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements
shows a decrease in 1891 of Rs. 167,949 as compared wi
but this is due to the fact that the receipts on account
Law patients and the sale of medicines to the Poor Law
sion, which are matters of account, were credited to re
1890 and not in 1891.

6. There was an increase in 1891 of Rs. 21,432 in the
revenue, of Rs. 15,520 under land sales, and of Rs. 1
miscellaneous receipts.

7. The expenditure in 1891 was Rs. 8,192,265 an in
Rs. 486,954 over the expenditure of 1890.

8. In 1891 there was an unforeseen expenditure of Rs.
occasioned by an epidemic of small-pox, and a sum of Rs.
was paid for the diffusion plant set up on Britannia Estate
There was also a larger amount spent by the Publi
Department, as more extensive repairs were required
buildings, and the works at the new Central Prisons, Bea
were continued.

Assets and Liabilities.

9. The following statement will show the position of the
ment accounts under the heads,—1. of the Commissi
Currency, who issue Government notes of the value of 5,
50 rupees in exchange for silver rupees of India; 2.
Government Savings Bank, under the direction of the
General; 3. of the Curatelle, which administers the e
deceased persons and absentees who are not represente
Colony; and 4. of the Treasury proper.

——	Assets.	Liability.
	Rs.	Rs.
Commissioners of Currency -	2,945,151	2,668,250
Savings Bank - - -	3,588,289	3,447,627
Curatelle - - -	470,010	470,010
Treasury proper - -	1,581,103	726,020
Total - - -	8,584,553	7,311,907

Public Debt.

10. This amounted on the 31st December 1891 to 777,7
made up of 161,000*l.* Mauritius Railway debentures,

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Surplus.
Rs.
276,901
140,662
—
855,083
1,272,646

749*l.* 13*s.*,
, payable

15th January 1895 and 15th January 1896, and bearing interest at 6 per cent.; of 56,000*l.* Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings; of 2,600*l.* Moka Railway 4 per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings; of 73,400*l.* Consolidated 4 per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings; of 480,749*l.* 13*s.* Mauritius Inscribed Stock; and of 4,000*l.* Poor Law Commission 5 per cent. debentures.

11. For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock the sinking fund accumulated up to the 31st December 1891 amounted to 140,293*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, and, adding to this the surplus balances of the Commissioners of Currency, the Savings Bank, and the Treasury proper, which amount to Rs. 1,272,646, or, converted into sterling at Rs. 13·90 the £, 91,557*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, the balance representing the debt at the close of 1891 was 545,898*l.* 11*s.* 6*d*:

Imports and Exports.

12. The trade for the year was valued at Rs. 40,785,744, against Rs. 44,323,642 in 1890; divided into—

—	1890.	1891.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	16,702,818	16,477,341
Exports - - -	27,620,824	24,308,403

or, exclusive of specie and bullion—

—	1890.	1891.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	16,375,377	16,433,133
Exports - - -	26,962,930	23,755,088

13. The value of the principal imports for the years 1890 and 1891 was as follows:—

—	1890.	1891.
	Rs.	Rs.
Animals - - -	332,744	302,245
Apothecaries' ware - -	182,670	111,929
Grain, flour, meal - -	5,153,773	5,915,858
Provisions - - -	1,434,549	1,113,102
Malt liquors, wines and spirits -	823,657	806,341
Cotton manufactures - -	1,254,631	917,664
Woollen manufactures -	218,597	174,597

——	1890.	1891.
	Rs.	Rs.
Haberdashery - - -	407,245	364,170
Coal - - - -	542,372	611,934
Machinery - - -	209,607	91,226
Iron and steel - - -	193,691	183,269
Hardware and cutlery - -	1,043,452	406,130
Leather, wrought and unwrought - - -	243,721	162,966
Manure and fertilizers - -	1,100,217	1,064,140
Oil of all kinds - - -	764,064	696,562
Tobacco - - -	193,304	133,890
Total - - -	14,098,294	13,086,023

14. Adding the charges and exchange to the value of the imports given in the preceding table, the result will be as follows :—

——	1890.	1891.
	Rs.	Rs.
Animals - - -	551,820	521,285
Apothecaries' ware - -	302,197	240,829
Grain, flour, meal - -	7,070,167	8,281,693
Provisions - - -	2,231,893	1,744,627
Malt liquors, wine, and spirits -	1,367.227	1,370,766
Cotton manufactures - -	1,949,851	1,420,386
Woollen manufactures - -	358,275	292,978
Haberdashery - - -	667,081	610,864
Coal - - - -	1,408,150	1,620 141
Machinery - - -	347,948	155,084
Iron and steel - - -	320,269	310,585
Hardware and cutlery - -	1,724,693	688,065
Leather, wrought and unwrought - -	399,247	271,042
Manure and fertilizers - -	1,757,762	1,706,018
Oil of all kinds - -	1,121,645	1,012,135
Tobacco - - -	298.784	212,453
Total - - -	21,877,009	20,458,751

15. The following table shows in kilogrammes the quantity of sugar manufactured in the Colony exported in the years 1890 and 1891; the value in rupees as declared at the Custom House; and the rate, calculated therefrom, per 100 kilogrammes.

Year.	Quantity exported in Kilogrammes.	Declared Value in Rupees.	Value per 100 Kilogrammes.
			Rs.
1890 - - -	128,405,938	23,483,868	18
1891 - - -	124,180,980	21,119,674	17

MAURITIUS.
1891.

16. The principal markets for our sugar were:—

—	1890.	1891.
	Kilos.	Kilos.
India	68,260,803	72,870,213
Australasia	30,185,866	19,217,225
United Kingdom	14,995,667	11,858 823
Cape Colonies	11,741,487	13,771,113
United States	1,505,126	4,148,689
Ceylon	596,901	1,055,651

17. The value of other local products exported in 1891 was as follows:—

	Rs.
Rum	389,926
Vanilla	211,314
Aloe fibre	453,530
Molasses	94,313
Cocoa-nut oil	180,588

Shipping.

18. The following table gives the number of ships and their tonnage, entered inwards and cleared outwards in 1890 and 1891:—

Year.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1890	456	343,302	463	346,320
1891	408	300,330	396	295,311

19. Of the vessels entered inwards, 194 sailing vessels and 93 steamers were British; 32 sailing vessels and 41 steamers were French; 13 sailing vessels and 2 steamers were German; 14 sailing vessels were Norwegian; and the 19 other vessels were of American, Arabian, Austrian, Danish, Dutch, Italian, Malagasy, and Swedish nationality.

Population.

20. By the Census taken on the night of the 5th April 1891, it was ascertained that the resident population was 370,588, composed as follows :—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
General population - - -	58,639	56,129	114,668
Indo-Mauritians - - -	80,653	75,938	156,591
Other Indians - - - -	66,846	32,483	99,329
Total - - -	206,038	164,550	370,588

21 The Indo-Mauritians are persons of Indian origin born in the Colony, and are generally the offspring of parents both of whom were Indian immigrants. The other Indians are chiefly immigrants from India who have come to Mauritius under contracts of service. The general population includes all persons born in the Colony (except those of Indian parents or where the father was of Indian origin) besides Europeans, Chinese, &c., and is most easily defined as the residuum after separating the Indo-Mauritians and the other Indians.

22. The following statement will give the number of the inhabitants of the districts of the Colony according to the Census of 1881 and that of 1891 :—

Districts.	1881.	1891.
Port Louis (including Flat and Gabriel Islands) - - - - - -	66,652	62,169
Pamplemousses - - - - -	37,670	38,547
Rivière du Rempart - - - - -	20,726	24,151
Flacq - - - - - -	56,022	56,734
Grand Port - - - - -	52,982	48,169
Savanne - - - - - -	34,447	34,977
Black River - - - - -	15,292	15,698
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	46,315	57,591
Moka - - - - - -	29,768	32,552
Total - -	359,874	370,588

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1891.

23. The births registered in 1891 were 13,878, an increase of 575 over the number registered in 1890; and the number of deaths registered in 1891 was 9,976, a decrease of 2,805 compared with 1890. The births in 1891 exceeded the deaths by 3,902.

24. The birth-rate in the total population was 37·4 and the death-rate 26·9 per thousand. The death-rate in 1890 was 34·3 per thousand.

25. The Census returns show 21 persons as being 100 years of age or more, as against 12 in 1881.

Education.

26. In 1891 there were 77 Government schools and 84 schools aided by Government grants, against 71 Government schools and 77 aided schools in 1890.

27. The average number of scholars on the roll in 1890 and 1891 was as follows:—

—	1890.	1891.	Increase.
Government Schools - - -	8,082	8,876	794
Aided Schools - - - -	7,661	8,114	453
Total - - -	15,743	6,990	1,247

28. Of the total number of pupils, 71·46 per cent. were of European, African, or Chinese descent, and 28·53 per cent. were Indians or of Indian origin. The following percentages show their religious persuasions:—

Members of Church of England -	2·97	per cent.
Roman Catholics - - -	74·16	,,
Members of other Christian denominations - - - -	1·41	,,
Mahomedans - - -	6·23	,,
Hindoos and others - - -	15·20	,,

29. The average number of pupils in the Royal College and Royal College Schools in 1890 and 1891 was as follows:—

—	1890.	1891.
Royal College proper - - -	187	193
Royal College School, Port Louis - -	140	145
Royal College School, Curepipe - -	148	189
Total - - -	475	527

30. The sums disbursed for educational purposes in 1891 were as follows:—

	Rs.
Royal College - - - - -	171,769
Expenditure on Government schools exclusively - - - - -	152,123
Expenditure on aided schools exclusively -	94,335
Expenditure common to Government and aided schools - - - - -	13,497
Industrial education - - - -	3,854
Administration - - - - -	19,774
Total - - - - -	Rs. 455,352
Total expenditure in 1890 - -	Rs. 422,299
Increase of expenditure in 1891 -	Rs. 33,053

31. This additional expenditure was caused by an increase in the grants to aided schools, by grants in aid to schools associated with the Royal College, by the opening of second grade Government schools on the half-time system, and by an increase to the personal emoluments of teachers in the Royal College and Government schools.

Post Office and Telegraphs.

32. The revenue collected in this Department in 1891 was Rs. 73,910, while the revenue brought to account in 1890 was Rs. 81,593. This apparent decrease is owing to the postage stamps sold at the Treasury having been credited to the item Internal Revenues in 1891, whilst in 1890 the amount was credited to the Post Office Department.

33. The letters, post cards, and newspapers which passed through the office in 1890 and 1891 were as follows:—

Year.	Letter.	Post Cards.	Newspapers.
1890 - - -	1,063,800	21,543	1,150,903
1891 - - -	1,069,994	22,414	1,194,383
Increase -	6,194	871	43,480

34. The postal money-order business showed an increase of Rs. 52,299 over that of 1890.

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1891.

35. The mail services by the Messageries Maritimes Company and the British India Steam Navigation Company were continued with great regularity. A subsidy of Rs. 80,000 was paid to the Messageries Maritimes Company, and a subsidy of 3,750*l.* was paid by the Colony to the British India Steam Navigation Company, a similar sum being also paid to the Company by the Imperial Government.

Railways.

36. The revenue for 1891 was Rs. 1,597,321, an increase of Rs. 21,432 over the revenue of 1890, due to the transport of a larger quantity of goods; the expenditure in 1891 was Rs. 1,043,708, a decrease of Rs. 62,596 when compared with that of 1890, owing to the careful management of the General Manag and Engineer of Railways.

37. The works on the extension of the Moka line from Montagne Blanche Station to Rivierè Sèche Station were continued.

Immigration.

38. There were but few Indian immigrants introduced into the Colony in 1891; 656 from Calcutta and 335 from Madras; and there was also a decrease in the number of immigrants who left the Colony, there being altogether 900 against 1,054 in 1890.

39. The average cost of introduction per engaged man was Rs. 140 . 50.

40. The proportion of females to males among the immigrants who arrived in the Colony was 38·8 per cent., and the proportion of females to males in the departures was 25·7 per cent.

Poor Relief.

41. The expenditure in 1891, including establishment charges, was Rs. 249,695, while the expenditure in 1890 was set down at Rs. 409,131.

42. It had been the practice to prepare bills for the fees chargeable on account of patients sent by the Poor Law Commissioner for treatment at the Civil Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum, and for medicines supplied to poor law dispensaries and hospitals, and the amount of such bills was entered in the accounts as revenue, and figured also on the expenditure side. As this was entirely a matter of account, the practice ceased at the end of 1890. In paragraph 5 of this Report reference is made to the decrease in revenue under the head of reimbursements by the omission of sums under this head.

43. The number of patients treated in the public hospitals in 1891 was 8,158, against 10,436 in 1890. Of these 6,686 were

MAURITIUS.
1891.

treated in hospitals in the rural districts, and 1,472 at the Civil Hospital in Port Louis. The total number of deaths in the several hospitals was 750, against 1,165 in 1890; and the ratio of mortality was 9·19 per cent., against 11·16 in the previous year.

44. The number of persons assisted at the Barkly Asylum in 1891 was 802, against 954 in 1890, the number remaining on the 31st December 1891 being 359. The number of deaths in the year was 43, against 67 in the previous year, and the ratio of mortality was 5·36 per cent., against 7·02 in 1890.

45. The number of persons treated in convent hospitals and infirmaries in 1891 was 597, against 754 in 1890; the number remaining on 31st December 1891 being 254. The number of deaths in the year was 111, against 112 in 1890; and the ratio of mortality was 18·59 per cent., against 14·85 in 1890.

46. The number of lepers maintained at St. Lazare in 1891 was 258, against 314 in 1890; the number remaining on 31st December 1891 being 168. The mortality in 1891 was 23, against 42 in 1890, and the ratio of mortality was 8·91 per cent., against 13·37 in 1890.

47. The number of lunatics treated in the lunatic asylum in 1891 was 475, against 473 in 1890; the number remaining on the 31st December 1891 being 378. The mortality in 1891 was 9, against 12 in 1890, and the ratio of mortality was 1·89 per cent., against 2·53 in 1890.

48. The number of sick people treated at the dispensaries in 1891 was 41,926, against 47,403 in 1890.

49. Out-door relief in the shape of rice and money was given to 12,935 persons in 1891, against 11,977 in 1890.

Criminal Statistics.

50. The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1891 was 32,345, against 30,085 in 1890.

Of the offences reported in 1891—

7,112 were for offences against the person.
637 „ „ prædial larceny.
5,512 „ „ offences against property other than prædial larceny.
and 19,094 „ „ other offences.

51. The total number of convictions in the inferior courts in 1891 was 17,793, against 16,173 in 1890.

These convictions are classified as follows:—

1,144 for offences against the person.
412 „ prædial larceny.
1,455 „ offences against property other than prædial larceny.
4,573 „ offences against the law relating to masters and servants.
10,209 „ other offences.

52. The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—

27 for offences against the person.
69 ,, ,, ,, property.

53. The acquittals were as follows:—

In the inferior courts - - -	4,926
,, ,, Supreme Court - - -	15

54. The number of persons committed to gaol in 1891 was 9,419, against 8,878 in 1890.

7	were imprisoned	for debt.
1,974	,,	,, nonpayment of fines and costs.
1,941	,,	,, safe custody till trial, or for not furnishing security.
5,497	,,	,, purposes of penal imprisonment.

The above-mentioned committals include 347 removals to the reformatory for juvenile offenders.

55. The sentences of imprisonment in 1891 were as follows:—

To three months or less - - -	4,276
To more than three months and less than one year - - - - - -	952
To one year and less than five years - -	212
To more than five years - - -	57

Meteorological Observations.

56. The mean temperature in the shade at the Observatory, which stands on a plain 178 feet above sea-level, about three miles from the West Coast, in the district of Pamplemousses, was 73 degrees, against an average of 73·5 for the 17 years 1875–1891; the absolute highest temperature being 86 degrees, on 4th February, and the lowest 55 degrees, on 1st August.

57. The rainfall for the year at the Observatory was 44·63 inches on 224 days, against an average of 47·78 inches on 203 days for the last 17 years. The wettest months were March and April, and the driest month October.

58. The rainfall for the year at the Nursery Gardens, Curepipe, in the district of Plaines Wilhems, at an elevation of 1,840 feet above sea-level was 139·32 inches on 288 days.

Legislation.

59. Thirty-one Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government in 1891.

60. Six of them deal with questions affecting the revenue of the Colony. Three were passed to continue in operation during 1892 Ordinances passed in previous years to impose extra taxation, so as to provide the amount necessary to make the revenue of 1892 sufficient to meet the estimated expenditure. Another Ordinance

reduced the licence duty payable by attorneys from Rs. 150 to Rs. 60 per annum; and by another, the licence duty payable by house, land, and cattle agents was reduced from Rs. 150 to Rs. 50 per annum. The sixth was to render effective Ordinance 25 of 1890, which had imposed licence duties on certain traders.

61. By Ordinance 4 of 1891, "To provide for the prevention of Accidents in Aloe-fibre Factories," the great difficulty which persons wishing to claim compensation would otherwise have met was removed, as the party injured is not bound to prove negligence on the part of the employer, as he would have to do in an action under the code.

62. Ordinance No. 15, "To make it lawful in certain cases for "Persons on board a Ship which does not enter the Harbour to "land before such Ship is admitted to pratique," provides for the case of passengers arriving on board ships with clean bills of health and otherwise entitled to pratique, but which do not wish to communicate because of epidemic disease existing in the Colony. Before the passing of this Ordinance those passengers were either prohibited from landing, or were obliged to go to a quarantine station.

63. Ordinance No. 25, "To amend the Law relating to the "harbouring and employment of Vagrants and Deserters," was passed to render liable to penalties those who harbour or employ vagrants and deserters without having previously taken reasonable precautions to ascertain whether such persons were vagrants or deserters.

(Signed) THOMAS ELLIOTT,
22nd August 1892. Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 70.

RODRIGUES.

(For Report for 1890 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 40.)

The MAGISTRATE of RODRIGUES to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Rodrigues Magistracy,
24th June 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, my Annual Report for 1891. I have entered into rather lengthy details, as numerous errors have been made in my last year's report (errors for which I cannot account). The present one will, I hope, enable the Honourable the Auditor General, whose totals of expenditure and Revenue for 1890 are correct, to see the difference in the items between the books of this office and those of the Audit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. H. COLIN,
Magistrate.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Mauritius.

I.—TAXATION.

No change was made in the taxation of this island during the year 1891.

II.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	Rs.
The real revenue of 1891, (exclusive of Customs and sums collected in Mauritius) was - -	5,829.32
Showing an increase of - -	1,150.38
On the revenue of 1890, which was -	Rs. 4,678.94

Rodrigues. 1891.

	Rs.
The expenditure of 1891, under estimates and special votes (without including payments made in Mauritius) was - -	21,746.37
Showing an increase of - -	1,168.39
On the expenditure of 1890, which was - - - - Rs.	20,577.98

The ratio of the revenue to the population of 1891 was Rs. 2.77 and a fraction per head. The ratio of the expenditure was Rs. 10.36 and a fraction per head.

The principal heads of revenue were:—Land rent, dog tax, pasturage dues, licenses, fines and forest revenue.

The increase of expenses is to be chiefly attributed to—increase of salaries, repairs to boats, payment of vaccination fees for 1890,—arrears of increments paid to Mr. Ternel, quarantine expenses and census.

III.—Establishments.

The cost of establishments in 1890 and 1891 shows the following differences:—

—	1890.	1891.
	Rs.	Rs.
Salaries - - - - -	14,309.67	17,017.86
Allowances - - - - -	1,117.80	1,115.49
Total - - - -	15,427.47	18,133.35

IV.—Pensions.

Rs. 1,336.32 were expended for pensions in 1891 and a similar sum in 1890.

V.—Magistracy.

The magistrate's salary paid at Rodrigues amounted to Rs.3,999.96 in 1891, against Rs.1,952.43 in 1890.

The magistrate acts also as postmaster (*Vide* Post Office).

The magistrate's travelling expenses were Rs.106.44 in 1890, and Rs.159.00 in 1891.

The magistrate has a residence given him by Government and is allowed a Government labourer who receives Rs.240.00 per annum.

The stationery, books, &c., for the office are sent from Mauritius.

VI. —POST OFFICE.

The revenue collected in 1891 for postage and commission on money orders was Rs.139.66 and Rs.158.64 in 1890.

The letters received were 811 in 1891 and 125 in 1890—newspapers 554 in 1891 and 327 in 1890.

The money orders drawn on Mauritius amounted to Rs.12,219.31 in 1891, and to Rs.15,826.46 in 1890.

Orders were drawn on Rodrigues to the value of Rs.583 in 1891, against Rs.393.79 in the preceding year.

The expenditure amounted to Rs.120 in 1891, and to Rs.76 in 1890 (Postmaster's salary).

VII.—STAMPED PAPERS AND LICENSES AND INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS.

The following revenue was derived from the above in 1890 and 1891:—

——	1890.	1891.
	Rs.	Rs.
Stamped papers	158.66	148.43
Receipt stamps		
Stamps for bills of lading		
Trade licenses	1,230.75	1,265.00
Game licenses		
Total	1,389.41	1,413.43

showing a difference of Rs.24.02 in favour of 1891.

VIII.—EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports exclusive of specie amounted to Rs.42173 against Rs.63,852.65 in 1890, showing a decrease of Rs.21,679.65.

The imports amounted to Rs.110,073.96, against Rs.131,283.45 in 1890, showing a decrease of Rs.21,209.49.

The rate of export per head of population was Rs.20.10 and a fraction in 1891, against Rs.31.76 and a fraction in 1890.

The rate of import Rs.52.46 and a fraction against Rs.65.31 and a fraction in 1890.

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1891.

IX.—SHIPPING.

Under this head the year 1891 compared with 1890 shows the following differences:—

1890.		1891.	
Inwards - -	8	Inwards - - - -	6
Outwards - -	8	Outwards - - - -	5

The subsidy for postal communication between Mauritius and Rodrigues (1890 and 1891) was paid in Mauritius.

X.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of this Dependency on the 31st December 1890 was - - - - - -		2,010
Number of births in 1891 - -	109	
„ arrivals „ - - -	52=161	
Number of deaths in 1891 - - -	22	
„ departures „ - - -	51=73	
Increase in 1891 - - - - - -		88
Population on the 31st December 1891 - -		2,098

The birth-rate shows a decrease of 22 births in 1891, if compared with the previous year.

The death-rate a decrease of 58 deaths.

There were no still-births in 1891 and three in 1890.

Nineteen marriages were celebrated in 1891 and 44 in 1890.

There were no marriages "in articulo mortis" in 1891, against seven in 1890.

A sum of Rs.400 was paid to the officers in charge of the census which was made in this island in1891.

XI.—EDUCATION (Annexure G).

In 1891 there were two schools in operation at Rodrigues. The expenses thereof are paid by Government.

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Port Mathurin School.

Average number on roll 65, and average attendance 53, against 59 and 46 in 1890.

St. Gabriel School.

Roll number 150, and average attendance 100, against 106 and 73 in 1890.

The costs of both schools (including Mr. Ternel's arrears of increments for 1890 and 1891 paid in 1891) amounted to Rs.3509.14 in 1891 and to Rs.3.141.42 in 1890, after deduction of the school fees, which amounted to Rs.98.50 in 1891, and to Rs.103.75 in 1890. School books and stationery (sent from Mauritius) were sold to the pupils of both schools to the value of Rs.69.20 in 1891 to Rs.64.09 in 1890.

The annual cost to Government of each pupil inscribed on the roll at both schools was Rs.16.32 and a fraction in 1891, against Rs. 19.03 and a fraction in 1890.

Prizes sent from Mauritius were distributed to the pupils of both schools at the end of 1891.

XII.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Criminal Side.

——	1890.	1891.
Number of informations filed, including applications for search warrants - -	41	61
Number of adjudications - - -	36	43
„ cases abandoned - - -	5	18
„ persons convicted - -	35	38
„ persons acquitted - -	6	15

The most numerous charges were: Larcenies, abusive language and breach of forest and fishery laws.

Civil Side.

The number of civil cases entered in 1891 was 75, against 141 in 1890.

Stipendiary.

—	1890.	1891.
Number of cases entered - - -	10	18
Criminal Side:		
Number of convictions - - -	7	6
„ acquittals or - - -	—	4
„ cases given up - - -	3	4
Civil Side:		
Number of cases for plaintiff - - -	—	4
„ „ defendant - -	—	4

The most numerous charges were for breach of contract, of which there were 14, against one in 1890.

Engagements	-	- 1 in 1891 and 4 in 1890.
Discharges -	-	- 2 in 1891 and 4 in 1890.

The total number of cases of all jurisdictions amounted to—

Criminal -	-	- 41 in 1890	and 61	in 1891.
Civil -	-	- 141 „	and 75	„
Stipendiary -	-	- 10 „	and 18	„
		192 „	and 154	„

showing a decrease of 38 cases on the year 1890.

The court revenue in 1891 was Rs.467.06, against Rs.296.10 in 1890 (fees of office are included).

The expenditure Rs.86.75, against Rs.118.75 in 1890.

XIII.—GAOLS.

Twenty-one persons were committed to gaol in 1891 and 24 in 1890.

The prisoners' extra rations amounted to Rs.31.98 in 1891, and to Rs.19.52 in 1890. Rice and salt were sent from Mauritius.

In 1891 a female prison warder had to be taken, and was paid Rs.19.75.

The chief officer of police is keeper of the gaol and the constables act as prison guards.

XIV.—POLICE FORCE AND FOREST RANGER.

The expenses incurred in 1891 for these branches amounted to Rs.4,711.39, against Rs.4,661.64 in 1890.

In the above amount of Rs.4711.39 are included salaries, allowances, salaries which had to be paid to new constables detained in quarantine, and passages of constables transferred to Mauritius.

The police uniforms, clothing and boots were sent from Mauritius.

XV.—MEDICAL BRANCH.

The number of patients treated in the public hospital in 1891 was 10, and 67 in 1890.

2,064 received medical care at the dispensary, against 3,549 in 1890.

One death occurred in the hospital in 1891, and seven in 1890.

The prevailing diseases were dysentery, worms and rheumatism.

102 children were vaccinated in 1891.

The receipts on account of in-patients amounted to Rs.8.75 in 1891, against Rs.13.50 in 1890.

The total expenditure for the medical branch was Rs.2,859.63 in 1890, and Rs.2757.82 in 1891, showing a difference of Rs.101.81 in favour of 1891. In the above sum of Rs.2,757.82. are included Rs.112.50 for Vaccination fees of 1890, and Rs.87.75 for hospital expenditure incurred the same year.

The rent of the hospital was paid in Mauritius; the 547½ lbs. of rice given to the hospital servant to complete his rations were sent from Mauritius.

XVI.—POOR LAW.

The same number of paupers were provided for in 1890 and 1891, *i.e.*, 13 males and 6 females. Each pauper received 500 grammes of rice "per diem" and a suit of drill at the end of the year. The rice and clothing were sent from Mauritius.

A sum of Rs.254.25 was expended in 1890 for the relief and burial of the destitute inhabitants (during the influenza). No special assistance was required from Government in 1891.

XVII.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are two Roman Catholic churches at Rodrigues, one of them is supported by Government (St. Gabriel Church).

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The expenditure for the Roman Catholic church was Rs.2,730.44 in 1891 against Rs.3,541.56 in 1890.

The catechist of the Church of England officiates at the Government School at Port Mathurin; he is paid by the London Missionary Society.

XVIII.—LEGISLATION.

No special laws were enacted by the Legislative Council of Mauritius for this island. Proclamation No. 20 of 1891 extended the delay for taking the census at Rodrigues to the 3rd May 1891.

XIX.—REGISTRATION.

Thirty-seven documents were registered in 1891, and 28 in 1890.

The revenue derived thereby amounted to Rs.18.50 in 1891, against Rs.14 in 1890.

XX.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Chief Officer of Police took daily observations which have been transmitted to the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory at Mauritius.

	N. Ther.	N. Bar.
Highest temperature (indoors) 22nd January 1891, 3 p.m. - - - -	08·06	30·120
Lowest temperature (indoors) 29th July 1891, 9 a.m. - - - -	68·07	30·340
Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours, from 9 a.m. 28th to 9 a.m. 29th January 1891. -	1¾ inch.	

The month of January was the month in which there was the heaviest rainfalls—the rain gauge marked 923 lines, which is equivalent to 9¼ inches.

No hurricane visited the island in 1891.

Mr. Mason, chief officer of police, received Rs.180.25 in 1890 and Rs.182.50 in 1891 for taking these observations (charged under miscellaneous expenses).

XXI.—FOREST AND CROWN LANDS.

In 1891 there were 414 acres of land paid for by agriculturists at Rs.2 per annum the acre, for 1891, and 212½ acres for 1890.

Thirty-two fishing posts were leased in 1890 and 1891; they fetched Rs.170 in 1891 (out of which Rs.50 are arrears of 1890) against Rs.140 in 1890 (arrears of 1889 included).

The islands were leased for Rs.56.75 in 1891, against Rs.36 in 1889.

The town lots (four) obtained Rs.25 in 1891, and Rs.20 in 1890.

The number of Government lessees in 1891 was 265, against 261 in 1890.

The Revenue actually received under the heading of Land Rent amounted to Rs.1,504.75 in 1891, and to Rs.898.30 in 1890. (Fishing posts, town lots, islands and other land leases are included therein.)

The pasturage dues brought a Revenue of Rs.963 in 1891 and Rs.485 in 1890.

The pasturage revenue is exclusive of the sum of Rs. 1,800 paid by Mr. James Martin in Mauritius in 1891.

No sale of land was made in 1891; a sum of Rs.140.34 was received for land sold previous to that year. No land was bought by Government in 1890 and 1891.

The amount of forest produce sold was Rs.228.28c., in 1891, against Rs.247.95 in 1890.

The outstanding land rent amounted to Rs.260 on the 31st December 1891, *i.e.*, Rs.20 for 1890 and Rs.240 for 1891.

A balance of Rs.472.05 was still due for pasturage fees on the 31st December 1891, without including Mr. Martin's pasturage dues, which amounted to Rs.1,597.75 on the 31st December 1891.

A sum of Rs.82 was paid in 1891 as compensation for land taken away from certain inhabitants for reserves, since 1888.

XXII.—Buildings and Boats.

A sum of Rs.59.06 was expended in 1891 under the heading of Maintenance of Buildings (Estimates), against Rs.657.75 in 1890. No new works were made in 1891 (boards, paint, glass, bolts, &c., are sent from Mauritius and paid for there).

Rs.146.83 was spent for repairs of boats, against Rs.20 in 1890.

(Canvass and fixtures for boats are sent from Mauritius.)

XXIII.—Miscellaneous Expenses (not referred to under any special heading of this Report).

1. The cleaning of the town was made by two scavengers and one boatman (the salaries of the scavengers amounted to Rs.312.00 in 1891 and to Rs.288.00 in 1890, (*vide* Establishments); the rations of each consisted "per annum" of 540 lbs. of rice sent from Mauritius, and of Rs.19.32 paid here for salt fish, &c. The boatman received Rs.120 "per annum" for towing the night-soil barge to sea; no rations are given to him.

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2. A sum of Rs.209.27 was spent in 1891 for quarantine purposes.

3. Divers works not specially provided for under Item 26 Sub-item 12 of Estimates (Maintenance of Buildings) cost to Government Rs.16.50 in 1891 and Rs.380.79 in 1890.

4. Sundry payments were made to the amount of Rs.53.96 in 1891, and Rs. 162.50 in 1890.

5. The pilot received in 1891 Rs.55 as a gratuity for having been detained 11 days in quarantine.— Rs.10 were paid the same year to Forest Ranger Constance for special services during the influenza of 1890.

6. Sums paid by error by the inhabitants were refunded to them to the amount of Rs.4 in 1891, and Rs.6.38 in 1390.

Petty Supplies.

Rs.15.56 were expended for petty supplies in 1891, and Rs.33.35 in 1890.

Special Repayment.

Rs.118.91 were refunded to Mr. E. Gellé in 1890 (a sale of land which had been made to him having been cancelled). No special repayment was made in 1891.

XXIV.—RICE ACCOUNT.

In 1889, 600 bags of rice were sent to Rodrigues. The cost price thereof, including charges, amounted to Rs.6,028.10 The landing of the rice at Rodrigues cost Rs.39,50, making a total of Rs.6,067.60.

The price fixed for the sale of the rice at Rodrigues was Rs.6,073.10.

	Rs.
The amount paid up to the 31st December 1889, was - - - - -	15.18
The amount paid up to the 31st December 1890, was - - - - -	1,630.07
The amount paid up to the 31st December 1891, was - - - - - -	2,258.66
Losses incurred by Death [*] - - - -	248.33
Unrecoverable - - - -	289.96
Carried to Paupers' rice - - - -	5.59
Total -	Rs. 4,447.79
Sum recoverable and outstanding -	Rs. 1,625.31

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[*] *Note.*—Some widows and children paid part of the rice debt of those deceased; this accounts for that loss being only Rs.248.33 on the 31st December.

RODRIGUES.
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In December 1890, 600 bags were received here and sold in 1891, cost price, including charges, Rs.5,917.00. Landing at Rodrigues Rs.40. Total Rs.5,957.00. Total value of sale price at Rodrigues Rs.5,958.92, *i.e.*, sold :—

	Rs.
558 bags and 63 lbs. - - - - -	5,584.30
26 „ damaged - - - - -	234.00
78 lbs. damaged - - - - -	5.72
15 bags carried to paupers' rice - -	135.00
9 lbs. missing - - - - - -	0.90
Total -	Rs. 5,958.92

Amount paid up to 31st December 1891 -	2,496.13
Unrecoverable - - - - - -	165.00
9 lbs. missing - - - - - -	0.90
Total -	Rs. 2,662.03
Sums recoverable and outstanding - -	Rs. 3,296.89

In 1891, 200 bags of rice were sent to Rodrigues, but the sale thereof began only in 1892.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The crop was very poor in 1891, owing to the epidemic of influenza which prevailed here in 1890 and which prevented the inhabitants from cultivating their land. I must, however, say that they showed an exceptional goodwill in paying their debts.

It is to be regretted that there are no regular roads at Rodrigues, otherwise much might be done towards its improvement. Rs.3,500 must at least be spent to have decent roads, and I would suggest that the outstanding amount recoverable on the rice due by the inhabitants be paid by them in making roads.

The civil and criminal laws require alterations, the magistrate's jurisdiction should be enlarged. It would be advantageous to extend to Rodrigues the laws applicable to District Courts ni Mauritius, with this "proviso" as regards "Bench" matters,—that in all cases wherein the matter may be tried by a "Bench" ni Mauritius, the magistrate of Rodrigues shall have jurisdiction to convict for a period not exceeding two years. Special authority should be conferred on the magistrate to try summarily cases of perjury. In nine cases out of ten perjuries are committed here.

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Notarial powers may be given to the magistrate in order to facilitate sales of land.

Vanilla being planted on several estates, it is necessary, to prevent depredations, that Ordinance No. 7 of 1875 be extended to Rodrigues. The Fishing Regulation is defective; an experiment has been made of late by the principal fishermen of the island, who stopped beating the tam-tam, and the result was beneficial to all. A special Article to Regulation 4 of 1882 prohibiting that mode of fishing may be framed.

B. H. COLIN,
Magistrate.

Rodrigues Magistracy,
9th June 1892.

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No. 92.

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MAURITIUS.

[For Report for 1891 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 57.]

Sir H. E. H. JERNINGHAM to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Extract.)

Government House, Mauritius,
September 11, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Report on the Blue Book for 1892, which has been furnished by Mr. Elliott, the late Acting Colonial Secretary.

REPORT to accompany the BLUE BOOK for 1892.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue received in 1892 was Rs. 7,473,029, a decrease of Rs. 122,621 as compared with the revenue of 1891.

2. The estimated revenue of 1892 was Rs. 7,392,631, and as this amount was insufficient to meet the estimated expenditure of Rs. 7,766,555, Ordinances were passed in December 1891, continuing in force Ordinances 20, 21 and 22 of 1890, under which additional taxation had been imposed and it was estimated that the extra taxes would in 1892 produce Rs. 364,925.

3. But owing to the disastrous hurricane of 29th April 1892 the anticipated revenue was not realised. The sugar crop was so much reduced that the export duty on sugar amounted only to Rs. 319,279, while Rs. 425,000 had been anticipated. The railway receipts, owing to the reduced crop, showed a falling off of Rs. 106,679, and the excise duty on rum issued for home consumption was short by Rs. 265,651. On the other hand, the import duties produced Rs. 213,000 more than the estimate, and harbour duties showed an increase of Rs. 32,339 over estimate.

4. The estimated expenditure in 1892 was Rs. 7,766,555, and the actual expenditure was Rs. 8,024,484, an excess of Rs. 257,929 over estimate.

5. The epidemic of small-pox which commenced in 1891, continued throughout the year, and caused an expenditure of Rs. 241,536, which had not been provided for, and a sum of

Rs. 291,131 was spent in repairing damages to public buildings caused by the hurricane of the 29th April and in giving assistance to the sufferers therefrom. The amount provided to meet the charge on account of the Public Debt was exceeded by Rs. 108,213, the rate of exchange having risen considerably in 1892.

6. A saving of Rs. 112,502 was effected on the amount provided for the Civil Service, and through the non-execution of public works for which provision had been made in the estimates of 1892 there was a further saving of Rs. 111,912. Her Majesty's Government, in consideration of the losses inflicted on the colony by the hurricane, relieved the colony of further payments on account of the military contribution for the year 1892, and this caused a reduction of expenditure under that head of Rs. 126,213.

Assets and Liabilities.

7. The following statement shows the position of the Government accounts under the heads:—1. Of the Commissioners of Currency; 2. Of the Government Savings Bank; 3. Of the Curatelle; and 4. Of the Treasury proper.

—	Assets.	Liability.	Surplus.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Commissioners of Currency -	4,425,061	3,976,265	448,796
Savings Bank - - -	3,723,306	3,332,177	391,129
Curatelle - - -	462,461	462,461	—
Treasury proper - -	8,316,114	7,391,707	924,406
Total - - -	16,926,942	15,162,610	1,764,331

Public Debt.

8. The Public Debt stood as follows on the 31st December 1892:—

	£	s.	d.
Mauritius Railway Debentures payable 15th January, 1895, and 15th January, 1896, and bearing interest at 6 per cent. - -	161,000	0	0
Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. Debentures payable by annual drawings -	55,000	0	0
Moka Railway 4 per cent. Debentures payable by annual drawings - - - -	2,600	0	0
Consolidated 4 per cent. Debentures payable by annual drawings - - -	72,100	0	0
Mauritius Inscribed Stock - - -	480,749	13	0
Poor Law Commission 5 per cent. Debentures	3,500	0	0
Total - - - - - -	774,949	13	0

	Rs.	£	s.	d.
9. For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock, the sinking fund accumulated up to 31st December, 1892, amounted to - - - - - -		161,177	18	10
Adding to this the surplus balances:—				
Treasury proper - -	924,406			
Savings Bank - - -	391,129			
Commissioners of Currency -	448,796			
Total - - -	1,764,331			
Which converted into sterling at Rs. 16 the £ equal - - - - -		110,270	13	8
The balance representing the debt of the Colony is - - - - -		503,501	0	6
Total - - -		774,949	13	0

Imports and Exports.

12. The trade for the year 1892 was valued at Rs. 41,751,323, against Rs. 40,785,744 in 1891; divided into—

——	1891.	1892.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	16,477,341	23,401,176
Exports - - -	24,308,403	18,350,147

or, exclusive of specie and bullion—

——	1891.	1892.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	16,488,133	15,746,116
Exports - - -	23,705,088	18,093,181

11. The large amount of Rs. 7,655,060 in specie was imported in 1892, of which Rs. 6,322,081 was received by Government on

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account of the loan of 600,000*l.* guaranteed by Her Majesty's Treasury under the Mauritius Hurricane Loan Act, 1892.

12. The value of the principal imports for the years 1891 and 1892 was as follows:—

——	1891.	1892.
	Rs.	Rs.
Animals - - -	302,245	310,876
Apothecaries' ware - -	141,929	144,446
Grain, flour, meal - -	5,915,858	5,469,001
Provisions - - -	1,113,102	1,068,306
Malt liquors, wines and spirits -	806,341	828,111
Cotton manufactures - -	917,664	1,044,591
Woollen manufactures - -	174,597	168,398
Haberdashery - - -	364,170	353,559
Coal - - - -	611,934	592,496
Machinery - - -	91,226	205,372
Iron and steel - - -	183,269	278,845
Hardware and cutlery - -	406,130	447,989
Leather, wrought and unwrought - - -	162,966	166,052
Manure and fertilizers - -	1,064,140	1,366,463
Oil of all kinds - - -	696,562	569,321
Tobacco - - -	133,890	190,169
Total - - -	13,086,023	13,203,995

13. Adding the charges and exchange to the value of the imports given in the preceding table, the result will be as follows:—

——	1891.	1892.
	Rs.	Rs.
Animals - - -	521,285	579,960
Apothecaries' ware - -	240,829	265,412
Grain, flour, meal - -	8,281,693	7,465,162
Provisions - - -	1,744,627	1,800,806
Malt liquors, wines, and spirits	1,370,766	1,540,602
Cotton manufactures - -	1,420,386	1,725,123
Woollen manufactures - -	292,978	307,375
Haberdashery - - -	610,864	640,473
Coal - - - -	1,620,141	1,637,284
Machinery - - -	155,084	381,696
Iron and steel - - -	310,385	500,097
Hardware and cutlery - -	688,065	828,199
Leather, wrought and unwrought - - -	271,042	297,682
Manure and fertilizers - -	1,706,018	2,367,405
Oil of all kinds - -	1,012,135	886,050
Tobacco - - -	212,453	311,897
Total - - -	20,458,751	21,535,223

14. The following table shows in kilogrammes the quantity of sugar manufactured in the Colony exported in the years 1891 and 1892:—

Year.	Quantity Exported in Kilogrammes.
1891 - - - -	124,180,980
1892 - - - -	93,091,256

15. The principal markets for our sugar were:—

—	1891.	1892.
	Kilos.	Kilos.
India - - - - -	72,870,213	54,386,563
Australasia - - -	19,217,225	8,533,167
United Kingdom - -	11,858,823	13,982,675
Cape Colonies - - -	13,771,113	7,718,485
United States - - -	4,148,689	—
Ceylon - - - -	1,055,651	5,513,722
St. Helena - - -	47,112	2,034,749

16. The value of other local products exported in 1892 was as follows:—

Rum - - - -	303,618 Rupees.
Vanilla - - - -	169,985 „
Aloe fibre - - - -	309,653 „
Molasses - - - -	104,583 „
Cocoa-nut oil - - -	197,653 „

Shipping.

17. The following table gives the number of ships and their tonnage entered inwards and cleared outwards in 1891 and 1892:—

Year.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1891 - - -	408	300,330	396	295,311
1892 - - -	399	327,528	398	325,742

18. Of the vessels entered inwards, 163 sailing vessels and 117 steamers were British; 30 sailing vessels and 36 steamers were French; 22 sailing vessels and 2 steamers were German; 14 sailing vessels were Norwegian; and the 15 other vessels were of American, Austrian, Belgian, Danish, Dutch, Swedish and Malagasy nationality.

Population.

19. The estimated population on the 31st December, 1892, was 374,079.

20. The births registered in 1892 were 14,985, of whom 7,596 were males and 7,389 were females. Of the total number of births, 4,367, divided into 2,180 males and 2,187 females, belonged to the general population, and 10,618, divided into 5,416 males and 5,202 females, belonged to the Indian population. The birth-rate in the total population was 40·05 per thousand.

21. The deaths registered in 1892 were 13,055, of whom 7,309 were males and 5,746 were females. Of the total number of deaths, 4,412, divided into 2,281 males and 2,131 females, belonged to the general population, and 8,643, divided into 5,028 males and 3,615 females, belonged to the Indian population.

22. There were 1,335 deaths unregistered at the Civil Status Offices. Of these 103 were deaths from small-pox, and 1,232 were persons killed in the terrible hurricane of the 29th April 1892, and whose bodies were obliged to be buried before they could be identified and the necessary formalities accomplished. These 1,232 deaths were in the following districts:—

Port Louis - - - - -	674
Pamplemousses - - - - -	42
Riviere-du-Rempart - - - -	8
Flacq - - - - - -	93
Grand Port - - - - -	66
Savanne - - - - -	47
Black River - - - - -	16
Plaines Wilhems - - - -	60
Moka - - - - - -	26

23. Including the unregistered deaths the death-rate in the total population was 38·46 per thousand.

Education.

24. In 1892 there were 81 Government schools and 87 schools aided by Government grants, against 77 Government schools and 84 aided schools in 1891.

25. The average number of scholars on the roll in 1891 and 1892 was as follows:—

—	1891.	1892.	Decrease.
Government Schools - - -	8,876	8,477	399
Aided Schools - - - -	8,114	7,980	134
Total - - -	16,990	16,457	533

26. Of the total number of pupils, 73·83 per cent. were of European, African, or Chinese origin, and 26·16 per cent. were Indians or of Indian origin. The following percentages show their religious persuasions:—

Members of Church of England -	3·01 per cent.
Roman Catholics - - -	74·40 „
Members of other Christian denominations - - - -	1·62 „
Mohamedans - - -	6·07 „
Hindoos and others - - -	14·86 „

27. The average number of pupils in the Royal College and Royal College Schools in 1891 and 1892 was as follows:—

—	1891.	1892.
Royal College proper - - -	193	201
Royal College School, Port Louis - -	145	141
Royal College School, Curepipe - -	189	172
Total - - - -	527	514

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28. The sums disbursed for educational purposes in 1892 were as follows:—

	Rs.
Royal College - - - - -	180,392
Expenditure on Government schools exclusively - - - - -	150,629
Expenditure on aided schools exclusively -	92,918
Expenditure common to Government and aided schools - - - -	10,520
Industrial education - - - -	2,595
Administration - - - -	19,770
Total - - - - -	Rs, 457,324
Total expenditure in 1891 - -	Rs. 455,352
Increase of expenditure in 1892 -	Rs. 1,972

Post Office and Telegraphs.

29. The revenue brought to account in this Department in 1892 was Rs. 66,843, against Rs. 73,910 in 1891.

30. The letters, post-cards, and newspapers which passed through the office in 1891 and 1892 were as follows:—

Year.	Letters.	Post Cards.	Newspapers.
1891 - - -	1,069,994	22,414	1,194,383
1892 - - -	1,126,254	24,447	1,261,584
Increase -	56,260	2,033	67,201

31. The postal money-order business, foreign and inland, showed an increase of Rs. 42,808 over that of 1891.

32. The following subsidies were paid to ocean mail packets:— Rs. 80,000 to the Messageries Maritimes Company, and 3,750*l.* to the British India Steam Navigation Company, a similar sum being also paid to the Company by the Imperial Government.

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MAURITIUS.
1892.

Railways.

33. The railway revenue and expenditure for the years 1891 and 1892 were as follows:—

—	1891.	1892.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue - - - - -	1,597,321	1,490,642	106,679
Expenditure - - -	1,043,708	984,025	59,683

The decrease in the revenue is under the item "conveyance of goods," and is due to the reduction in the crop of 1892 caused by the hurricane of the 29th April 1892.

Immigration.

34. There was no immigration of Indian labourers in 1892. The number that left the Colony in 1892 was 1,478, of whom 1,129 were males and 349 females. The amount of money carried away by the departing Indians, as declared by them, was Rs. 35,224, and the average amount per statute adult (exclusive of paupers) was Rs. 81.

35. The amount standing to the credit of the Indian population at the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December 1892 was Rs. 1,526,429 possessed by 10,002 persons classified as follows:—

235 new immigrants.
6,055 old „
1,063 passengers.
2,619 Indo-Mauritians,

36. The Indian population on sugar estates on the 30th June 1892 was 116,503, of whom 52,247 were labourers.

Poor Relief.

37. The expenditure under this head in 1892, including establishment charges, was Rs. 231,186, showing a diminution of Rs. 18,509 on the expenditure under the same head in 1891.

38. The number of patients treated in the public hospitals in 1892 was 11,231, against 8,158 in 1891. Of these 8,630 were treated in hospitals in the rural districts, and 2,601 at the Civil Hospital in Port Louis. The total number of deaths in the several hospitals was 1,175, against 750 in 1891; and the ratio of mortality was 10·46 per cent., against 9·19 in the previous year.

39. The number of persons assisted at the Barkly Asylum in 1892 was 803, against 802 in 1891, the number remaining on the 31st December 1892 being 358. The number of deaths in the year was 33, against 43 in the previous year, and the ratio of mortality was 4·10 per cent., against 5·36 in 1891.

40. The number of lepers maintained at St. Lazare in 1892 was 290, against 258 in 1891; the number remaining on the 31st December 1892 being 171. The mortality in 1892 was 37, against 23 in 1891, and the ratio of mortality was 12·75 per cent., against 8·91 in the previous year.

41. The number of persons maintained in the convent hospitals and infirmaries in 1892 was 667, against 597 in 1891; the number remaining on the 31st December 1892 being 238. The number of deaths in the year was 129, against 111 in 1891; and the ratio of mortality was 19·34 per cent., against 18·59 in 1891.

42. Of the insane patients treated at the Government Lunatic Asylum 483 were at the cost of the Poor Law Commission.

43. The number of pauper orphans maintained in 1892 by the Poor Law Commission was 165, of whom 51 were males and 114 females.

44. The number of sick people treated at the dispensaries in 1892 was 57,961, against 41,926 in 1891, showing an increase of 16,035.

45. Out-door relief in the shape of rice and money was given in 1892 to 3,018 persons, 631 being males and 2,387 females.

Criminal Statistics.

46. The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1892 was 30,539, against 32,345 in 1891.

Of the offences reported in 1892
6,721 were for offences against the person.
789 „ „ prædial larceny.
5,274 „ „ offences against property other than prædial larceny.
and 17,755 „ „ other offences.

47. The total number of convictions in the inferior courts in 1892 was 17,440, against 17,793 in 1891.

These convictions are classified as follows:—
965 for offences against the person.
482 „ prædial larceny.
1,674 „ offences against property other than prædial larceny.
4,180 „ offences against the law relating to masters and servants.
10,139 „ other offences.

48. The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—
28 for offences against the person.
66 „ „ „ property.

49. The acquittals were as follows:—

In the inferior courts - - -	4,622
„ „ Supreme Court - - -	15

MAURITIUS.
1892.

50. The number of persons committed to gaol in 1892 was 9,452, against 9,419 in 1891.

5 were imprisoned for debt.
2,287 „ „ nonpayment of fines and costs.
2,027 „ „ safe custody till trial, or for not furnishing security.
5,133 „ „ purposes of penal imprisonment.

The above-mentioned committals include 382 removals to the reformatory for juvenile offenders.

51. The sentences of imprisonment in 1892 were as follows:—

To three months or less - - -	4,364
To more than three months and less than one year - - - - - -	576
To one year or more, and less than five years -	160
To five years or more - - - - -	33

Meteorological Observations.

52. The mean temperature in the shade at the Observatory, which stands on a plain 178 feet above sea-level, about three miles from the West Coast, in the district of Pamplemousses, was 74°·1, against an average of 73°·6 for the 18 years (1875–1892); the highestt emperature being 85°·7 on the 12th January, and the lowest 58°·8 on the 27th July.

53. The rainfall for the year at the Observatory was 59·12 inches on 221 days, against an average of 48·41 inches on 204 days for the last 18 years. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 7·32 inches on February 13. The wettest months were January, February, and March, and the driest month was September.

54. The rainfall for the year at the Nursery Gardens, Curepipe, in the district of Plaines Wilhems, at an elevation of 1,840 feet above the sea-level, was 154·78 inches on 342 days, against an average of 130·10 inches on 262 days. On February 13th, at 6.30 a.m., the receptacle of the rain gauge was found overflowing.

55. The centre of a violent cyclone passed over the island on the 29th April. The lowest reading of the barometer was 27·956 inches, and the maximum velocity of the wind for five minutes, from 46 minutes past 3 to 51 minutes past 3 in the afternoon, at the rate of 121·2 miles per hour; but the greatest average hourly velocity was 103·3 miles from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.

56. This cyclone of the 29th April 1892 has been unprecedented in Mauritius with regard to time of year, direction and force of wind, and the suddenness, rapidity, and extent of the changes which took place. Nearly all the loss of life and property occurred in less than two hours.

Legislation.

57. Thirty-one Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government in 1892.

58. Eight of them were occasioned by the necessities created by the hurricane of the 29th April.

59. The first was passed six days after the hurricane "to make " provision for enabling land owners who are employers of labour " to obtain provisions for men and cattle on their estates with the " guarantee of Government," as it was thought that difficulties might be experienced by some in obtaining the necessary supply of provisions for their labourers. The second, passed on the same day, authorised the Governor to grant to persons whose houses had been destroyed or damaged by the hurricane permission to remove trees from certain Crown Lands and Pas Geometriques for rebuilding or repairing their houses. The third, also passed on the same day, as a means of relieving fishermen and others, who had suffered much from the hurricane, made it lawful to fish with nets for one month in the bays and creeks in which fishing with nets was prohibited by the fishery law, and which reserves were consequently well stocked with fish.

60. A committee of the Council of Government having recommended that a loan of 600,000*l.* be raised by the colony to meet the wants and necessities created by the hurricane and to provide funds for certain public works, Ordinance No. 4 of 1892 was passed. Her Majesty's Government decided to invite Parliament to guarantee the loan of 600,000*l.* proposed to be raised by the above Ordinance, and by the Mauritius Hurricane Loan Act, 1892, Her Majesty's Treasury was empowered to guarantee it. As further legislation was necessary to carry out the provisions of the Loan Act, Ordinance No. 12 of 1892 was accordingly passed.

61. Ordinance No. 5 of 1892 was passed to empower Stipendiary Magistrates to modify Contracts of Service with the consent of the parties thereto. The object of this Ordinance was to allow immigrants under engagement to accept a lower rate of wages on estates so damaged by the hurricane that the owners found themselves unable to continue paying the wages they had contracted to give.

62. As it had been necessary to take measures for the immediate burial of many persons who had been killed or who had died from the injuries received during the hurricane, and it had not been possible to obtain regular permits of burial or otherwise comply with the formalities required by the Civil Status Ordinance, an Ordinance was passed to legalise the orders on this subject given by the Officer Administering the Government.

63. The last of the eight Ordinances referred to above was passed to empower the Governor to remit college fees in certain

cases, for some persons had been rendered so destitute by the hurricane that they were unable to pay the college fees, and had been obliged to withdraw their boys from the Royal College.

64. Two Ordinances deal with questions affecting the revenue of the Colony. One was passed to continue in force during the year 1893 the Ordinance authorising the levying of a stamp duty on receipts; and the other continued in operation for the year 1893 Ordinance No. 20 of 1890, by which a surcharge of 10 per cent. was imposed on certain duties and taxes, and it also increased the import duties for the year 1893 on the goods mentioned in it.

65. Ordinance No. 28 of 1892 was passed to amend and consolidate the laws regulating the working of the Customs, the draft of which had been prepared by a Commission appointed in 1888 by the Officer Administering the Government for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the Customs laws of the Colony, a general system of drawbacks, and the removal of the export duty on sugar.

(Signed) THOMAS ELLIOTT,
September 1, 1893. Acting Colonial Secretary.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 98.

RODRIGUES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1892.

(For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 70.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January 1894.

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1894.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
62	Basutoland - - - - -	1891–92
63	St. Helena - - - - -	1891
64	Sierra Leone - - - - -	,,
65	Jamaica - - - - - -	1891–92
66	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	1891
67	Newfoundland - - - - -	,,
68	British New Guinea - - - -	1891–92
69	Victoria - - - - - -	1891
70	Rodrigues - - - - - -	,,
71	Bermuda - - - - - -	1892
72	Fiji - - - - - -	1891
73	British Honduras - - - - -	,,
74	Turks and Caicos Islands - - - -	1892
75	Gibraltar - - - - - -	,,
76	Bahamas - - - - - -	,,
77	Leeward Islands - - - - -	,,
78	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	,,
79	Malta - - - - - -	,,
80	Gambia - - - - - -	,,
81	Straits Settlements - - - -	,,
82	Grenada - - - - - -	,,
83	Barbados - - - - - -	,,
84	St. Vincent - - - - -	,,
85	Hong Kong - - - - -	,,
86	St. Lucia - - - - - -	,,
87	Falkland Islands - - - - -	,,
88	Gold Coast - - - - -	,,
89	Basutoland - - - - -	1892–93
90	Ceylon - - - - - -	1892
91	Zululand - - - - - -	,,
92	Mauritius - - - - - -	,,
93	Labuan - - - - - -	,,
94	British Honduras - - - - -	,,
95	Lagos - - - - - -	,,
96	Sierra Leone - - - - -	,,
97	Fiji - - - - - -	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 98.

RODRIGUES.

(For Report for 1891, see Colonial Report [Annual] No. 70.)

The MAGISTRATE of RODRIGUES to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, Mauritius.

Rodrigues Magistracy,
April 8, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, my Annual Report on Rodrigues for the year 1892. The differences in the numbers mentioned in my Report for 1891 and those reproduced in the present one, are due to my having altered my former classifications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. H. COLIN,
Magistrate.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

REPORT on the RODRIGUES BLUE BOOK for the Year 1892.

TAXATION.

No change was made in the taxation of this island during the year 1892.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of 1892 (exclusive of Customs and sums collected in Mauritius) amounted to Rs.6,960.44 against Rs.5,894.90, in the preceding year; and the expenditure was Rs.25,541.62 against Rs.24,010.36 in the year 1891.

The principal heads of revenue were land rent, dog tax, pasturage fees, licenses, fines, and forest revenues.

The increase of expenses is to be chiefly attributed to increase of salaries, new buildings and repairs, and quarantine expenses.

Rodrigues.
1892.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

The cost of establishments in 1891 and 1892 shows the following differences :—

—	1891.	1892.
	Rs.	Rs.
Salaries	16,966.20	17,079.46
Allowances	1,115.49	1,357.80
Total	18,081.69	18,437.26

PENSIONS.

Rs.1,336.32 were expended for pensions in 1892 and the same in 1891.

MAGISTRACY.

The following expenditure was incurred for the Magistracy of Rodrigues :—

—	1891.	1892.
	Rs.	Rs.
Salary of magistrate	3,999.96	4,999.92
Salary of Postmaster	120.00	120.00
Travelling expenses	159.00	142.00
Clerical assistance	240.00	480.00
Government labourer and messenger	240.00	240.00
Total	4,758.96	5,981.92

The Magistrate has a residence.

The stationery, books, &c., for the office are sent from Mauritius.

POST OFFICE.

The revenue collected in 1892 for postage and commission on money orders was Rs.174.96 against Rs.139.66 in 1891.

The letters received amounted to 811 in 1891 and to 951 in 1892 ; the letters despatched to 724 in 1891 and to 1,113 in 1892.

Newspapers 544 in 1891, and 725 in 1892. The money orders drawn in Mauritius amounted to Rs.12,219.31 in 1891, and to Rs.13,732.09 in 1892.

Orders were drawn on Rodrigues to the value of Rs.583 in 1891, and of Rs.1,147.90 in 1892.

The Magistrate acts as Postmaster.

STAMPED PAPERS—LICENSES AND INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS.

The following revenue was derived from the above in 1891 and 1892 :—

——	1891.	1892.
	Rs.	Rs.
Stamped papers Receipt stamps	148.43	177.31
Stamps for bills of lading Trade licenses Game licenses	1,265.00	1,253.36
Total	1,413.43	1,430.67

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports, exclusive of specie, amounted to Rs.71,366.38 in 1892 against Rs.42,174 in 1891, showing an increase of Rs.34,172.38. The imports show a total of Rs.118,164.89 against Rs.110,073.96 in 1891, showing an increase of Rs.8,090.93.

SHIPPING.

Under this head the year 1892, compared with the previous year, shows the following differences :—

1891.		1892.	
Inwards	6 ships.	Inwards	9 ships.
Outwards	5 ,,	Outwards	9 ,,

The subsidy for postal communication (1891 and 1892) was paid in Mauritius.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The population on the 31st December 1891			2,098
Number of births in 1892	130		
,, arrivals ,,	85	=215	
,, deaths ,,	23		
,, departures ,,	80	=103	
Increase in 1892			112
Population on the 31st December 1892			2,210

The birth-rate shows an increase of 21 births in 1892, if compared with the previous year.

The death-rate an increase of 1 death.

There were 2 still-births in 1892 and none in 1891.

Twenty marriages were celebrated in 1892 against 19 in 1891.

There was one marriage "in articulo mortis" in 1892, against none in 1891.

EDUCATION.

There are two Government schools at Rodrigues, one at Port Mathurin, the other at St. Gabriel. Port Mathurin school—average number on roll 73, average attendance 57, against 65 and 53 in 1891. St. Gabriel school—average number on roll 141, average attendance 103, against 150 and 100 in 1891. The cost of both schools (after deduction of the school fees, which amounted to Rs.49.25 in 1892 and to Rs.98.50 in 1891) amounted to Rs.3,509.14 in 1891, and to Rs.3,588.67 in 1892.

School fees were abolished in 1892.

School books and stationery (sent from Mauritius) were sold to the pupils of both schools to the value of Rs.69.20 in 1891 and of Rs.83.90 in 1892.

The annual cost to Government of each pupil inscribed on the roll at both schools was Rs.16.76 and a fraction in 1892, against Rs.16.32 and a fraction in 1891.

JUDICIAL.

Criminal Side.

——	1891.	1892.
Number of informations filed, including applications for search warrants - -	61	57
Number of adjudications - - -	43	44
„ cases abandoned - - -	18	13
„ persons convicted - -	38	41
„ persons acquitted - -	15	11

The most numerous charges were breach of forest laws, assault, disturbance, wounds and blows, and abusive language.

Civil Side.

The number of civil cases entered in 1892 was 45, against 75 in 1891.

Stipendiary Side.

The number of stipendiary cases amounted to 18 in 1891 and to 16 in 1892.

The most numerous stipendiary cases were for breach of contract.

Engagements - -	1 in 1891 and 0 in 1892.
Discharges - - -	2 in 1891 and 1 in 1892.

The total number of cases of all jurisdictions amounted to :—

——	1891.	1892.
Criminal - - - - - -	61	57
Civil - - - - - -	75	45
Stipendiary - - - - -	18	16
	154	118

GAOLS.

Twenty-one persons were committed to gaol in 1891 and 12 in 1892.

The prisoners' extra rations cost Rs.31.98 in 1891 and Rs.5.24 in 1892.

Rice and salt for prisoners were sent from Mauritius.

The chief officer of police is keeper of the gaol, and the constables act as prison guards.

POLICE FORCE AND FOREST RANGERS.

The expenses incurred in 1892 for these branches amounted to Rs.4,648.22, against Rs.4,711.39 in 1891.

In the above amount are included salaries, allowances, and passages.

The police uniforms, clothing, and boots were sent from Mauritius.

RODRIGUES.
1892.

MEDICAL BRANCH.

The number of patients treated in the public hospital in 1892 was 6* and 10 in 1891.

2,341 persons received medical care at the dispensaries* against 2,064 in 1891.

One death occurred in the hospital during the year 1892 and one in 1891.

The prevailing diseases were influenza, worms, and rheumatism.

73 children were vaccinated in 1892 and 102 in 1891.

The receipts on account of in-patients amounted to Rs 0 in 1892 and to Rs.8·75 in 1891.

The total expenditure for the medical branch was Rs.2,338.11 in 1892 against Rs.2,757.82 in 1891.

The rent of the hospital was paid in Mauritius, and the 547½ lbs. of rice given to the hospital servant to complete his rations were sent from Mauritius.

POOR LAW.

The number of paupers provided for in 1892 amounted to 19, *i.e.*, 15 males and 4 females, against 19 in 1891, *i.e.*, 13 males and 6 females.

Each pauper received 500 grammes of rice per diem and a suit of drill at the end of the year. The rice and clothing were sent from Mauritius.

A sum of Rs.112.15 was spent in 1892 for the relief of destitute inhabitants and for the burial of paupers.

Four bags of rice were distributed gratis.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are two Roman Catholic churches at Rodrigues, one of them is supported by Government (St. Gabriel Church).

The expenditure for the Roman Catholic church was Rs.1,999.92 against Rs.2,730.44 in 1891.

The catechist of the Church of England officiated at the Government School of Port Mathurin; he is paid by the London Missionary Society.

LEGISLATION.

No special laws were enacted for Rodrigues in 1892.

REGISTRATION.

Fifty-four documents were registered in 1892 and 37 in 1891.

The revenue derived thereby amounted to Rs.18.50 in 1891 and to Rs.27 in 1892.

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* NOTE.—The Government Medical Officer went on leave to Mauritius on the 8th October and returned on the 26th December. During his absence those who required medical care were attended to by the Magistrate assisted kindly by several gentlemen. Two persons were admitted to the hospital in that interval, and an average of four persons (per diem) received remedies from the dispensary. They are not included in the number given above.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Chief Officer of Police took daily observations which have been transmitted to the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory at Mauritius.

	N. Ther.	N. Bar.
1. Highest temp. (indoors) 23.2.93, 3 p.m.	90.01	29.980
2 Lowest temp. (indoors) 26.7.92, 9 a.m.	68.02	30.205

3. Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours, from 9 a.m. 19th to 9 a.m. 20th May.
4. The month of May was the month in which there were the heaviest rainfalls—the rain gauge marked 871 lines, which is equivalent to a little short of $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
5. No hurricane visited the island in 1892.

The Chief Officer of Police received Rs.183 in 1892 and Rs.182.50 in 1891 for taking these observations.

FOREST AND CROWN LANDS.

In 1892 there were 543 acres of land paid for by agriculturists at Rs.2 per annum (with the exception of 4 acres leased since 1889 at R.1 per acre and 2 acres leased to Mr. Viger at the nominal rent of R.0·25 (for a saline).

Rs.16 were paid for arrears of 1890, leaving Rs.4 unpaid on the 31st December 1892.

Rs.193 were paid for arrears of 1891, leaving Rs.47 unpaid on the 31st December 1892. (In the Rs.193 are included 4 acres at R. 1).

Thirty-three fishing posts were leased in 1892 and 32 in 1891. (They fetched Rs.195, out of which Rs.35 are arrears of 1891.)

Outstanding: Rs.5 for 1891 and Rs.5 for 1892. These ten rupees are due by Mr. Martin who pays his taxes in Mauritius.

The islands were leased for Rs.64.02 in 1892, against Rs.56.75 in 1891.

The town lots obtained Rs.30 in 1892 and Rs.25 in 1891. Outstanding: Rs.10 for 1891 and Rs.10 for 1892.

The number of Government lessees in 1892 was 291, against 265 in 1891.

The Revenue actually received under the heading of Land Rent amounted to Rs.1,535.31 in 1892, and to Rs.1,504.75 in 1891. (Fishing posts, town lots, islands, and other land leases are included therein.)

The pasturage dues (exclusive of the sums paid and due by Mr. Martin in Mauritius) brought a Revenue of Rs.1,381.15 in 1892, against Rs.963 in 1891. Outstanding on the 31st December 1892: Rs.59.10 for 1891 and Rs.3.30 for 1892. No sale of land was made in 1891 and 1892; a sum of Rs.140.34 was received in 1891 for land sold previous to that year.

The amount derived from forest produce amounted to Rs.240, against Rs.228.28 in 1891.

RODRIGUES.
1892.

BUILDINGS AND BOATS.

A sum of Rs.488.81 was expended in 1892 under the heading of Maintenance of Buildings, against Rs.59.06 in 1891 (boards, paint, glass, bolts, &c., were sent from Mauritius).

A sum of Rs.1,500 was spent in 1892 for the new building at Mount Lubin and a further sum of Rs.500 for the constable's barracks. (This latter item under a special vote.) Rs.29.03 were spent for repairs of boats against Rs.146.83 in 1891.

EXPENSES NOT REFERRED TO UNDER ANY SPECIAL HEADING.

—	1891.	1892.
	Rs.	Rs.
Sanitary:—		
Scavengers' salary - - -	312.00	372·00
Scavengers' rations - - -	—	—
Surplus rice sent from Mauritius in 1891, and part of 1892 - - -	38.64	21.06
Night soil service - - - -	120·00	120.00
Extra salaries paid to scavengers - -	—	31.00
Relief of destitute inhabitants and burial of paupers - - - - -	—	112.15
Divers works - - - -	60.96	375·59
Rewards and gratuities - - -	65.00	—
Refund of moneys paid by error - -	4.00	1.25
Petty supplies - - - -	25.06	27.89
Settlement with the inhabitants for produce sold in Mauritius - - - -	2,263.99	1,666.72
Quarantine expenses - - -	209.27	126.97
Census (special) - - - -	400.00	—
Total - - - -	3,498.92	2,854.63

RICE ACCOUNT.

In 1889 600 bags of rice were sent to Rodrigues (charges included).

The price fixed for the sale thereof was Rs. 6,073.10.

	Rs.
The amount paid up to the 31st December 1889 was - - - - - - -	15.18
The amount paid up to the 31st December 1890 was - - - - - - -	1,630.07
The amount paid up to the 31st December 1891 was - - - - - - -	2,258.66
The amount paid up to the 31st December 1892 was - - - - - - -	632.97
Losses incurred by death - - - - -	248.33
Unrecoverable - - - - - -	289.96
Carried to paupers' rice - - - - -	5.59
Total -	Rs.5,080.76

RODRIGUES.
1892.

31st December 1892.—Sums recoverable and outstanding: Rs.992.34.

In 1890 600 bags of rice were received here and sold in 1891 for the sum of Rs.5,958.92 (charges included).

	Rs.
558 bags and 63 lbs. - - - - -	5,584.30
26 " damaged - - - - -	234.00
	5,818.30
78 lbs. damaged - - - - -	5.72
15 bags carried to paupers' rice - -	135.00
9 lbs. missing - - - - - -	0.90
Total -	Rs.5,959.92

Amount paid up to 31st December 1891 -	2,496.13
Amount paid up to 31st December 1892 -	953.50
Unrecoverable - - - - - -	165.00
9 lbs. missing - - - - - -	0.90
Total -	Rs.3,615.53

31st December 1892.—Sums recoverable and outstanding: Rs.2,343.39.

In December 1891 200 bags were sent to Rodrigues, and sold for cash in 1892.

	Rs.
Sums obtained - - - - - -	1 638.24
1½ bags short, destroyed by insects - -	12.52
4 bags distributed gratis to paupers during influenza - - - - - - -	33.40
Total -	Rs.1,684.16

In December 1892 100 bags of rice were sent, but the sale thereof began only in 1893.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The crop would have been better in 1892 had not the population suffered from two epidemics of influenza, and had not the bean crop been an utter failure. The inhabitants showed as usual a very good will in paying their debts.

Mr. Viger has begun the works for a saline and I hope that before the end of 1893 the inhabitants will have salt at Mauritius es.

anilla plantations are getting prosperous.

obacco plantations are increasing and give most satisfactory ts.

Rodrigues.
1892.

Most of the buildings which needed repairs have been repaired. The Government Medical Officer's quarters were erected at Mount Lubin. The new hospital was being constructed at the end of 1892.

B. H. Colin,
Magistrate of Rodrigues.

5th March 1893.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 119.

RODRIGUES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 98.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
83	Barbados - - - - - -	1892
84	St. Vincent - - - - -	"
85	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
86	St. Lucia - - - - - -	"
87	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
88	Gold Coast - - - - -	"
89	Basutoland - - - - -	1892–93
90	Ceylon - - - - - -	1892
91	Zululand - - - - - -	"
92	Mauritius - - - - - -	"
93	Labuan - - - - - -	"
94	British Honduras - - - - -	"
95	Lagos - - - - - -	"
96	Sierra Leone - - - - -	"
97	Fiji - - - - - -	"
98	Rodrigues - - - - - -	"
99	St. Helena - - - - -	"
100	British Bechuanaland - - - -	1892–93
101	British Guiana - - - - -	"
102	Newfoundland - - - - -	1892
103	Jamaica - - - - -	1892–93
104	Victoria - - - - - -	1892
105	Bermuda - - - - - -	1893
106	Gambia - - - - - -	"
107	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
108	St. Vincent - - - - -	"
109	Gibraltar - - - - - -	"
110	Bahamas - - - - - -	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands - - - -	"
112	Leeward Islands - - - - -	"
113	Barbados - - - - - -	"
114	Malta - - - - - -	"
115	Zululand - - - - - -	"
116	British Honduras - - - - -	"
117	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	"
118	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.

No. 119.

Rodrigues.
1893.

RODRIGUES.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 98.)

The Magistrate, Rodrigues, to the Colonial Secretary.

Rodrigues Magistracy,
April 17, 1894.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit, herewith, the Annual Report on the Rodrigues Blue Book for the year 1893.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. H. Colin,
Magistrate.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Report on the Rodrigues Blue Book for the Year 1893.

Taxation.

During the year 1893 no change was made in the taxation of this Dependency.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	Rs.
The revenue of 1893 (exclusive of Customs and sums collected in Mauritius) amounted to -	5131.06
And the revenue of 1892 to - - -	7002.10
Showing a decrease of - - -	Rs.1871.04

The principal heads of revenue were land-rent, pasturage fees, dog tax, licenses, forest produce, fines and sales of crown land.

RODRIGUES.
1893.

	Rs.
The expenditure of 1893 under estimates and special votes (not including payments made in Mauritius) and matters of account amounted to - - - -	22,600.74
And the expenditure of 1892 to - -	25,541.62
Showing a decrease of - - -	2,940.88

The ratio of the revenue to the population in 1893 was Rs. 2.19¾ per head, and that of the expenditure Rs. 9.78 and a fraction per head.

The difference in the expenditure is partly due to the erection of new buildings in 1892.

The difference in the revenue is partly due to the fact that in December 1892, some person lent money to the inhabitants to pay the taxes due by them and he was refunded of his advances in 1893, and partly to the drought that prevailed in 1893.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

	Rs.
Exclusive of specie the value of the exports during the year 1893 was - - -	94,972.30
and during 1892 - - - -	71,366.38
showing an increase of - - -	Rs. 23,605.92

The value of the imports during the year 1892 amounted to - - - - -	118,164.89
and during the year 1893 to - - -	107,002.25
showing a decrease of - - - -	Rs. 11,162.64

The ratio of exports per head was in 1893 Rs. 40.90 and in 1892, Rs. 32.29.

The ratio of imports per head was in 1892, Rs. 52.78 and in 1893, Rs. 45.88.

SHIPPING.

The number of ships which arrived at Rodrigues was 18 in 1892 and 21 in 1893.

The subsidy for postal communication during those two years between Rodrigues and Mauritius was paid in Mauritius.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The population in 1892 was 2,210 and on the 31st of December 1893 the number of inhabitants was 2,332.

The number of declarations of births in 1893 was	128
The number of deaths was	30
The number of arrivals was	142
The number of departures was	128

The declarations of births show a decrease of two when compared to those made in 1892, the deaths an increase of seven.

There were two still-births in 1892 and one in 1893.

In 1892 20 marriages were celebrated and 19 in 1893.

There was in 1892 one marriage in "articulo mortis" and none in 1893.

EDUCATION.

There are only two schools at Rodrigues the expenses of which are paid by Government, one at Port Mathurin and the other at St. Gabriel.

——	1892.	1893.
PORT MATHURIN SCHOOLS.		
Average number of pupils on roll	73	83
Average number of attendances	57	61
ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL.		
Average number of pupils on roll	147	89
Average number of attendances	103	50

Books, &c., &c., (sent from Mauritius for both schools) were sold to the pupil to the amount of Rs.83.90 in 1892 and Rs. 90.46 in 1893.

The cost of both schools amounted to Rs. 3,637.92 in 1892, and Rs. 3501.53 including Rs. 497.50 for enlargement of Gabriel School in 1893.

The annual cost to Government for each pupil inscribed in 1893 was Rs. 20.35.

Judicial.

The most common charges were for larceny, possession of stolen property, assault, trespass, disturbance, wounds and blows, breach of forest laws, abusive language and contraventions.

——	1892.	1893.
Criminal Side.		
Number of informations filed including applications for search-warrants - -	57	68
Number of adjudications - - -	44	61
Number of cases given up - - -	13	7
Number of persons convicted - -	41	50
Number of persons acquitted - -	11	25
Civil Side.		
Number of cases entered - - -	45	71
Stipendiary Side.		
Number of cases - - - -	16	12
Number of engagements - - -	0	3
Number of discharges - - -	1	0
The total number of cases of all jurisdictions was - - - - -	118	151
Showing an increase of 33 cases in 1893 -	—	—

The Court revenue was Rs. 416.29, and the expenditure Rs. 123.14.

Gaols.

The only prison is at Port Mathurin and can contain 20 prisoners. There is no reformatory or place of detention for juvenile offenders, and no proper accommodation for female prisoners.

Seventeen (17) persons were committed to gaol in 1893 and twelve (12) in 1892.

Medical.

The hospital is no longer at Port Mathurin, having been removed to Mont Lubin.

The number of patients attended to in the public hospital was 6 in 1892 and 47 in 1893.

In 1892 medical advice at the dispensary both at Mont Lubin and Port Mathurin was given to 2,341 patients and in 1893 to 2,318.

In 1892 one (1) death occurred at the hospital and three (3) in 1893.

The prevailing diseases were bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia, pneumonia, inflammation of the throat, stomatitis, throat, liver complaints, enteritis, diarrhœa and dysentery, rheumatism, neuralgia, worms, fever, abscesses, wounds and eczema, diseases of the eyes and ears, and diseases common to women.

In 1892 73 children were vaccinated and 83 in 1893.

The receipts from in-patients amounted to Rs. 10.13 in 1893, and nothing in 1892.

The total expenditure for the Medical Department of this Dependency amounted to Rs. 2,338.11 in 1892 and to Rs. 2,714.14 in 1893.

POOR LAW.

The number of paupers provided for in 1892 amounted to 19 viz.: 15 males and 4 females, and in 1893 to 21, viz.: 16 males and 5 females.

Each pauper receives at the beginning of the month rice calculated at the rate of 500 grammes per diem, and at the end of the year 1 rupee and a suit of clothes. The rice and clothes were sent from Mauritius.

Two bags of rice were distributed gratis to the poor.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are two Roman Catholic churches at Rodrigues, one of them is supported by Government (St. Gabriel Church). The expenditure for the Roman Catholic church was the same in 1893 as in 1892, viz.: Rs. 1,999.92, the salary of the priest.

There is no catechist nor minister of the Church of England.

LEGISLATION.

No special laws were enacted for this Dependency in 1893.

REGISTRATION.

There were 54 documents registered in 1892 and 52 in 1893. The revenue derived thereby was Rs.27.00 in 1892 and Rs.26 in 1893.

RODRIGUES.
1893.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Chief Officer of Police took daily observations which have been transmitted to the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory in Mauritius.

	N. Ther. F.	N. Bar. In.
1. Highest temp. (indoors) 1.1.93, 3 p.m.	90·06	30·190
2. Lowest temp. (indoors) 17.7.93, 9 a.m.	68·07	30·285

3. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours was on the 25.1.93, and gave 4 inches and 16 lines.

The month of January was the month in which there were the heaviest rainfalls; viz., 10¼ in.

No hurricane visited the island in 1893.

Rodrigues suffered from a very severe drought which lasted from September to the 20th of December, when there began to be some rain.

The Chief Officer of Police received Rs.183 in 1892 and Rs.182.50 in 1893 for taking these observations.

FOREST AND CROWN LANDS.

—	1892.	1893.
The land rented by cultivators at Rs.2 per acre amounted to	543	545
among which are included 4 acres leased at R.1 per acre, and 2 acres let to Mr. L. A. Viger for a "saline" at a nominal rent of R. 0.25.		
The fishing posts numbered	33	26
and fetched	Rs. 160	Rs. 115
The islands were let for	64.02	30
The town lots obtained	30	45
including in 1893 the arrears of 1891 and 1892, amounting to Rs. 10.		
The number of Lessees was	291	345
The Revenue actually received under the heading of land rent, including islands, town lots, fishing posts, and other land leased by Government, including the arrears for 1891 and 1892 did amount to	Rs. 1,535.31	Rs. 1,078.99
The pasturage dues (not including the sums paid by Mr. J. Martin in Mauritius) but including Rs.150 for arrears of 1892 amounted to	1,381.15	458.15
The amount derived from Forest produce amounted to	240.00	180.63

GENERAL REMARKS.

The crop of beans, the main produce of the island, has been very bad: about three-fifths of last year's crop which was not good. The Dependency has besides greatly suffered from a very severe drought.

The consequence is that taxes have been only partly paid and this with the greatest difficulty.

The new hospital at Mont Lubin has been completed according to the contract passed with my predecessor.

Mr. Viger has prepared some salt which is very fine.

Tobacco is getting quite a favourite, and as it grows here very well and has a very fine flavour, though badly prepared, I venture to foretell that this plant shall soon be a source of riches to this island.

Many of the buildings still want repairs but workmen here are not always obtainable.

The island was favoured with a visit of his Excellency the Governor of Mauritius and the inhabitants were highly pleased and honoured thereby.

The Government Engineer arrived in Rodrigues in October and marked out the site of the new road. He has also indicated the spot where the water of Port Mathurin River is to be dammed.

The Government Surveyor is still in Rodrigues surveying the numerous lots of Crown land which the inhabitants wish to purchase. He has also found out that in dry weather the river supplies Port Mathurin with over 52,000 litres of water and in October, when it had not been raining for nearly one month, it yielded over 28,000 litres in 24 hours.

Water supply in Port Mathurin would prove a boon to the inhabitants.

YVES JOLLIVET,
Acting Magistrate of Rodrigues.

March 24, 1894.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 120.

MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 92.)

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87	Falkland Islands	1892
88	Gold Coast	„
89	Basutoland	1892–93
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	„
92	Mauritius	„
93	Labuan	„
94	British Honduras	„
95	Lagos	„
96	Sierra Leone	„
97	Fiji	„
98	Rodrigues	„
99	St. Helena	„
100	British Bechuanaland	1892–93
101	British Guiana	„
102	Newfoundland	1892
103	Jamaica	1892–93
104	Victoria	1892
105	Bermuda	1893
106	Gambia	„
107	Hong Kong	„
108	St. Vincent	„
109	Gibraltar	„
110	Bahamas	„
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
112	Leeward Islands	„
113	Barbados	„
114	Malta	„
115	Zululand	„
116	British Honduras	„
117	Trinidad and Tobago	„
118	Falkland Islands	„
119	Rodrigues	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 120.

MAURITIUS.

[For Report for 1892 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 92.]

Sir H. E. H. JERNINGHAM to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Mauritius,
September 7, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Report on the Blue Book for 1893, which has been furnished by Mr. King-Harman, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM,
Governor.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1893.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	Rs.
The Revenue for 1893 amounted to - -	8,103,922
And the Expenditure to - - -	7,872,096
Showing a balance in favour of the Treasury of - - - - - -	231,826

	Rs.
As compared with the previous year, the Revenue showed an increase of - - -	630,892
And the Expenditure a decrease of - -	152,387

The ratio of revenue to the population was Rs. 21.79 per head. The ratio of expenditure to the population was Rs. 21.17 per head.

After meeting all the ordinary expenditure of the year, and after providing for all claims against the Colony, not including the Public Debt, the Treasury at the close of the year remained with an available balance in hand of Rs. 1,377,588.

MAURITIUS.
1893.

PUBLIC DEBT.

	£	s.	d.
The Public Debt, including the Hurricane Loan, amounted at the close of 1893 to - - - -	1,372,149	0	0
To meet which the Colony was provided with assets amounting to -	726,725	10	0
Leaving a balance of - -	645,423	10	0

payable at periods varying from 30 to 47 years, which will doubtless be extinguished in due course of time by the gradual operation of the Sinking Fund.

With regard to the assets of the Colony, it may be stated that by far the major portion of them are realizable at short notice, and included over 3,000,000 rupees in cash.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The trade for the year 1893 was valued at Rs. 49,302,654 against Rs. 41,751,323 for 1892; and was divided as follows:—

——	1892.	1893.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	*23,401,176	‡21,388,191
Exports - - -	†18,350,147	§27,914,463

* Specie Rs. 7,655,066. † Specie Rs. 256,966. ‡ Specie Rs. 2,488,252. § Specie Rs. 5,737,977.

or, exclusive of specie and bullion—

——	1892.	1893.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	15,746,116	18,899,939
Exports - - -	18,093,181	22,176,486

The sum of Rs. 2,488,252 in specie was imported in 1893, of which Rs. 305,976 was received by Government on account of the loan of 600,000*l.* guaranteed by the Imperial Treasury under the provisions of the Mauritius Hurricane Loan Act, 1892, and a sum of Rs. 5,737,977 was exported to India and other places, principally on account of remittances by merchants and traders.

The value of the principal imports for the years 1892 and 1893 was as follows:—

——	1892.	1893.
	Rs.	Rs.
Animals - - -	310,876	312,363
Apothecaries' ware - -	144,446	155,692
Grain, flour, meal - -	5,469,001	8,009,247
Provisions - - -	1,068,306	1,088,017
Wines spirits, &c. - -	828,111	863,193
Cottons - - -	1,044,591	1,083,619
Woollens - - -	168,398	163,227
Haberdashery - - -	353,559	394,139
Coal - - - -	592,496	412,812
Machinery - - -	205,372	99,539
Iron and steel - - -	278,845	215,105
Hardware and cutlery - -	447,989	377,899
Leather - - -	166,052	191,005
Manures - - -	1,366,463	1,806,518
Oil of all kinds - - -	569,321	756,855
Tobacco - - -	190,169	187,890
Total - - -	13,203,995	16,117,120

The following table shows in kilogrammes the quantity of sugar manufactured in the Colony exported in the years 1892 and 1893; the value in rupees as declared at the Customs House; and the rate, calculated therefrom, per 100 kilogrammes:—

Year.	Kilogrammes.	Value.	Value per 100 Kilogrammes.
		Rs.	Rs.
1892 - - -	93,091,256	15,154,894	16.27
1893 - - -	86,067,841	19,409,218	22.46

The following are the principal markets to which the sugar was shipped:—

——	1892.	1893.
	Kilos.	Kilos.
India - - - -	54,386,563	39,804,432
Australia - - -	8,533,167	7,114,642
United Kingdom - -	13,982,675	10,235,082
Cape Colonies - - -	7,718,485	11,620,164
Ceylon - - - -	5,513,722	10,342,402
Hong Kong - - -	411,705	1,406,544
France - - - -	977	2,084,926
Portugal - - - -	——	2,570,911

The value of other local products exported in 1892 and 1893 was as follows :—

—	1892.	1893.
	Rs.	Rs.
Rum - - - - -	313,618	332,441
Vanilla - - - -	169,985	83,895
Aloe Fibre - - - -	309,653	264,840
Molasses - - - -	104,583	104,625

SHIPPING.

The following table gives the number of ships and their tonnage entered inwards and cleared outwards in 1892 and 1893 :—

Year.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1892 - - -	399	327,528	398	325,742
1893 - - -	340	293,990	347	293,042

Of the vessels entered inwards :—

136 sailing vessels and 102 steamers were British.
23 sailing vessels and 42 steamers were French.
20 sailing vessels and two steamers were German.

The remaining 14 sailing vessels and one steamer were of American, Danish, Italian, Norwegian, Swedish and Zanzibarian nationalities.

Population and Vital Statistics.

The entire population of the Colony and the numbers of its two main divisions at the close of 1893 are estimated as follows :—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
General Population -	59,578	56,354	115,932
Indian Population -	144,979	110,887	255,866
Total - -	204,557	167,241	371,798

The Indian population comprises immigrants, or labourers imported for service, chiefly on sugar estates; settlers from India; and Indo-Mauritians or persons of Indian parentage born in the Colony. This is the largest section of the comunity and comprehends about 170,000 persons of the two sexes and of all ages.

The general population is the non-Indian section of the community; it is chiefly native, but includes all strangers domiciled in the Colony (except Indians). An important group of the general population is the Chinese community, whose strength is estimated at 3,926.

The marriages celebrated by the Civil Status Officers were 1,083 in number; 556 in the general population, (but of these in 37 cases one of the parties was of Indian origin) and 527 in the Indian population. The marriage rate or number of persons married to every thousand living was 6·3 in the whole population. This rate is lower than that of either of the two preceding years.

The births registered in 1893 in the whole and each component group of the population are as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
General Population -	1,998	1,911	3,909
Indian Population -	4,726	4,560	9,286
Total - -	6,724	6,471	13,195

The total number of births is less by 1,790 than that of the previous year. The decrease is attributed to the heavy mortality of the year, which fell on women of child-bearing ages as on other age groups. The birth rate of the whole community was 35·3. In 1892 this figure was 40·1.

In the Indian section the rate was 36·0, and in the general section 33·7.

The number of still births was 991; 264 in the General, and 727 in the Indian, population. The corresponding rates to 1,000 live births are 75·1 in the total, 67·5 in the General, and 78·3 in the Indian, sections respectively. The rate is slightly better than that of the previous year.

The deaths in 1893 were distributed as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
General Population -	2,358	2,110	4,468
Indian Population -	6,554	4,285	10,839
Total - -	8,919	6,395	15,307

The death rate of 1893 was 40·9; the heaviest mortality experienced since the epidemic of fever in 1867–68. The cause of the increase of mortality was influenza, to which cause 3,441 deaths are attributed. The death rate in the general population was 38·5 and in the Indian 42·0.

The death rate among Immigrant Indians was 58·9. Of the whole number of deaths, 39·4 per cent. are ascribed to fever.

There were 91 violent deaths caused by accident, and 24 suicides (23 of the Indian and 1 of the general population). The mode of self destruction was in 19 cases hanging; all in the Indian population (16 males and three females).

EDUCATION.

Primary Schools.

There were in operation in 1893, 171 primary schools, viz.—Government schools 81 and aided schools 90. In 1892 there were 81 Government schools and 87 aided schools.

The actual attendance of pupils in each category of the foregoing schools was in 1893—

—	Average on Roll.	Average Attendance.
Government Schools - - -	8,636	5,162
Aided Schools - - - -	8,023	5,015
Total - - -	16,659	10,177

Compared with the attendance in 1892, these figures show an increase of 202 pupils in an average number on roll and a decrease of 12 pupils in average attendance.

On the 31st December 1893 the children attending the Government and State-aided schools stood as follows with regard to race :—

1. Creoles, European, African, or Chinese :—

Government schools - - -	6,291
Aided schools - - - -	6,132

2. Indian and Indo-Mauritian :—

Government schools - - -	2,244
Aided schools - - - -	1,946
	16,618

Religious Classification.

—	Government schools.	Aided schools.	Total.
Roman Catholic - -	6,243	6,106	12,349
Church of England - -	251	285	536
Other Christian bodies - -	133	127	260
Mahomedans - - -	616	447	1,063
Hindoos and others - -	1,297	1,113	2,410
Total - -	8,540	8,078	16,618

The teaching staff in the primary schools of the Colony at the end of the year 1893 consisted of 249 teachers and monitors in the Government schools, and of 169 teachers in the aided schools; being an increase of three teachers for the Government and of 11 for the aided schools as compared with 1892.

The cost to Government per pupil on roll in 1893 was:—

	Rs.
In Government schools - - -	16·66
In aided schools - - - -	11·59

Being Rs. 0·57 and Rs. 0·05 respectively less than in 1892.

Expenditure.

	Rs.
Administration - - - -	21,114.85
Government schools exclusively - -	149,503.41
Aided schools exclusively - -	92,956.11
Common to Government and aided schools	15,132.63
Industrial education - - -	3,245.30
	Rs.281,952.30

An increase of Rs. 5,520 over the expenditure on primary education in 1892.

Royal College.

The average number of pupils in the Royal College and Royal College Schools in 1892 and 1893 was as follows:—

—	1892.	1893.
Royal College proper - - -	201	201
Royal College School, Port Louis - -	141	117
Royal College School, Curepipe - -	172	179
Total - - - -	514	497

The expenditure for 1893 was Rs. 194,136.94 showing an increase of Rs. 13,244 over the disbursements for 1892.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The postal business during the year showed a slight falling off as compared with 1892, both in regard to the correspondence and newspapers which passed through the office, and also in the revenue collected. The Money Order business was more active, and showed an increase of Rs. 106,693 as compared with the previous year.

Statistics.

—	1892.	1893.	Decrease in 1893.
Letters - - -	1,126,254	1,115,853	10,401
Postcards - -	24,447	20,520	3,927
Newspapers - -	1,261,584	1,176,296	85,288

The Revenue collected in 1893 was Rs. 66,367 against Rs. 66,843 in 1892.

The first sub-marine telegraph cable laid to Mauritius was completed by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company in November, and was formally inaugurated on the 25th of that month. The communication is made viâ Seychelles and Zanzibar to Aden, and the annual subsidy to be paid by the Colony is 7,000*l.*

RAILWAYS.

The railways showed an increase of business and of revenue as compared with 1892; the revenue being Rs. 1,533,720, an increase of Rs. 95,078 over the receipts of the previous year, and the expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,010,565 or Rs. 26,540 more than in 1892.

IMMIGRATION.

In 1893 there arrived in the Colony 332 immigrants, of whom 85 were from Madras and the remainder from Calcutta. The number of those who returned to India during the year was 1852, but of these 159 were coolies from Réunion, returned at the expense of the Government of that Colony. As compared with 1892, 135 more souls returned during the year under report.

The immigrant population has, owing to an unhealthy year and an excess of departures over arrivals, decreased from 86,456 in

1892 to 80,693 in 1893. Of the Creole Indian population, which gradually increases, there were working in estates 19,842, the total number of labourers employed in estates being 51,980.

METEOROLOGY.

The mean temperature between two open windows in a large and lofty room at the Observatory, 180 feet above sea level, was 72·°4 against an average of 73°·5 for the last 19 years; the absolute maximum 85°·6 on December 30 and the absolute minimum 57°·4 on August 16th. The mean temperature, obtained from maximum and minimum thermometers exposed in a Stephenson screen on the lawn, was 74°·1 against an average of 74°·8 for the last nine years; the absolute maximum 92°·7 on December 24, and the absolute minimum 53°·4 on September 13.

The mean temperature taken in the district of Moka, 1,100 feet above sea level, was 68°·7; the absolute maximum, 86°, on December 26, and the absolute minimum, 52°, on August 15.

At Curepipe, 1840 feet above sea level, the mean temperature was 67°·1; the absolute maximum, 86°·2, on December 30, and the absolute minimum, 49°·8, on August 14.

The mean barometric pressure at sea level was 30·080 inches, which is the average for the last 19 years; the maximum was 30·411 on August 22, and the minimum 29·330 on January 22.

The rainfall at the Observatory was 48·33 inches against an average of 48·41 inches for the last 19 years. The greatest fall in one month was 12·55 inches in January, and the least 0·91 inch in September. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 4·08 inches from 9 a.m. on the 20th, to 9 a.m. on the 21st April, and the greatest intensity a fall of 1·075 inch in 30 minutes on April 12. February and December were unusually dry. In other parts of the island, the rain fall was much greater than at the Observatory. At Cluny (in Grand Port), 1,000 feet, it was 131·24 inches, and at Curepipe, 1,840 feet, 119·30 inches.

The average hourly velocity of the wind was 10·6 miles against 11·1 miles for the last 18 years. The greatest velocity for one hour was 37·3 on January 27.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-six Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government in 1893. The financial position of the Colony necessitated the renewal for another year of the Ordinances authorising the levying of a stamp duty on receipts, imposing a surcharge of 10 per cent. on certain duties and taxes, and increasing certain import duties. The loan of 600,000*l.* raised by the Colony in 1892 to meet the wants and necessities created by the disastrous hurricane of the 29th April in that year, and to provide funds for

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MAURITIUS. 1893.

certain public works having proved insufficient for the purposes for which it was obtained, a further enactment was passed in 1893 sanctioning the addition of 20,000, the premium on the above named loan, and of a sum not exceeding Rs. 450,000 to the amount set apart for making loans to planters.

Owing to an extensive conflagration on the 23rd July, a large portion of the town of Port Louis was completely destroyed, and an Ordinance was passed to provide for the acquisition by the Government of the burnt area with a view to the improvement of the same, and also to enable the necessary works for the drainage of that section of the town to be carried out in accordance with a scheme recommended by Mr. O. Chadwick, C.E., C.M.G.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1893 was 39,347 or 8,808 more than in 1892.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts was 17,890, or 450 more than 1892 and in the Supreme Court 94 against 67 in the previous year.

MILITARY.

The troops in the Colony, including one battalion of the Black Watch, Royal Artillery (90), Royal Engineers (65), Mauritius Companies Royal Artillery (203), numbered 824. The total military expenditure amounted to 54,997*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, and the contribution paid by the Colony during the year was 14,701*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*

(Signed) W. KING-HARMAN,
September 1, 1894. Colonial Secretary.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 156.

MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 120.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1896.

LONDON:
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1896.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
120	Mauritius - - - - - -	1893
121	Straits Settlements - - - - -	"
122	Labuan - - - - - -	"
123	Basutoland - - - - - -	1893–4
124	St. Lucia - - - - - -	1893
125	St. Helena - - - - - -	"
126	Ceylon - - - - - -	"
127	Fiji - - - - - -	"
128	Grenada - - - - - -	"
129	Sierra Leone - - - - -	"
130	British Bechuanaland - - - -	1893–4
131	British New Guinea - - - -	1892–3 & 1893–4
132	Lagos - - - - -	1893
133	British Guiana - - - - -	1893–4
134	Jamaica - - - - - -	"
135	Newfoundland - - - - -	1893
136	Gold Coast - - - - - -	"
137	Zululand - - - - - -	1894
138	Bermuda - - - - - -	"
139	Bahamas - - - - - -	"
140	Barbados - - - - - -	"
141	Turks and Caicos Islands - - - -	"
142	Malta - - - - - -	"
143	Gambia - - - - - -	"
144	Windward Islands - - - - -	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	"
146	Gibraltar - - - - - -	"
147	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
148	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
149	Straits Settlements - - - - -	"
150	Lagos - - - - - -	"
151	Seychelles - - - - - -	"
152	Basutoland - - - - - -	1894–5
153	Fiji - - - - - -	1894
154	St. Helena - - - - - -	"
155	Ceylon - - - - - -	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada - - -	Emigration.

No. 156.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.
1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual], No. 120.)

Sir H. E. H. JERNINGHAM to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Mauritius,
September 2, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of the Mauritius Blue Book for the year 1894.

2. I also transmit herewith the report on the Blue Book which has been furnished by Mr. King-Harman, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM,
Governor.

BLUE BOOK, 1894.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue for 1894 amounted to Rs. 8,534,427·49 and the expenditure to Rs. 8,587,039·27, leaving a deficit of Rs. 52,611·78 which had to be met out of the available balances in the Treasury.

As compared with the previous year, 1893, the revenue for the year under report showed an increase of Rs. 480,505·47 and the expenditure also an increase of Rs. 714,942·44.

The ratio of revenue to the population was Rs. 22·68 per head and that of the expenditure Rs. 22·82 per head.

MAURITIUS.
1894.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt on 31st December 1894 stood as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Mauritius Debentures, payable 15th February 1895 and 15th January 1896 and bearing interest at 6 per cent. -	161,000	0	0
Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings - -	59,900	0	0
Moka Railway 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings in and from 1884 - - - -	2,600	0	0
Mauritius Inscribed Stock under Ordinance 1 of 1887 (including the loan made for the Mare-aux-Vocoas Water Works, 36,000*l.*) - - -	480,749	13	0
Poor Law Commission 5 per cent. Debentures, issued in 1873 - - -	3,000	0	0
Hurricane Loan, 1892 - - -	600,000	0	0
Total Public Debt - -	1,369,849	13	0

	£	s.	d.
For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock, the sinking fund accumulated up to the 31st December 1894 amounted to - -	224,404	19	8

Surplus Balances.

	Rs.	c.
Treasury proper -	1,551,046	90
Savings Bank -	966,805	33
Commissioners of Currency -	586,184	69
Total -	3,104,036	92

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Converted into £ sterling at 1*s.* $0\frac{20}{32}$*d.* per rupee	163,370	7	6			
Balance due from Loan Commission -	393,684	6	0			
				781,459	13	2
Leaving a balance of - -				588,390	19	10

payable at periods ranging from 30 to 47 years and provided for in the gradual operation of sinking funds.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December 1894, the accounts of the Commissioners of Currency showed:—

	Rs.	c.
Assets - - - - -	4,611,299	69
Liabilities - - - -	4,025,115	00
Surplus - - -	586,184	69

The Government Savings Bank showed:—

	Rs.	c.
Assets - - - - -	4,307,871	78
Liabilities - - - -	3,341,066	45
Surplus - - -	966,805	33

Curatelle (vacant estates):—

	Rs.	c.
Assets - - - - -	451,786	48
Liabilities - - - -		

The Treasury proper:—

	Rs.	c.
Assets - - - - -	3,049,026	40
Liabilities - - - -	1,497,979	50
Surplus, 31st December 1894 -	1,551,046	90

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Exclusive of specie and bullion, the value of imports in 1894 amounted to Rs. 21,096,011 and that of exports to Rs. 31,228,619.

The values in 1893, also exclusive of specie and bullion, were:—

	Rs.
Imports - - - - -	18,899,939
Exports - - - - -	22,176,486

The rate of imports per head of population was as follows during 1893 and 1894:—

	Rs.	c.
1893 - - - - - -	50	83
1894 - - - - - -	56	07

The rate of exports per head of population was as follows:—

	Rs.	c.
1893 - - - - - -	59	67
1894 - - - - - -	83	00

The exports of sugar manufactured in the Colony in 1893 and 1894 were as follows:—

—	Quantity.	Value.
	Kilos.	Rs.
1893	86,057,841	19,409,218
1894	138,431,733	28,461,574

The value of the other principal local products exported in 1893 and 1894 were as follows:—

—	1893.	1894.
	Rs.	Rs.
Rum	332,441	424,632
Vanilla	83,895	82,720
Aloe fibre	264,840	171,526
Molasses	104,625	217,859
Cocoanut oil	251,198	59,565
Raw hides	33,539	33,499

The following are the principal markets to which the sugar of the Colony was shipped:—

—	1893.	1894.
	Kilos.	Kilos.
India	39,804,432	73,335,600
Australia	7,114,642	17,075,354
United Kingdom	10,235,082	11,828,624
Cape Colonies	11,620,164	12,369,395
Ceylon	10,342,402	14,179,389
St. Helena	96,068	93,764
Hong Kong	1,406,524	2,074,888
France	2,084,926	112,491
Portugal	2,570,911	—
America	—	3,898,806

The value of the principal imports for the years 1893 and 1894 was as follows:—

—	1893.	1894.
	Rs.	Rs.
Animals - - - - - - -	312,363	99,200
Apothecaries' ware - - - - -	155,692	76,793
Grain, flour, meal - - - - -	8,009,247	8,100,420
Malt liquors, wines, and spirits - - -	863,193	695,382
Provisions - - - - - -	1,088,017	1,392,200
Cottons - - - - - - -	1,083,619	1,121,969
Woollens - - - - - -	163,227	181,733
Haberdashery - - - - - -	394,139	497,642
Coal - - - - - - -	412,812	425,809
Machinery - - - - - -	99,539	169,620
Iron and steel - - - - -	215,105	225,931
Hardware and cutlery - - - - -	377,899	352,360
Leather (wrought and unwrought) - -	191,005	158,995
Manure and fertilizers - - - - -	1,806,518	724,193
Oil of all kinds - - - - - -	756,855	799,552
Tobacco - - - - - - -	187,890	141,555

SHIPPING.

The following table gives the number of ships and their tonnage entered inwards and cleared outwards in 1893 and 1894.

Year.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1893 - - -	340	293,990	347	293,042
1894 - - -	335	316,350	340	324,748

Of the vessels that entered and cleared, 124 sailing vessels and 93 steamers were British; 25 sailing vessels and 51 steamers were French; 28 sailing vessels and 3 steamers were German; and 14 sailing vessels and 2 steamers were Norwegian.

There were also two American, three Danish, and two Swedish, sailing vessels.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Colony may be divided into two main sections: Indian and general, or non-Indian. The former includes the immigrants or labourers imported for service on sugar estates, settlers from India, and Indo-Mauritians, or persons of Indian parentage born in the Colony; the latter comprises the native, or creole race, whether of European or African descent, and all foreigners domiciled in the island, including the Chinese, an important group, whose strength is estimated at about 4,000.

The estimated population at the close of 1894 was as follows:—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Indian population - - -	146,581	112,643	259,224
General „ - - -	60,047	56,948	116,995
Total - - -	206,628	169,591	376,219

The births registered in 1894 were:—

Indian population - - -	9,875
General „ - - - -	4,287
Total - - -	14,162

The deaths:—

Indian population - - -	7,207
General „ - - - -	3,585
Total - - -	10.792

The mortality of 1894 was relatively low; the deaths numbered 10,792 against 15,307 of the preceding year when influenza prevailed. The corresponding death rate is 29 per 1,000, more satisfactory figures than usual. In 1886 and 1891 the death rate was a little lower, 28·9 and 27·2; but with these exceptions the death rate is one of the lowest recorded.

The death rate among the Indian division was 28·1 while in the general division it was 30·9.

The death rate of the male population was 28·9, and that of the female 29·1, showing no appreciable difference.

LEGISLATION.

Thirty-one Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government in 1894, of which one was disallowed by Her Majesty and an Order in Council issued to effect the object which the projected Ordinance had in view.

The legislation of the year included many noticeable measures, of which the following may be briefly cited as the most important:—

(1.) An Ordinance for the administration of the loan fund. This ordinance creates a permanent department charged with the duties of managing the fund arising out of the loan of 600,000*l.* guaranteed by the Imperial Government, and raised for the relief of planters and owners of houses after the disastrous hurricane of the 29th April 1892. The fund is charged with the payment of interest and sinking fund on the guaranteed loan as well as all expenses connected with the administration of the fund. The administration is vested in the Governor, and a board consisting of four officials and seven unofficial members of the Council of Government is created to advise him.

(2.) An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the Mare-aux-Vacoas water supply. This Ordinance was passed with a view to regulate the distribution of the filtered water now being supplied from the Mare-aux-Vacoas to an important section of the Island. It enacts stringent regulations in order to put a stop to the incredible waste of water which went on under the old system of water works; it introduces the meter system of supply for both domestic and non-domestic purposes, and was introduced in accordance with the recommendations of Mr. Osbert Chadwick, C.E., C.M.G.

(3.) An Ordinance to provide for the carrying out of drainage works in the town of Port Louis. This Ordinance also was introduced to carry out a scheme by Mr. Chadwick for the underground drainage of a portion of the town. This scheme of drainage met with much opposition on the part of a considerable, and a not uninfluential, portion of the inhabitants of Port Louis, and was combated in its passage through the Legislature by the two metropolitan members. Otherwise there was perfect unanimity in the Council of Government as to the necessity of attempting the proposed experiment, and the measure was passed with two dissentients only.

(4.) An Ordinance to empower the municipality of Port Louis to levy a tax on tenants' houses in the town. This Ordinance was introduced, at the request of the mayor and corporation, in order to assist the financial condition of the municipality, to which the Secretary of State for the Colonies had drawn attention. The members for Port Louis having declined to introduce the Ordinance, it was drafted and introduced by the Procureur-General, and passed after considerable discussion and opposition. In the meanwhile, the majority of the municipal council having expressed themselves against the principle of the Ordinance, no action has yet been taken to apply its provisions.

(5.) An Ordinance to amend an Order in Council of the 13th April 1831 by substituting the sum of Rs. 10,000 for 1,000*l*. was introduced by the Hon. W. Newton, Q.C., senior member for Port Louis. This Ordinance gave rise to much interesting discussion, being opposed by the Procureur-General on the ground that it went beyond the powers of the Colonial Legislature. It was passed against the wish of the Procureur-General, and was afterwards disallowed, an Order in Council being issued by Her Majesty to effect the object which Mr. Newton had in view.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The mean temperature in the shade between two open windows in a lofty room was 73·2 against an average of 73·5 for the last 20 years.

The absolute maximum was 86·4 on January 6th; the absolute minimum 56·8 on June 11th.

The mean temperature from a maximum and minimum thermometer exposed in a Stevenson's screen on a lawn was 74·3, against an average of 74·5 for the last ten years. The absolute maximum was 93·5 on January 3rd, the absolute minimum 50·6 on June 10th.

So far as is yet known, there were nine tropical cyclones in the South Indian Ocean in the course of the year, two of which passed close to the Island, doing, however, no material damage beyond the upsetting of a train crossing a bridge whereby five lives were lost. The train was light, largely made up of carriages carrying an upper storey, and left the rails before the force of a violent gust of wind. The Observatory, where the meteorological observations are taken, is on a plain 179 feet above the sea level and about six miles from Port Louis.

In the upper parts of the Island the temperature is much cooler, varying between a maximum of 86 in the summer months, January, February, and March, to a minimum of 53 in the cool season, June, July, and August.

The rainfall in the higher parts is heavy, the average at Curepipe, 1,840 feet above the sea level, being 125 inches.

IMMIGRATION.

In 1894, 338 coolies were received from Calcutta and 381 from Madras. These men are supplied from the Emigration Agencies on requisition from the planters, and are employed on the cultivation of Sugar estates.

During the year, 754 coolies returned to India accompanied by 214 women.

EDUCATION.

Primary Schools.

There were in operation in 1894, 174 primary schools, viz: Government schools, 82; aided schools, 92. In 1893 there were 81 Government schools, and 87 aided.

The average number of scholars on roll in 1894 was:—

In Government schools - -	9,191
In aided schools - - -	8,510
Total - - -	17,701
Average number in 1893 - -	16,659
Increase - - - -	1,042

Of the total number of pupils at the end of 1894, 71·76 per cent. were creoles of either European, African, or Chinese descent, and 28·24 per cent. were Indians or of Indian origin.

Royal College.

The average number of pupils in the Royal College and Royal College School in 1893 and 1894 was as follows:—

—	1893.	1894.
Royal College proper - - -	201	203
Royal College School, Port Louis - -	117	100
Royal College Curepipe - -	179	195
Total - - - -	497	498

The expenditure on education in 1894 was Rs. 496,005·44, showing an increase of Rs. 19,916·20 over the disbursements of 1893.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1894 was 51,103, an increase of 11,756 over the reports in 1893.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts was 19,995, an increase of 2,105 over the convictions in the previous year.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were:—

—	1893.	1894.
Offences against the person - - -	23	7
Offences against property -	40	27
Other offences - - - - -	4	11
Total - - -	67	45

The acquittals were as follows:—

—	1893.	1894.
Inferior courts - - - - -	5,208	5,012
Supreme Court - - - -	21	20
Total - - - -	5,229	5,032

MAURITIUS.
1894.

RAILWAYS.

The railways of the Colony are in a flourishing condition, the passenger traffic being conducted with great regularity. No delay in the running of the trains was complained of by the public, and with the exception of the disaster on the 22nd February, when a train was blown off the St. Louis bridge, no accident of any moment occurred during the year.

The revenue and expenditure of the Railway Department were:—

Revenue Rs. 1,585,720, an increase of Rs. 205,088 over 1893.

Expenditure, Rs. 1,010,565, an increase of Rs. 74,864 over 1893.

MILITARY.

The troops in the Colony, including one battalion of the Black Watch, Royal Artillery (European and Indian) (333), Royal Engineers (72), numbered 915 as against 824 in 1893.

The total military expenditure amounted to 51,867*l.* and the contribution paid by the Colony was 13,805*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*

H. KING-HARMAN,
Colonial Secretary.

28th August 1895.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 183.

MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 156 of this Series.)

RODRIGUES.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1894 AND 1895.

Preſented to both Houſes of Parliament by Command of Her Majeſty,
October 1896.

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1896.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
150	Lagos	1894
151	Seychelles	”
152	Basutoland	1894–5
153	Fiji	1894
154	St. Helena	”
155	Ceylon	”
156	Mauritius	”
157	Labuan	”
158	Gold Coast	”
159	British Guiana	”
160	Sierra Leone	”
161	Jamaica	1894–5
162	British Honduras	1894
163	British Bechuanaland	1894–5
164	Newfoundland	1894
165	Gambia	”
166	Bermuda	”
167	Leeward Islands	”
168	British New Guinea	1894–5
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	”
171	Gibraltar	”
172	Malta	”
173	Barbados	”
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	”
175	Falkland Islands	”
176	St. Helena	”
177	Bahamas	”
178	Hong Kong	”
179	Windward Islands	”
180	Labuan	”
181	Trinidad and Tobago	”
182	Seychelles	”

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.

No. 183.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 156.)

The ACTING GOVERNOR to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Mauritius,
July 30, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of the Mauritius Blue Book for the year 1895, together with copies of the usual summary.

2. I also transmit herewith my report on the Blue Book.

I have, &c.
C. A. KING HARMAN,
Administering the Government.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK for 1895.

FINANCE.

The Revenue for year 1895 was Rs. 8,273,622.03, the expenditure Rs. 8,488,736.78, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue amounting to Rs. 215,114.75.

That excess was met from the surplus balances in the Treasury, no extra taxation being imposed beyond a slight readjustment of the customs duties, involving a small increase in certain items.

The revenue collected showed an increase of Rs. 758,812 in excess of the estimate, and the expenditure was Rs. 182,222 below what was anticipated.

The balance in favour of the Treasury at the end of 1894 was Rs. 1,551,046.96, and at the end of 1895 Rs. 1,254,403·10, showing a decrease of Rs. 296,643·86. This decrease would have been larger had not the Colony obtained a windfall of Rs. 216,354 by carrying to revenue surplus investments of the Commissioners of Currency.

The balance in favour of the Treasury, besides being reduced by the excess of expenditure over revenue, also suffered from the depreciation of the rupee value of the sterling investments of the Colony.

There was also an unexpected falling off in the receipts from the important item of duty on rum, the amount collected having been Rs. 287,687 below what had been estimated; and this loss, combined with the fact that the Budget for the year had shown an anticipated deficit of Rs. 500,000, more than accounts for the comparatively small deficit of Rs. 215,114 with which the accounts for the year were closed.

MAURITIUS.
1895.

In the early part of the year, owing to the payment into the Sinking Fund for the redemption of Railway Debentures being in excess of the amount required for the extinction of the debt, a sum of 20,587*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* was passed over to the credit of the Surplus Fund Account. That account amounted at the end of 1895 to 54,453*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, which in case of emergency can be realised at any time.

The assets of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 2,517,470.32, with liabilities Rs. 1,263,067.22, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,254,403.10 in favour of the Treasury.

To meet the Public Debt, which at the close of 1895 stood at 1,276,535*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, the amount at the disposal of the Colony from Sinking Funds and surplus balances, valuing the rupee at 1s. 1$\frac{11}{16}$*d.*, equivalent to a rate of exchange of 75 per cent., amounted to 642,557*l.* 5*s.*11*d.*, leaving a balance of 633,978*l.*1*s.* 4*d.*, which represents the actual debt of the Colony.

Financial Condition of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis.

	Rs.	c.
Balance in hand on 1st January 1895 -	22,728	92
Revenue and receipts on account during 1895	474,261	56
	496,990	48
Expenditure and payments on account during 1895 - - - - - -	492,228	61
Balance in hand on 31st December 1895 -	4,761	87

Debenture debt of the Municipal Corporation on 31st December 1895 :—

Conversion Loan - - - - -		£134,400
	Rs.	
Colonial Loan, 1889 - -	109,200	
Hurricane Government Loan -	138,756	
Colonial Loan, 1894 - -	21,395	
		Rs. 269,331

TRADE.

The trade of the year 1895, inclusive of specie and bullion, is valued at Rs. 62,035,872, against Rs. 66,242,885 in 1894, divided into—

——	1894.	1895.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	32,852,313	30,506,570
Exports - - -	33,390,672	31,529,302
Totals - -	66,242,885	62,035,872

MAURITIUS.
1895.

or, exclusive of specie and bullion,—

——	1894.	1895.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	32,013,065	29,844,320
Exports - - -	32,959,690	29,980,622
Totals - -	64,972,755	59,824,942

The rate of imports and exports per head of population was as follows:—

——	1894.	1895.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	85·09	78·94
Exports - - -	87·60	76·66

IMPORTS.

The values of the principal imports in the years 1894–95, exclusive of charges and exchange, are as follows:—

——	1894.	1895.
	Rs.	Rs.
Animals - - - - -	267,183	162,684
Apothecary's ware - - - -	76,793	85,763
Grain, flour, meal - - - -	9,428,324	9,552,191
Apparel and hats - - - -	156,634	125,685
Bags and pockets - - - -	350,057	300,665
Brass and copper wares - - - -	85,873	62,832
Cement - - - - - -	31,442	12,708
Cabinet and upholstery - - - -	23,625	21,989
Cordage and twines - - - -	53,745	49,271
Candles - - - - - -	33,493	30,447
Coals - - - - - -	425,809	381,133
Cotton manufactures - - - -	1,121,969	1,302,792
Drugs and narcotics (gandia and opium) -	32,156	91,601
Earthen, china, and glass, ware - - -	54,442	50,985
Haberdashery - - - - -	497,642	356,093
Fireworks - - - - -	10,691	8,640
Hardware and cutlery - - - -	352,360	366,708
Iron and steel - - - - -	225,931	115,743
Jewelry - - - - - -	38,009	33,397
Linen, canvas - - - - -	32,167	26,610
Leather (wrought and unwrought) - -	172,695	155,504
Manures and fertilizers - - - -	1,846,701	1,459,619
Matches - - - - - -	79,760	29,759
Machinery - - - - -	169,620	25,014
Malt liquors, wines and spirits - - -	866,483	840,434
Nuts (areca) - - - - -	15,780	23,783
Oil of all kinds - - - - -	799,551	800,214
Provisions - - - -	1,512,396	1,576,088
Painters' and dyers' colours - - -	69,427	42,041

MAURITIUS.
1895.

—	1894.	1895.
	Rs.	Rs.
Perfumery	41,656	43,820
Silk manufactures	19,220	23,045
Soap, ordinary	68,801	43,324
Specie, silver	839,248	656,420
Spices	66,902	35,331
Stationery and paper wares	141,947	124,830
Seeds	62,147	45,315
Tobacco	141,555	224,352
Toys	37,175	24,782
Umbrellas and parasols	34,865	37,608
Wood, timber, and wooden wares	386,452	367,343
Woollen manufactures	181,733	129,510
Totals	20,852,459	19,846,073

EXPORTS.

The following table shows, in kilogrammes, the quantity of sugar manufactured in the Colony and exported in the years 1894–95, and the value in rupees as ascertained from the different sugar estate companies, taking a mean average of their sales, the rate being calculated per 100 kilogrammes exclusive of shipping charges.

Year.	Quantities exported.	Value in Rupees.
	Kilos.	Rupees.
1894	*138,431,733	28,461,564
1895	116,454,600	23,515,058

The principal markets for the sugars of the Colony were in 1894–95 as follows:—

Markets.	Quantities in Kilogrammes exported.	
	1894.	1895.
	Kilos.	Kilos.
India	†73,335,600	48,207,216
Australasia	17,075,354	13,270,196
United Kingdom	11,828,524	6,582,789
Cape Colonies	12,369,395	16,828,019
Ceylon	14,179,389	18,306,977
United States	3,898,806	9,861,144
Hong Kong	2,074,888	1,408,186
New Zealand	2,172,975	Nil.

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* Including 43,845 kilos., value Rs. 9,014·53, shortshipped in preceding year, but on which the duties had been paid.

† Including 43,845 kilos. shortshipped in preceding year.

MAURITIUS.
1895.

The value of other local products exported in 1894–95, inclusive of shipping charges, was as follows:—

—	1894.	1895.
	Rs.	Rs.
Rum - - -	439,434	300,558
Vanilla - - -	84,374	222,303
Aloe fibre - -	178,388	423,006
Molasses - -	431,361	355,316
Cocoanut oil - -	85,571	93,241

The following statement shows the quantities of the local products exported in 1894–95:—

—	1894.	1895.
Rum (litres) - - - -	3,053,783	3,024,583
Vanilla (kilos.) - - - -	4,136	18,766
Aloe fibre (kilos.) - - - -	857,633	1,311,838
Molasses „ - - -	7,415,350	9,808,490
Cocoa-nut oil (hectol.) - - -	4,207	2,378

The falling off in imports and exports in 1895, as compared with the previous year, is to be attributed to the short sugar crop in 1894–95, as compared with the crop of 1893–94.

In 1894, 138,431 tons of sugar was exported, and in 1895 only 116,454 tons.

The imports were also affected to a certain extent by the rate of exchange.

In 1894 the average rate was 80 per cent., and in 1895, 83·23 per cent.

SHIPPING.

The returns of shipping, as compared with 1894, are as follows:—

—	1894.		1895.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered - -	335	316,350	344	346,506
Cleared - -	340	324,748	338	340,508
Total -	675	641,098	682	687,014

MAURITIUS.
1895.

showing an increase of nine ships entered in 1895, and a decrease of two ships cleared.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The military contribution paid by the Colony in 1895 amounted to 14,906*l.* 5*s.*

The troops in the Colony at the end of the year, including Staff, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, 1st Battn. the Black Watch, Army Service Corps, Ordnance Store Corps, and Medical Staff Corps, amounted to 946 men.

The total military expenditure amounted to 53,859*l.*

VITAL STATISTICS.

At the close of the year 1895 the resident population of the Colony amounted to 378,041 men, women, and children of different races and nationalities; not including the troops, nor the crews of non-colonial ships temporarily riding in the harbour of Port Louis. The increase, as compared with the total population at the end of 1894, is 1,822, and this increase is almost entirely due to the excess of arrivals over departures, the natural increment of population, that is to say, the excess of births over deaths, being only 12. The natural increment in 1894 was 3,370, and the remarkable falling off is due mainly to the high death rate of the year under report.

The population may be divided into two principal heads: General, including the Chinese, and Indian, including all those of Indian descent.

At the close of the year 1895 the general population consisted of—

Males.	Females.	Total.
60,350	56,699	117,049

and at the end of 1894:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
60,047	56,948	116,995

showing an increase of 303 males, but a decrease of 249 females, and a resultant total increase of 54.

The Chinese element included in the above figures consisted at the close of 1895 of 3,700 souls, an increase of 83 over a similar population at the end of the previous year.

The Indian population may be divided into three sections: the Indo-Mauritians, or natives of Indian extraction, the immigrants, and those other Indians who have either come to the Colony under no indenture, or have remained after their period of indenture has been concluded.

The figures showing the strength of these various Indian elements on the 31st December 1895 are as follows :—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Indo-Mauritians - - -	90,000	87,000	177,000
Immigrants - - - -	51,153	24,757	75,910
Other Indians - - - -	5,967	2,115	8,082
			260,992

These figures as compared with those at the close of the previous year show an increase of 539 males and 1,229 females, total 1,768.

We find, therefore, that during the year 1895 the Indian population had increased by 1,768 souls, the Chinese had increased by 83, and the remaining general creole population had decreased by 29, giving a net increase of 1,822 souls. The natural increment, or the increase of births over deaths, among the Indian population during 1895 was 231, or not quite 1 per 1,000; but among the general population there was a natural decrement of 219, or about 2 per 1,000. The total natural increment was therefore only 12, as stated in the beginning of this report.

Proportion of males to females. In the whole population the males predominate; but the ratio of predominance is steadily diminishing. In the general population there are 106 males to 100 females and in the combined Indian sections 129 males to 100 females. The marriage rate or number of persons married to every 1,000 living in the whole population in 1895 was 6·2. This is lower than that of the previous year, when it was 6·7.

The birth rate during the year (of the total population) was 37·1 per 1,000, or 1 per 1,000 lower than in 1894, when, however, the birth rate was exceptionally high.

The mortality of 1895 was exceedingly high, the death rate being 37·1 as against 29·0 in 1894. In 1893 the rate was 40·9, due principally to an epidemic of influenza, and in 1892 the terrible cyclone of the 29th April raised the rate to 38·2. These two years excepted, the death rate of 1895 will be seen to be the highest since 1868. The principal cause of the high rate seems to be the prevalence of dysentery, which in some districts occasioned very many deaths.

In Port Louis the death rate for the year was 47·7, as against 42·2 in the year 1894.

MAURITIUS.
1895.

POLICE.

The total effective strength of the Police Force as allowed by law is 708; the actual strength, however, on the 31st December 1895 was 704. But from these numbers must be deducted 113 men employed on miscellaneous duties or sick in hospital, thus leaving but 591 for the repression and detection of crime and for the enforcement of the laws.

The question of increasing the strength of the force is under consideration.

The force during 1895 was composed of the following nationalities:—

Europeans	45
Mauritians	468
Indians	173
Arab	1
Americans	6
Australian	1
Cape of Good Hope	5
Réunion	5

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the Magistrates in 1895 was 33,023, a decrease of 18,080 as compared with 1894.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts was 19,592, an increase of 403 as compared with 1894.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—

——	1894.	1895.
Offences against the person	7	37
Offences against property	27	28
Other offences	11	2
Totals	45	67

The acquittals were as follows:—

——	1894.	1895.
In the inferior courts	5,012	2,495
In the Supreme Court	20	8
Totals	5,032	2,803

PRISONS.

The admissions into the several gaols of the Island during the year 1895 amounted to 6,417 males and 341 females, a decrease of 1,000 males and an increase of 3 females as compared with the previous year.

The population on 31st December, including 35 in hospital, was 1,033 as compared with 1,067 on the last day of 1894, of whom 56 were in hospital.

The numbers admitted to hospital during the years 1894 and 1895, with the number of deaths in each of those years, are as follows:—

Year.	Admitted.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1894 - - -	1,439	37	1,476	70	2	72
1895 - - -	1,773	79	1,832	78	3	81

Twenty-one escapes occurred during the year, 20 of which were from gangs employed at out-door labour. In 1894 there were 25 escapes, 23 being from out-door labour. 24 escaped prisoners were re-captured in 1895, including five who had escaped in previous years.

The value of the work done by the prisoners during the year, together with the value of the material, plant, and machinery in hand on the 31st December amounted to Rs. 142,218.35 as against similar values in 1894, Rs. 109.266.50.

The bulk of the work was extra-mural either in the prison gardens or on the roads, and the work done within the walls was exclusively for the use of the Government Departments.

Taking credit for cash payments and labour of prisoners the cost per head has been Rs. 135.64 against Rs. 142.33 in 1894.

The long pending works at the central prisons, Beau Bassin, were practically concluded by the end of the year, and orders had been issued for the closing of the three district prisons and for the concentration of all prisoners at the central prison, where accommodation was ready for 972 men, any over that number being detained in the Port Louis gaol.

In the new block B., 432 prisoners can be received on the separate system, and steps will be taken to partly introduce the same system into Block A., where 540 prisoners are confined in association, three men being in each cell.

REFORMATORY.

The number of juvenile offenders admitted into the Reformatory during the year 1895 was 270, a decrease of 90 as compared with the preceding year. The conduct of the boys was very unsatisfactory, escapes were frequent, and 218 offences against discipline are recorded during the year.

The absence of any minimum period of detention leads to the commitment of boys for short periods, and the institution is apparently regarded more in the light of a juvenile prison than a reformatory. Under these circumstances it is hardly to be wondered at that the object for which it was established is rarely attained.

EDUCATION.

The year under report is not marked by any special event in the Education Department. An attempt was made during the year to bring to a head and to give effect to certain recommendations of the Royal College Commission, together with instructions from the Secretary of State, which would have placed the Education Department under a Director of Public Instruction, the post of Superintendent of Schools and the Council of Education with its committees being thereby abolished, and which would also have brought about other important changes in the educational system in the Colony.

But the elected members of the Legislature, supported by the entire press of the Island, requested that the matter should be postponed until after the elections had been held, during which time the proposals could be laid before, and discussed by, the electorate.

This was agreed to, and no change was therefore introduced in 1895.

The year 1894 closed with 172 schools and 17,701 pupils. The number of schools increased to 179 and the pupils to 18,279 by the end of 1895.

Of these schools, 49 were first grade, 31 second grade, two reformatory and 97 State-aided. The 97 State-aided were divided into:—

Roman Catholic -	- 61	with 6,554 pupils.
Church of England	- 33	„ 2,001 „
Presbyterian -	- 2	„ 172 „
Mahomedan -	- 1	„ 133 „

The Superintendent of Schools reports that the results of the examinations in the Government and non-Roman Catholic schools were more satisfactory than in 1894, marked improvements being noticeable in almost every branch. The Inspector of Roman Catholic Aided Schools reports in the same satisfactory terms.

The sum spent on primary Government schools for the year 1895, irrespective of cost of administration, maintenance of Government buildings, cost of scholarships, books, and stationery for sale to aided school managers, Government teachers and pupils, and industrial apprenticeships, was Rs. 255,682·75 against Rs. 238,752.80 in 1894.

The grant to aided schools amounted to Rs. 103,060 against Rs. 92,992.72 in 1894.

The cost per pupil amounted to—

	Rs.
In Government schools - - -	16.20
In aided schools - - - -	11.63

against Rs. 15.86 and Rs. 10.93 respectively in 1894.

MAURITIUS.
1895.

The programme of studies in a Government school is far more important and extensive than that of a State-aided school and the work done reaches a higher standard.

In the year under report the first examination took place for two scholarships for girls, of the annual value of Rs. 244 each for three years. 27 candidates presented themselves and the general result of the examination was satisfactory.

SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors in 1895 as compared with 1894 shows an increase of 511, the numbers for the respective years being :—

1895 - - - -	23,327
1894 - - - -	22,816

The amount deposited in 1895 was Rs. 1,047,135, in 1894 Rs. 1,149,816, showing a decrease in 1895 of Rs. 102,681.

The amount withdrawn in 1895 was Rs. 1,226,184, in 1894 Rs. 1,236,678, showing a decrease in 1895 of Rs. 10,494.

The total sum standing to the credit of depositors at the end of 1895, including the interest due to them was Rs. 3,174,043.

Of this sum Rs. 1,476,289 belonged to the Indian population.

The funds belonging to the Savings Bank at the end of 1895 were distributed as follows, the value of the investment being shown in each case :—

	£	s.	d.
2¾ per cent. Consols - - -	65,142	18	5
3½ per cent. Canada - - -	1,546	1	5
4 per cent. Cape of Good Hope (A. and O.) - - -	13,615	17	6
4 per cent. Cape of Good Hope (T. and D.) - - -	763	18	9
4 per cent. Ceylon - - -	31,274	5	0
3½ per cent. New South Wales -	11,117	9	10
4 per cent. do. - -	4,911	18	1
4 per cent. Victoria (1919) - -	2,031	4	3
4 per cent. do. (1920) - -	1 624	10	4
	132,028	3	7
Indian Securities—			
3 per cent. Stock, Rs. 65,000 at 60⅞ -	3,956	17	6
Do. Rs. 1,691,500 at 58⅞ -	99,587	1	3
	235,572	2	4

	Rs.	c.
Equal at par to - - -	2,355,721	16
Add exchange at 75 per cent. - -	1,766,790	87
Total investments in rupees - -	4,122,512	03
Add cash balance - - -	19,985	41
Total assets of Bank -	4,142,497	44

The liabilities of the bank at the end of 1895 were:—

	Rs.	c.
Due to depositors - - - -	3,073,358	14
Do. Treasury account advances - -	266,258	19
Total - - - -	3,339,616	33
Balance in favour of bank - - -	802,881	11

The total amount of interest at 3½ per cent. accruing to depositors in 1895 was Rs. 97,017.44, or Rs. 34,487.92 less than the interest realised by investments.

The total cost of the establishment of the bank in 1895 was Rs. 13,470.36.

LEGISLATION.

Out of 49 Draft Ordinances introduced into the Council of Government during the session of 1895, 32 were passed. Owing to the great pressure of work, some important measures, such as the New Building Act, the New Penal Code, and the Vaccination and Re-vaccination Ordinance, could not be proceeded with, but will be re-introduced as early as possible.

Of the Ordinances passed, the following are the most important:—

"To amend and consolidate the Customs Tariff."

The principal object of this measure is to consolidate the Customs Tariff by amalgamating the permanent with the provisional Customs Tariff Laws; the provisional surtax of 10 per cent. on Customs duties and the increased duties on certain imports have thus been made permanent and the work of the Customs Department and of the mercantile community in regard to Customs entries has been simplified.

Advantage has been taken of the passing of this law to amend by increase or reduction a number of items of the tariff.

An Ordinance "to provide for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners for the towns of Beau Bassin and Rose Hill," and an Ordinance "to provide for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners for the town of Quatre Bornes."

These two Ordinances were introduced to satisfy the demand of the inhabitants in the districts or towns mentioned for a certain measure of local government, and excited a great deal of local interest. The respective Boards are provided with funds necessary for the carrying out of the work entrusted to them by giving them a sum from the Treasury equal to the amount of the direct taxes paid on vehicles and animals used and kept in the town and also the power to levy a rate upon house property not to exceed one per cent. per annum of the value of the property assessed.

An Ordinance "to appropriate five per cent. of the Revenue of "Mauritius to the use of the Imperial Government as a Military "Contribution."

This Ordinance was passed, but not in the exact form in which it was introduced, several important items of receipt being exempted from the per-centage and the operation of the law restricted to revenue accruing after January 1896.

An Ordinance "to amend Ordinance No. 5 of 1887."

Under this Ordinance the magistrates of the Colony are given the duties and powers of revising barristers in respect of the elections to the Council of Government.

An Ordinance "to reduce to 4 per cent. the rate of interest on all moneys belonging to the Widows and Orphans Pension Fund and invested with the Government of this Colony."

"The Crown Prosecutor's Ordinance, 1895," renders permanent the posts of two Crown Prosecutors and defines their duties and powers

IMMIGRATION.

729 adult men and 226 women were imported during the year 1895 from Calcutta, and 481 adult men and 159 women from Madras, and during the same period 784 men and 219 women were returned to India.

The mortality on the sugar estates was very high, due principally to dysentery and an epidemic of measles. The total number of deaths from all causes amounted to 3,925, equal to 34·2 per 1000.

The rate per 1,000 of mortality on sugar estates for the last five years has been as follows:—

1891 - - - -	23·4 per 1,000.
1892 - - - -	29·9 „
1893 - - - -	39·1 „
1894 - - - -	25·2 „
1895 - - - -	34·2 „

It is satisfactory to observe that the relations between employers and employed are improving year by year, judging from the diminishing number of complaints lodged by the Indians in the district courts.

As a light thrown upon the permanent settlement of Indians in the Colony, the Protector of Immigrants reports that in regard to the value of property bought by Indians during the year 1894, as compared with 1893, there is an increase of Rs. 774,707, but that in 1895 there was a decrease of Rs. 865,182.

In spite of the sickly season, the condition of the Indian population in the Island during the year under review was satisfactory. Work was plentiful throughout the year, and in consequence wages were high. It is estimated that a fourth of the sugar manufactured in the Island was produced by them

POST OFFICE and TELEGRAPH.

The revenue collected in 1895 was Rs. 66,021.35, an increase of Rs. 407.06 over the amount collected in 1894.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 183,742.32, or Rs. 1,451.60 more than the disbursements in 1894.

The business of the Department shows an increase in letters, post cards, and newspapers, but a considerable decrease in the postal money orders.

The subsidy of Rs. 60,000 to the Messageries Maritimes Company continued to be paid during the year.

An annual subsidy also of 7,000*l.* is paid by the Colony to the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, Limited, towards the expense of the cable from Mauritius to Seychelles, and Seychelles to Zanzibar.

POOR LAW RELIEF.

The total number of paupers relieved and maintained by the Poor Law Department throughout the Colony during the year 1895 amounted to 82,042 against 83,575 for the previous years, showing a decrease of 1,533 in favour of the year under report.

The relief was distributed as follows :—

Indoor - - - - -	12,870
Outdoor - - - -	69,172
Total - -	82,042

The expenditure of the Department in 1895 amounted to Rs. 186,647·93 against Rs. 218,640·00 spent in the preceding year, a decrease of Rs. 32,993 in favour of 1895.

The ratio of paupers in general in 1895 as compared with the population on December 31, 1894, was 1 in 4, about the same as that of the year 1894.

AGRICULTURE.

The year 1895 opened badly. A short crop and low prices in 1894 had left a balance against the Colony, and there was little in the position of the staple industry to warrant a hope for an improvement in the market. In January and February a rainfall far below the average not only caused apprehensions of a drought such as did so much damage to the crop of 1894, but actually arrested vegetation and threw back the young canes at least a month. Plentiful rains in March, however, did much to remedy the mischief, and a favourable season, without any important meteorological disturbance, produced one of the largest crops recorded during the last few years. The destruction of the Cuban crop and a good demand for sugar for the Australian and South African Colonies tended to keep the market at a remunerative figure by reducing stocks and diverting a considerable quantity of produce from the Indian consumer, practically the only other customer for Mauritius high class sugar.

The most noticeable feature in agriculture during the year has been the great increase in production of canes by small cultivators. These are almost entirely confined to the Indian classes, generally men who have worked out their indentures and who, having saved a little money, are able to purchase their own small patches of land. It is exceedingly difficult to estimate the total quantity of land under this kind of cultivation, as no official return is yet made of the area cultivated by what may be termed peasant proprietors. Such a return might also show the amount of land under canes on estates where there are no mills, and the quantity of sugar made from the produce of such lands, and, in the present transitory condition of the arable land in Mauritius, would be an important and an interesting document.

The Indian, having acquired his small patch of property, is able to turn his industrious habits to good account, for while on the large estates the labour force is carefully protected by Government and a system of task work has gradually been accepted which brings the effective labour to a minimum compared with the nominal labour force employed, the Indian peasant proprietor works early and late, and it is no uncommon sight to see men who have finished their task on estates working on their own patches after hours, assisted by every member of their families.

During the year 1895 much land has changed hands, and the "amorcellement," or sale in small lots, of estates affords the opportunity to the Indian to acquire property. That the movement will go on at an increasing pace is inevitable, and a significant fact is that many proprietors are increasing the power of their factories in view of buying the canes produced by these small planters. Thus the central factory system is within the sphere of practical economics, and, with large areas of land coming into the market, and the increasing scarcity of labour, it is more than ever probable that the process of manufacture will eventually be entirely separated from the production of the raw material. Such a division of labour will undoubtedly be for the benefit of the Colony in giving that profit which, under the existing system, is not sufficiently certain to have the effect of attracting capital.

For the rest, there is little progress to be recorded in the methods of cultivation. The Committee of Chemists of the Chamber of Agriculture laid themselves out to conduct a series of experiments with various fertilizers under the able guidance of Monsieur P. Boname, Director of the Station Agronomique, and every opportunity was afforded at that excellent institution to planters for increasing their knowledge and comparing various methods of cultivation. But there has been little response on the part of the planting community, who are slow to adopt systems novel to themselves and their forefathers. A return of two tons to the acre, which may be regarded as a good average crop, is not as much as might be expected from the generally fertile soil and favourable climate of Mauritius.

In mechanical appliances for the manufacture of sugar there are no improvements to be recorded during the year, and although, as stated above, many factories have been increased in power in view of the large purchases of canes from petty planters, no important additions have been made to the existing machinery.

It has been demonstrated that the cost of fuel deprives the diffusion process, at the one factory where it has been tried in the Colony, of the profit obtained by the greater extraction, and that unless coal can be obtained from India or Natal at a much lower price than is charged for that now imported from Australia or England, it is not likely that the system will gain ground or be substituted for the double crushing. The fuel question will, however, soon become an important one for the sugar industry generally, the supply of wood being alarmingly short, and the systematic planting of timber being to a great extent neglected.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Director of Medical and Health Department reports that on the whole the public health of the Colony was comparatively good during 1895. The disease most prevalent was, as usual, malarial fever with its various forms and complications, and those coming next in order were dysentery and phthisis.

During the latter part of the year many cases of measles, which is not endemic in the Island, occurred in different districts, the disease assuming an epidemic character.

C. A. KING HARMAN,
Acting Governor.

July 29, 1896.

RODRIGUES.

Rodrigues.
1894.

Sir H. E. Jerningham to Mr. Chamberlain.

Government House, Mauritius,
January 6, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Report on the Rodrigues Blue Book by Mr. Colin, the Magistrate, for the year 1894.

I have, &c.
Hubert E. H. Jerningham,
Governor.

Report on the Rodrigues Blue Book for the Year 1894.

Taxation.

In 1894 the taxation on cattle was reduced to R.1 per head of cattle.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the year amounted to Rs. 8,880·23 against Rs. 5,131·06 in 1893.

The payments amounted to Rs. 29,637·58 against Rs. 22,600·7 in 1893.

Forest revenue, land rent, dog tax, pasturage fees and licenses are the principal heads of revenue (Custom duties are collected in Mauritius).

The excess of payments is to be attributed to the new buildings, roads, jetty, water reservoir, and to extra salaries.

Exports and Imports.

The exports exclusive of specie amounted to Rs. 105,729·46 against Rs. 94,972·20 in 1893. The ratio of export per head was Rs. 40·90 in 1893 and Rs. 41·92 in 1894.

The imports show a total of Rs.137,133·55 against Rs.107,002·25 in the preceding year.

The ratio of import per head was Rs. 54·21 against Rs. 45·88 in 1893.

SHIPPING.

Under this head, the year 1894 compared with 1893 shows the following differences:—

—	Inwards.	Outwards.
1893 - - -	10	11
1894 - - -	10	9

The subventioned ship (s.s. "Touareg") was wrecked in the Port Mathurin creek on the 18th December 1894.

The subsidy for postal service is always paid in Mauritius.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The population on the 31st December 1893 was composed of 2,322 souls, *i.e.*, 1,268 males and 1,054 females.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The crop of 1894 has been very poor, owing to the gale of the 23rd April last.

Tobacco plantations are increasing considerably. If the "Touareg" had not been wrecked, the exportation of tobacco would have amounted to about 20,331½ kilos.

By the wreck of the subventioned ship a loss of about Rs. 35,000 is incurred by the population.

A water reservoir has been constructed, and if pipes are sent in time the population of Port Mathurin will have pure water by the end of 1895.

A road leading to St. Gabriel has been begun, as well as a jetty to facilitate the discharging of cargo.

The Government surveyor has surveyed numerous lots of Crown lands, many of which will be sold in the course of the year 1895.

Several buildings have been repaired.

B. H. COLIN,
Magistrate of Rodrigues.

January 15, 1895.

RODRIGUES.

Rodrigues.
1895.

The Acting Governor to Mr. Chamberlain.

Government House, Mauritius,
August 29, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the report on the Rodrigues Blue Book by Mr. F. Robert, the Acting Magistrate, for the year 1895.

I have, &c.
C. A. King Harman,
Administering the Government.

Report on the Rodrigues Blue Book for the Year 1895.

Revenue.

	Rs.
The revenue of the year (exclusive of customs and sums received in Mauritius) amounted to - - - -	10,372·00
And the revenue of 1894 to - -	8,880·23
Showing an increase of - - -	1,491·77

Licenses, dog-tax, pasturage fees, land rent, forest produce, fines and land sales were the principal heads of revenue.

Expenditure.

	Rs.
The payments made in 1895, (not including sums paid in Mauritius and matters of account) amounted to - - -	23,092·00
And the expenditure of 1894 (not including sums paid in Mauritius and matters of account) to - - - -	29,637·58
Showing a decrease of - - -	6,545·58

JUDICIAL.

Criminal Side.

The most common charges were for breach of forest and fishery laws, disturbance, larceny, assault, abusive language, drunkenness, possession of stolen property, and refusing to lend assistance to quench fires.

—	1894.	1895.
No. of informations filed (including applications for search-warrants) - - - -	53	69
No. of adjudications - - - -	41	40
No. of cases abandoned - - - -	12	13
No. of persons convicted - - - -	43	37
No. of persons acquitted - - - -	9	11
No. of cases pending - - - -	1	18

Civil Side.

No. of cases entered - - - -	46	49
Applications for warrants to levy and provisional seizure warrants - - - -	—	6

Most of the plaints entered were for damages and claims for amounts due on goods sold and delivered.

Stipendiary Side.

—	1894.	1895.
No. of cases - - - - -	8	9
No. of engagements - - - -	25	6
No. of discharges - - - -	3	9

The total number of cases of all jurisdictions was 107 in 1894 and 133 in 1895. The amount of fines paid was Rs. 347·05.

The court revenue was Rs. 609·57 and the expenditure Rs. 128·53.

POST OFFICE.

The revenue collected in 1895 for postage labels sold, unpaid letters and money order commission was Rs. 248·41 against Rs. 195·16 in 1894.

RODRIGUES. 1895.

—	1894.	1895.
No. of inland letters received from Mauritius	1,190	1,304
Newspapers	785	889
Foreign letters	76	50
Total	2,051	2,243
No. of letters despatched to Mauritius	1,385	1,708
Foreign letters	39	63
Total	1,424	1,771

	Rs.
The money orders drawn on Mauritius in 1895 amounted to	26,084·82
And in 1894 to	17,205·95
Showing an increase of	8,878·87

	Rs.
The money orders drawn on Rodrigues in 1895 amounted to	4,455·16
And in 1894 to	4,350·62
Showing an increase of	104·54

CROWN LANDS AND FORESTS.

Land Rent.

	1894.	1895.
The number of acres leased to cultivators amounted to	617	666
The fishing posts numbered	42	54
The Islands were let for	Rs. 51·62	85
The town-lots leased were	11	12
The number of lessees was	316	356

The total revenue actually received under the heading of Land Rent, (including fishing-posts, town-lots, and Islands, and other leases) amounted to Rs. 1,903 against Rs. 1,525·12 in 1894.

Pasturage.

In 1895 there were 1,671 goats and 252 heads of cattle declared.

The pasturage dues received during the year amounted to Rs. 1,433·20 against Rs. 662·26 in 1894.

Forest Produce.

The revenue derived from forest produce amounted to Rs. 414·18 in 1895 against Rs. 377·26 in 1894.

LAND SALES.

In 1894, town-lot No. 31 was sold for Rs. 245.

In 1895 town-lots Nos. 30, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 42, 43, 45, 47, 70 to 77 (inclusive) 89, 97, 98, 100 and another lot opposite to No. 81 at Camp du Roi, were sold for Rs. 771·50; and numerous lots in different parts of the island have been sold for Rs. 1670·50, making a total sum of Rs. 2,422; one fourth of which has been paid cash in terms of the conditions of sale. One town-lot has been granted, free of charge, to the London Missionary Society for the erection of a chapel.

The amount received during the year under this heading was Rs. 1741·63 of which Rs. 183·75 were for balance of the land sold in 1894.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The sums paid by the subscribers during the year amounted to Rs. 476·97.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are two Roman Catholic chapels at Rodrigues; one at Port Mathurin and the other at St. Gabriel. The expenditure under this heading was Rs. 4,344·28 in 1895, against Rs. 2080·56 in 1894.

The catechist of the Church of England officiated at the Government School of Port Mathurin. He is paid by the London Missionary Society.

MEDICAL.

The number of patients maintained in the public hospital of Mount Lubin was 117 in 1894, and 63 in 1895.

In 1894, medical care was given to 2,092 persons at both dispensaries (Port Mathurin and Mount Lubin) and 2,617 in 1895.

In 1894, 11 deaths occurred at the hospital of Mount Lubin and 7 in 1895, due to Influenza.

In 1894, 130 children were vaccinated and 103 in 1895.

No hospital fee is exacted.

The total expenditure was Rs. 4,277·07 against Rs. 3,235·66 in 1894.

EDUCATION.

There are two Government schools; one at Port Mathurin and the other at St. Gabriel. The town school has been closed for about two months through the absence on leave of the schoolmaster (Mr. Dove).

RODRIGUES.
1895.

Books, &c. (sent from Mauritius) were sold to the pupils to the amount of Rs. 103·61 in 1895 against Rs. 86·32 in 1894.

The cost of both schools amounted to Rs. 2,327·37 in 1895 against Rs. 2,751 in 1894.

The annual cost to Government for each pupil inscribed in 1895 was 18·77.

With the exception of a few pupils, all are Roman Catholic. There are no Protestants in St. Gabriel school.

GAOL.

Twenty-five persons were committed to gaol in 1894 and 19 in 1895.

The Chief Officer of Police is the keeper of the gaol, and the constables act as prison guards.

WATER SUPPLY.

Under this item a sum of Rs. 483·35 has been spent specially for salary of a pipe-layer sent from Mauritius and for assistance given to him by different persons employed as masons, &c. The sum provided for water supply in the estimates having been exhausted, the works were stopped.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The Chief Officer of Police took daily observations, which have been transmitted to the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory at Mauritius.

	N. Therm. F.	New. Barom.
	°	In.
1. Highest temperature (indoors), on the 19th February 1895 at 3 p.m. - - -	89·03	30·380
2. Lowest temperature 26th August 1895 at 9 a.m. - - - - -	68·57	29·784

3. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours was from the 17th March, 9 a.m., to the 18th March, 9 a.m., viz.: 2 inches, 9 lines.

4. The month of August was the month in which there were the heaviest rainfalls, viz.: 9 inches, 68 lines.

No hurricane visited the island in 1895.

LEGISLATION.

The only law enacted for this dependency during 1895 was Regulation No. 1 of 1895, "To provide means to put a stop to "depredations in Tobacco plantations."

Rodrigues.
1895.

Poor Law.

Fifteen males and seven females were provided for in 1894 and fifteen males and eight females in 1895.

Population.

The population on the 31.12.95 was composed of 2,540 inhabitants, consisting of natives of this Island, of Mauritius, Madagascar, India, China, Europe, Seychelles, and Réunion, who are traders, agriculturists and fishermen.

The number of births was	- - -	140
„ deaths	- - -	109
„ arrivals	- - -	129
„ departures	- - -	142

The number of births is the same, but there is an increase of 68 deaths compared with 1894.

There were two still-births in 1895 and none in 1894.

Thirteen marriages were celebrated in 1895 and 15 in 1894.

There was one marriage in "articulo mortis" in 1895 and none in 1894.

Shipping.

The number of ships which arrived at and left Rodrigues during 1895 was 10.

The service between Rodrigues and Mauritius was performed in five trips by the subventioned British barque "Hattonburn."

The schooner "Earnest" made two trips for trading purposes.

H.M.S. "Bonaventure" and "Cossack" visited the island in August.

The s.s. "Bezwada" of the British India Company, chartered by Government, called here on the 25th January 1895, on her voyage from Colombo to Mauritius, to inquire about the loss of the "Touareg," and took the wrecked steamer's crew and passengers. She took also a mail to Mauritius.

Exports.

The exports (exclusive of specie) amounted to Rs. 105,729·46 in 1894 and to Rs. 169,449 in 1895. The ratio of export per head was Rs. 41·92 in 1894 and Rs. 66·71 in 1895.

Imports.

The imports amounted to Rs. 137,773·56 in 1895, against Rs. 137,138·55 in 1894.

The ratio of import per head was Rs. 54·24, against Rs. 54·21 in 1894.

General Remarks.

The crop of beans in 1895 has not been a good one, on account of too frequent and heavy showers.

The village of Port Mathurin is not yet supplied with water, the sum provided for in the Estimates of 1895 having been exhausted before the completion of the works. The want of a water supply is deeply felt by the inhabitants.

Great fires broke out in the course of November and destroyed a considerable extent of forests on Crown Lands.

An epidemic of influenza prevailed in this island in the course of the year and caused the death of many children.

Fred. Robert, Junior,
Acting Magistrate.

March 9, 1896.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 215.

MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 183.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November, 1897.

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1897.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
185	Lagos	1895
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	"
194	Zululand	"
195	Gambia	"
196	Malta	"
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"
200	Leeward Islands...	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	"
203	Fiji (Trade)	"
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	"
207	British Honduras	"
208	Sierra Leone	"
209	Grenada	"
210	Hong Kong	"
211	St. Lucia	"
212	St. Vincent	"
213	St. Helena	"
214	Seychelles	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 215.

MAURITIUS.

Mauritius. 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 183 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR CHARLES BRUCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Mauritius,
20th August, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of the Mauritius Blue Book for the year 1896, together with copies of the usual report thereon.

I have, &c.,
CHAS. BRUCE,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK, 1896.

TAXATION.

Taxation remained unchanged until the close of the year, when an Ordinance was passed to restore to its former rate of one rupee and thirty-two cents the excise duty per litre on Rum issued from the Central Rum Warehouse for home consumption.

In the previous year the duty had been reduced to one rupee and twenty cents, believing that the consumer would benefit thereby, but it was found that by the establishment of an "Accord," the object in view was defeated, and the seller, and not the consumer, reaped the benefit of the reduction, so that the higher rate of duty was restored.

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The Ordinance also provides for an increase from one rupee twenty cents to one rupee thirty-two cents a gallon on imported spirit of any strength not exceeding proof, according to Sykes's hydrometer, and a proportional duty for any greater strength.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue of the Colony for the year 1896 amounted to Rs. 8,849,181, an increase of Rs. 575,559 on the Revenue of the previous year.

The following comparative table shows the actual Revenue derived from principal sources for the past two years, and the average Revenue for the five years 1890 to 1894 :—

—	1895.	1896.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Customs	2,829,516	3,069,745	2,699,156
Port, Harbour, Wharf, and Lighthouse Dues.	186,074	203,537	170,873
Licenses, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	2,240,184	2,411,477	2,521,534
Fees of Court of Office, Payments for Specific Services and Re-imbursements in Aid.	251,622	245,510	299,880
Post Office and Telegraphs ...	90,037	102,580	74,726
Government Railways	1,752,408	1,784,011	1,608,077
Rents of Government Property	58,319	68,872	54,948
Interest	544,998	538,930	325,473
Miscellaneous Receipts	318,864	422,899	135,698
Land Sales	1,600	1,620	6,008
Total	8,273,622	8,849,181	7,896,361

Of the increase of Rs. 240,229 on the Customs Revenue of the previous year, Rs. 120,542 is attributable to Import Duties, whilst Rs. 119,687 is derived from Export Duties. The total Customs receipts for the year being Rs. 2,562,276 for Import, and Rs. 507,469 for Export Duties.

Sugar, the produce of the Colony, pays an Export Duty of 30 cents.—equivalent at the present time to about 4*d*.—on every 100 kilos. exported ; an additional 2 cents is charged on every 100 kilos. of other sugars exported.

The increase of Rs. 12,000 in the Post and Telegraph receipts over those of the previous year is accounted for by an additional Rs. 10,000 on postage, mainly attributable to the increased rate of postage from the 1st September 1896 on foreign correspondence.

The postage rate was raised from that date from 15 cents to 18 cents the half-ounce, the equivalent of 2½*d*. with the exchange on the rupee at 80 per cent. premium.

The remaining sum of Rs. 2,000 is due to increased telegraphic business.

The large increase under Miscellaneous Receipts during the years 1895 and 1896 over the average receipts for the previous five years is due to the sum of Rs. 216,354, surplus investments of the Commissioners of Currency, having been carried to Revenue during the year 1895 ; whilst in 1896 a sum of Rs. 351,024 was brought to account in like manner. This latter sum was derived from the surplus balances of the sinking fund provided for the redemption of the 6 per cent. debentures under Ordinance No. 15 of 1864, which were paid off during the year.

The Expenditure of the Colony amounted to Rs. 8,544,736, an increase of Rs. 56,000 on the previous year, but Rs. 304,445 within the Revenue of the year.

Without the windfall of Rs. 351,024 just referred to, and brought to account under the head of Miscellaneous Receipts, the expenditure of the year exceeded the actual Revenue by Rs. 46,579.

The principal items of expenditure may be seen on reference to the following table, which shows the expenditure for the past two years, as well as the average expenditure for the period from the year 1890 to 1894 inclusive :—

—	1895.	1896.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Charge on account of Public Debt.	628,998	590,947	907,395
Pensions	343,004	362,773	398,696
Establishments	1,052,748	1,043,386	1 976,201
Post and Telegraphs	183,742	205,725	222,898
Judicial Departments	528,439	518,156	523,397
Ecclesiastical	136,954	139,305	140,171
Education	464,272	474,678	463,456
Medical, General Board of Health and Quarantine.	676,116	737,141	843,651
Poor Law	173,380	168,455	182,243
Police	538,641	548,999	478,864
Gaols	173,402	169.900	183,243
Immigration	130,773	122,982	144,345
Miscellaneous, Charitable Allowances, Interest, and Exchange.	451,913	417,147	638,696
Military Expenditure	291,056	388,623	262,483
Railways	1,061,002	1,069,407	1,051 543
Surveyor - General's Department and Public Works.	403,848	524,143	391,029
Loan Board Office and Mare-aux-Vacoas.	15,840	63,453	—
Exchange	1,234,608	1,006,516	—
Total	8 488,736	8,544,736	8,076,239

The Loan Board Office, attached to the office of the Colonial Secretary, was created in 1895 to administer the £400,000, being the portion of the loan of £600,000 guaranteed by the Imperial

Government, set aside to assist planters and householders in respect of damage done to their property by the hurricane of 1892.

The Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works Staff was established for the first time and shown separately on the Estimates for 1896. Previously the staff and maintenance of the works had been charged to works in course of construction, and paid out of Loan Funds.

The item "Exchange" appearing for the first time in 1895 as a separate item of expenditure, is due to the circumstance that prior to that year the exchange was charged to the several items of the Estimates bearing the original cost of service; but under the present system, the *exchange* on all payments made in England, or in a country with a gold currency is brought to account under one head.

From the above table of Expenditure it will be seen that "Exchange" alone accounts for an eighth of the total expenditure of the Colony.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The year 1895 closed with an excess of Expenditure over Revenue to the sum of Rs. 215,114, which was met out of moneys in the Treasury and reduced those moneys to Rs. 1,254,403.

By excess of Revenue over Expenditure during the year 1896, the Treasury funds were increased again to the sum of Rs. 1,487,557, on the 1st January 1897.

Of this sum, Rs. 658,137 were immediately available in cash, the remaining amount representing the following liabilities :—

	Rs.
Miscellaneous Deposits	322,005·16
Family Remittances	18,607·81
Notaries' Deposits	45,971·08
Widows' and Orphans' Fund ...	347,178·07
Treasury Bills	1,420·97
Money Orders...	18,151·06
Hurricane Loan Funds	30,825·42
	Rs.784,159·57

Of the Rs. 347,178 belonging to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, the sum of £14,300 (Rs. 230,945 at 61·50 per cent.) is invested in Colonial Securities.

The paper money in circulation in Mauritius, consisting of five rupee notes, ten rupee and fifty rupee notes, is alone in the hands of the Government, under the management of Commissioners of Currency.

On the 31st December 1896, the Assets and Liabilities of the Commissioners stood as follows :—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	Rs.		Rs.
Notes in circulation	3,374,250	Specie in vault ...	1,830,000
Do. vault ...	998,865	Notes do. ...	998,865
	4,373,115	Investments in England, Rupees at par.	1,091,514·79
In favour of Comsioners.	218,546·38	Exchange at 61·50 on same.	671,281·59
Total ... Rs.	4,591,661·38	Total ... Rs.	4,591,661·38

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 31st December 1896, amounted to £1,239,301, a decrease of £37,234 on the previous year. On reference to the following table the original amount of the several loans, the year in which they were raised, and the outstanding debt on each loan on the 31st December, may be seen.

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURE DEBT ON 31ST DECEMBER 1896.

Object and Year.	Original Loan.	Amount converted.	Balance after conversion.	Redeemed by Annual Drawings.	Present Debt.	Rate of Interest per Annum.	In Bank to meet Annual Drawings.	Sinking Fund invested in England.
	£ s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	Per cent.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. For the construction of the Savanne Line of Mauritius Railways—1876.	100,000 0 0	33,300	66,700	16,200	50,500 0 0	4½	617 18 5	—
2. For the redemption of 4 per cent. Debentures under Ordinance 10 of 1879.—1879.	314,600 0 0	217,900	96,700	29,800	66,900 0 0	4	724 16 3	—
3. To repay to General Revenues the funds spent for construction of Moka Railway Line. Ordinances 1 and 2 of 1887.—1887.	102,900 0 0	100,000	2,900	400	2,500 0 0	4	59 8 5	—
4. For erecting hospitals and infirmaries—1873.	10,000 0 0	—	—	8,500	1,500 0 0	5	—	—
5. Res: loans raised in England, and to provide for Mauritius Inscribed Stock, Ordinance 1 of 1887.—1888.	480,749 13 0	—	—	—	480,749 13 0	4	—	50,954 0 2
6. To meet the wants created by the hurricane of 1892, &c.—1893.	600,000 0 0	—	—	—	600,000 0 0	3	—	22,875 9 2
7. To provide for the acquisition of certain land in the area destroyed by fire on 23rd July 1893. Treasury Bills at 61·50 exchange.—1895.	37,151 14 0	—	—	—	37,151 14 0	4	19 19 3	—
Totals ... ... £	1,645,401 7 0	351,200	—	46,400	1,239,301 7 0	—	1,422 2 4	73,829 9 4

The reduction of the Public Debt by £37,234 is arrived at as follows :—

	£
Redemption of Mauritius Railway 6 per cent. Debentures under Ordinance No. 15 of 1864	36,900
Annual Drawings :—	
Savanne Railway $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Debenture	1,200
Moka " 4 " "	100
Consolidated 4 " "	1,400
Poor Law Comm. 5 " "	500
	£40,100
From which deduct on account of increase under Treasury Bills	2,866
Leaving	£37,234

as the net reduction of the Public Debt.

MUNICIPAL AND OTHER LOCAL BODIES.

The financial position of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis, the only Port of Entry, and principal town of the Island, may be gathered from the following statement :—

—	1895.	1896.
	Rs.	Rs.
Balance on hand on 1st January ...	22,728·92	4,761·87
Revenue and Receipts on account ...	474,261·56	592,239·82
	496,990·48	597,001·69
Expenditure and Payments on account.	492,228·61	587,490·93
Balance on hand on 31st December...	4,761·87	9,510·76

Debenture Debt at end of year :—

—	1895.	1896.
	£	£
Conversion Loan	134,400	133,400
	Rs.	Rs.
Colonial Loan, 1889	109,200	106,470
Hurricane Government Loan... ...	138,756	140,093
Colonial Loan, 1894	21,395	14,905
Total ... ... Rs.	269,351	261,468

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The strength of the garrison on the 31st December 1896, was 959 men, made up of—Staff Officers 8, Royal Artillery 365, Royal Engineers 69, 2nd Battalion York and Lancashire Regiment 496, Army Service 2, Ordnance Store 17, and Medical Staff Corps 10.

The total Military Expenditure was £63,906, of which the Colony contributed £20,250, compared with £53,859 and £14,906 respectively in 1895.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The Imports for the year, including charges and exchange, and also including Rs. 2,520,876 in specie and bullion, amounted to Rs. 32,194,409, an increase of Rs. 1,687,839 on the Imports of 1895.

The Imports for the years 1895 and 1896, valued with charges and exchange, were received from—

—	1895.	1896.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom...	5,854,226·26	7,412,771·36
British Possessions	17,725,453·14	18,055,073·65
Foreign Countries	6,926,891·56	6,726,564·59
Total ... Rs.	30,506,570·96	32,194,409·60

The following shows the classification of the total Imports for the past two years, exclusive of charges and exchange :—

—	1895.	1896.
	Rs.	Rs.
Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	13,643,669·03	12,824,595·24
Raw Materials :—		
1. Textile	1,474	8,127
2. Metal	4,074·20	2,070
3. Other	388,794·92	422,403·67
Manufactured Articles :—		
1. Textile	2,030,215·38	2,230,177·71
2. Metal	615,604·08	805,099·95
3. Other	3,441,570·42	3,671,962·47
	20,125,402·03	19,964,436·04
Coin, Bullion and Specie of all kinds.	662,250·30	2,537,026
Total ... Rs.	20,787,652·33	22,501,462·04

The average value of the Imports for the five years 1890 to 1894, less charges and exchange, is Rs. 19,980,956.

The Imports for 1895 and 1896, compared with those of the previous five years, were drawn from the following countries, the values being shown exclusive of charges and exchange :—

—	1895.	1896.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	2,802,316	3,855,229	3,984,474
British Possessions :—			
Australasia	643,174	578,324	965,231
Continental India	13,024,783	13,749,974	10,455,449
Seychelles	241,783	190,295	234,423
Singapore	260,591	177,635	216,805
Miscellaneous	299,383	241,409	599,938
	14,469,714	14,937,637	12,471,846
Total carried forward ...	17,272,030	18,792,866	16,456,320

MAURITIUS.
1896.

—	1895.	1896.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.
Total brought forward ...	Rs. 17,272,030	Rs. 18,792,866	Rs. 16,456,320
Foreign Countries :—			
France	1,801,890	2,154,651	2,047,826
Germany	67,056	108,810	126,801
Madagascar	159,035	214.111	401,129
Reunion	143,542	117,204	147,882
China	178,903	243,446	34,522
Pondicherry	182,854	193,477	244.498
United States	388,436	318,191	181,585
Miscellaneous	593,906	358,706	340,387
	3,515,622	3,708,596	3,524,632
Grand total ... Rs.	20,787,652	22,501,462	19,980,952

EXPORTS.

The value of the total Exports of the Colony during 1896, exceeded the Exports of the previous year by over Rs. 2,420,000, whilst the value of the export of produce and manufacture of the Colony alone, exceeded the like export of the previous year by Rs. 4,310,000, as may be seen on reference to the following table :—

—	1895.	1896.
Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Rs. 24,751,037	Rs. 29,061,141
Shipping charges on same ...	1,732,987	2,055,839
British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	2,496,598	2,408,874
Specie and Bullion	2,548,679	423,760
Total ... Rs.	31,529,301	33,949,614

The following table shows the total Exports, produce and manufacture of the Colony for last year, compared with 1895 and the average for the five years 1890-94. From this table it will be seen that products of sugar-cane represent 98·10 per cent. of the Exports :—

—	1895.	Per-centage of Exports.	1896.	Per-centage of Exports.	Average for the Five Years 1890-1894.	Per-centage of Exports.
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
Sugar	23,515,058	95·00	28,165,731	96·92	21,525,842	95·25
Rum	290,394	1·18	250,821	0·86	311,332	1·38
Molasses	73,564	0·30	91,914	0·32	136,415	0·60
	23,879,016	96·48	28,508,466	98·10	21,973,589	97·23
Vanilla	217,944	0·88	120,625	0·43	156,090	0·69
Aloe fibre ...	406,736	1·64	253,326	0·87	364,360	1·61
Cocoanut oil ...	83,251	0·34	25,937	0·08	18,939	0·08
Hides	35,818	0·14	25,538	0·08	13,281	0·06
Soap	62,376	0·25	29,779	0·10	8,175	0·04
Miscellaneous ...	65,896	0·27	97,470	0·34	64,458	0·29
Total ... Rs.	24,751,037	—	29,061,141	—	22,598,892	—

The following table shows the quantity of sugar, rum and molasses, produce of the Colony, exported during 1895 and 1896 and the average for the five years 1890-94 :—

Year.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.
	Tons.	Litres.	Kilos.
1895	116,454	3,024,583	9,808,490
1896	153,575	2,251,346	8,553,050
Average 1890 to 1894	114,035	3,113,686	5,395,269

MAURITIUS.
1896.

To trace the Exports, the produce and manufacture of the Colony, to the several markets, the following table will serve as a guide :—

—	1895.	1896.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	1,110,454	270,740	2,694,288
British Possessions :—			
Australasia	2,986,844	3,414,135	3,669,040
Cape Colonies	3,873,867	4,965,493	2,303,592
Ceylon	3,985,504	5,069,212	1,317,836
Continental India	10,377,898	11,373,961	10,814,880
Hong Kong	302,478	341,885	169,228
Natal	—	—	33,511
New Zealand	—	671,210	89,353
St. Helena	—	—	70,421
Miscellaneous	230,112	160,659	167,436
	21,756,703	25,996,555	18,635,297
Foreign Countries :—			
France	325,748	252,689	361,632
Portugal...	—	—	139,884
Delagoa Bay	—	275,648	—
Madagascar	401,882	332,967	309,765
Zanzibar...	—	—	25,830
United States	990,058	1,784,419	367,258
Miscellaneous	166,192	148,123	64,938
	1,883,880	2,793,846	1,269,307
Grand total ... Rs.	24,751,037	29,061,141	22,598,892

We have these results before us that whilst the Imports from the United Kingdom during 1896 were over Rs. 1,000,000 in excess of those of 1895, and show but little falling off compared with the average for the five years 1890-94, the Exports from Mauritius to the United Kingdom have decreased in value from Rs. 2,690,000, the average for the five years 1890-94, to Rs. 1,110,454 in 1895 and to the still lower figure of Rs. 270,000 during last year.

Continental India is the single market from which the bulk of our supplies is received, and to which a very large percentage of the produce of the Colony is shipped.

For convenient reference, the following table shows side by side the value of Imports from the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries, and Exports, produce and manufacture of the Colony, thereto for 1895, last year, and the average for the five years 1890-94.

—	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	1895.	1896.	Average for the five years 1890–1894.	1895.	1896.	Average for the five years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	2,802,317	3,855,229	3,984,474	1,110,154	270,740	2,694,288
British Possessions :—						
Continental India	13,024,784	13,749,974	10,455,450	10,377,898	11,373,961	10,814,880
Miscellaneous	1,444,930	1,187,663	2,016,396	11,378,805	14,622,594	7,820,417
Foreign Countries	3,515,621	3,708,596	3,524,632	1,883,880	2,793,846	1,269,307
Total ... Rs.	20,787,652	22,501,462	19,980,952	24,751,037	29,061,141	22,598,892

SHIPPING.

As a result of the increase in Exports during 1896, the total shipping tonnage rose from 687,014 tons in 1895 to 782,827 during the past year, as compared with 633,751 the average tonnage for the previous five years.

The following table shows the number and tonnage of vessels, both steam and sailing, entered and cleared during the above periods. It will be seen from this table that the number of steamships is gradually on the increase, whilst that of the sailing vessels is on the decrease :—

—		1895.		1896.		Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.	
ENTERED.							
Ships ...	Steam	144	344	172	391	148	387
	Sailing	200		219		239	
Tonnage ...	Steam	240,560		282,990		210,534	
	Sailing	105,946	346,506	111,381	394,371	105,785	316,319
CLEARED.							
Ships ...	Steam	144	338	172	387	148	389
	Sailing	194		215		241	
Tonnage ...	Steam	238,039		281,127		210,438	
	Sailing	102,469	340,508	107,329	388,456	106,994	317,432
Total Shipping Tonnage.			687,014		782,827		633,751

The shipping, according to nationality, was—

—	1895.		1896.		Average for the five years 1890–1894.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British	465	495,457	492	544,252	541	444,913
American ...	—	—	6	6,018	5	3,887
Belgian	—	—	2	3,972	1	999
Danish	2	1,294	13	5,005	2	792
French	158	160,220	160	163,182	146	144,240
German	25	9,903	60	27,762	41	18,957
Italian	4	3,212	4	3,910	2	1,547
Norwegian ...	28	16,928	36	26,001	22	11,238
Swedish	—	—	5	2,725	6	2,740
Miscellaneous ...	—	—	—	—	10	4,438
Total ...	682	687,014	778	782,827	776	633,751

VITAL STATISTICS.

With an area of no more than 705 square miles, the population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1896, was estimated at 375,955 (206,841 males and 169,114 females), a small increase of 5,367 on the population of the Island arrived at by the Census of 1891.

The general population numbered 60,120 males and 56,077 females—together 116,197; whilst the resident Indian population was 146,721 males, and 113,037 females—together 259,758.

The registered births numbered 11,518 during the year; general population 3,598—Indian 7,920—the rate on the total population being 30·5 per thousand, a decrease of 6·6 per thousand on the rate of the previous year.

The registered deaths numbered 15,843 during the year; 4,980 general population—10,863 Indian—giving the excessively high rate of 41·90 per thousand compared with 29·0 per thousand in 1894. The death rate last year is the highest since the great fever epidemic of 1868; its cause may be attributed to deaths from Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Fever alone accounting for 8,181, and Influenza.

The causes of death, as recorded, may be seen on reference to the following table:—

Causes.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
Zymotic diseases	11,091	29·33
Parasitic	16	·04
Dietetic	15	·04
Constitutional	563	1·49
Developmental	191	·50
Local	2,638	6·98
Violent and accidental	125	·33
Ill-defined and unspecified ...	1,204	3·19
Total	15,843	41·90

MAURITIUS.
1896.

The average death rate of the Colony for the years 1871 to 1890 was 30·2.

The most unhealthy months of the year 1896 were March, April and May, when the deaths were over 100 per cent. more than during the three months September, October, and November.

SAVINGS BANK.

The savings deposited in the Government Savings Bank at 3½ per cent. interest amounted to Rs. 3,004,495 on the 31st December 1896, compared with Rs. 3,174,043 on the 31st December of the previous year. Although the sum total of deposits was Rs. 170,000 less than that of the previous year, there were exactly 600 more depositors, making 23,927 in all.

Of the number of depositors 10,527 were of the Indian population, with a sum of Rs. 1,439,224 standing to their credit,—the remaining depositors, of the general population.

Investments on account of the Bank in 2¾ Consols and Colonial and Indian inscribed Stock amounted on the 31st December 1896 to—

	Rs.
In Rupees at par (£242,594 18*s*. 4*d*.) ...	2,425,949
Exchange at 61·50 on same...	1,491,958
	3,917,907
To which add cash in hand	22,234
The total assets of the Bank amounting to Rs.	3,940,141

	Rs.
To the liabilities of the bank, in addition to the sum standing to the credit of depositors ...	3,004,495
must be added ready money advances made by the Colony	339,607
	Rs. 3,344,102

leaving a balance in favour of the Bank of Rs. 596,039 on the 31st December 1896.

EDUCATION.

There were 181 primary schools in operation during the year—82 Government Schools and 99 State-aided Schools. The average number of pupils on roll was, in the Government Schools, 9,336, and in the State-aided Schools 8,871, together 18,207 pupils, a decrease of 72 on the previous year. The cost to Government of each pupil on the roll was, in the Government Schools, Rs. 16·35 and in the Aided Schools, Rs. 11·61; the total cost of primary education amounting to Rs. 305,450 for the year.

The Royal College, at a cost of Rs. 204,739 for last year, provides for the secondary education of the Colony. To the Royal College are attached the two preparatory schools at Curepipe and Port Louis.

The average number of pupils attending the Royal College during 1896 was 209, whilst there were 220 on the books of the schools.

RAILWAYS, ROADS.

The Railway system of the Island—a single line 4 feet 8½ inches gauge, 105 miles, and constructed at a total cost of £828,656—is the property of the Government.

During the year the receipts were—Passenger Traffic Rs. 1,018,361, Sugar Rs. 352,239, Goods Rs. 317,133, and Miscellaneous receipts Rs. 36,278, making the total receipts Rs. 1,784,011; whilst the expenditure on account of working expenses amounted to Rs. 1,165,454, leaving a balance of Rs. 618,557 to meet expenditure on account of interest and sinking fund of the Railway Debenture Debt.

On the 1st January 1896 this Debenture Debt stood at £694,616, which was reduced to £657,716 by payment of the outstanding 6 per cent. Railway debentures under Ordinance No. 15 of 1864.

But on the 1st January 1897 the Railway Debenture Debt had been increased to £667,656 by further expenditure on account of the Moka line extension, and represented the total Railway Debenture Debt at that date.

The charge on account of interest and sinking fund during the year amounted to Rs. 565,224, leaving a surplus of Rs. 53,333 in favour of the Railway, which has been included in the general Revenue of the Colony for the past year.

The 370 miles of Main Roads in the Island were maintained by Government at a cost of Rs. 244,300. No new roads were constructed during the year.

METEOROLOGY.

During the past year the Island was visited by a cyclone in February, lasting three days, more remarkable, however, by the heavy rains which accompanied it than by the force of its winds.

On the 20th, when the wind rose to its greatest velocity of 51·3 miles an hour, rain fell to the extent of 17·34 inches in the 24 hours, causing damage to property, cultivation, roads and bridges.

The mean hourly velocity of the wind throughout the year was 11 miles, the average for the last twenty-one years.

At the Royal Alfred Observatory, which is about three miles from the West Coast of the Island, and stands on a plain 179 feet above sea-level, the recorded rainfall for the year was 68·17 inches, 18·58 inches above the average for the past twenty-one years. After the floods in February heavy rains fell again in May, followed by severe drought from September to December, when no more than 3·75 inches of rain fell, 6·18 inches less than the average during those months for the previous twenty years.

GENERAL.

The urgent representations from time to time made to the Secretary of State by the several sugar-growing Colonies in the British West Indies, as to their extremely critical condition owing to unremunerative prices caused by over-production of beet sugar, which led to the appointment last year of the West India Royal Commission to enquire into the cause of the depression in the cane-sugar industry, were not without similar representations from this Colony. The Report of the Royal Commission and the action Her Majesty's Government may take to ameliorate their lot are as anxiously awaited by this Colony as by any Colony of Her Majesty in the West.

The cause for that anxiety as far as this Colony is concerned is not far to seek. With a population of over 530 to the square mile—a veritable hive—dependent entirely on the agricultural resources of the Colony, with over 98 per cent. of those resources the produce of sugar-cane, and with no alternative industry in view, or, may be, possible, Mauritius may truly be said to be a garden of sugar; the market return for its sole product, the slender thread on which hang the life and future of the Colony.

Up to the present time it does not appear that it can be said that as a sugar-producing Colony, Mauritius has suffered to the extreme extent from the bounty fed sugars of some of the foreign countries, or that she has been brought to the brink of ruin from this or other causes, as have her sister sugar-producing Colonies in the West. The Colony has, without doubt, severely felt the depression in the sugar market, and although the Colony is not by any means out of the wood, yet it has so far enjoyed the advantage not only of the near and ready market of India, but also the somewhat hidden palliative in the low exchange on its silver currency. Agricultural labour being remunerated in rupee, depreciation of silver currency is not to the great disadvantage of the employer as might at first sight appear.

But last year the planter of the Colony was less fortunate than in previous years ; not only did he suffer by the further reduction in the price of sugar, but he had also to face the drop in the exchange on the rupee. On account of the rise in the value of the rupee in the course of the year, larger shipments of beet sugar were tempted to the Indian market, and at times so overstocked was that market, and so low the prices, that the trade of Mauritius with India became paralysed. Fortunately, however, the value of the rupee dropped again, the exchange rose and trade revived.

The activity of the Colony, threatened during the past year by the several adversities referred to, may, it is not out of place to remark, be considered as having been contributed to by the immigrant from the all but parent continent of India, who gradually, and year by year in number increasing, becomes possessed of lands parcelled out into lots, which the small proprietor is himself able to cultivate.

It is not an uncommon thing to find the labourer, after earning his wage on the sugar estate during the day, returning in the afternoon to his hut to turn to, in the cool of the evening, on the patch of land of which he has, by his own industry, become possessed and which he has under cultivation.

But a few years ago the whole of the sugar industry in Mauritius was owned and carried on by the large sugar estates of the Island ; estimates of to-day unfold figures showing that of the total crop of the Island for last year—outnumbering 152,000 tons of sugar—three-fourths belong to the estates of old, one-fourth the property of the small proprietor.

By some these figures are considered as underestimated. That of last year's crop—100,000 tons—represented the produce of the large sugar estates, whilst the small proprietors sent 50,000 tons to the mill. But no reliable information can be obtained on the subject, and it is sufficient to show the stake the small proprietor has acquired in the Island to be content by accepting the lower, and perhaps more accurate, estimate of one-fourth of last year's crop as his.

In a measure, therefore, may the unprecedented crop of 1896 be attributed not only to the more fruitful yield of the soil, but also to the result of acquisition of sugar lands by the Indian, who is ever thrifty, and who it cannot be said is blind to his own interest.

To trace this transitional state of the Colony, it can be foreseen that central factories are rapidly becoming necessities at no remote date, and that, whilst it is not improbable the greater portion of the cultivation of the Island may, in the near future, be transferred to the small proprietor, the manufacture of his crop will be at the central mill. So far has this already been realized that last year one of the larger sugar estates of the Island, an estate of 1,500 acres, finding it no longer sufficiently profitable to hold out against low prices, offered its lands for sale in small patches to suit the small man, retaining but a few acres and the factory for the manufacture of sugar cultivated in its neighbourhood. The lands have been readily taken up, and the estate, about to start its mill under the changed condition, commences a new era in the Colony's history.

Of other industries there is but little to record. Aloe-fibre, but a few years ago considered an industry of much promise, to-day has, by unremunerative prices, become reduced to a low ebb, so low that less than 1 per cent. of the Exports represents its position in the Colony's struggle.

The climate and soil of the Island are all that can be desired for the cultivation of vanilla. Turning to statistics of fifteen years ago, it will be seen that the average annual export of this product during the five years 1880 to 1884 was 39,900 lbs., valued at Rs. 366,500. But with an export of no more than 7,690 lbs., valued at Rs. 120,625 during last year, one is led to the conclusion that, notwithstanding its increased value, the cultivation of vanilla now only represents the investment of a few rather than a labour to be seriously classed amongst the industries of the Colony.

DOUGLAS YOUNG,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Mauritius, 13th August, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 223.

RODRIGUES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 183.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
194	Zululand	1896
195	Gambia	"
196	Malta	"
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	"
203	Fiji (Trade)	"
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	"
207	British Honduras	"
208	Sierra Leone	"
209	Grenada	"
210	Hong Kong	"
211	St. Lucia	"
212	St. Vincent	"
213	St. Helena	"
214	Seychelles	"
215	Mauritius	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	"
219	Lagos	"
220	Gold Coast	"
221	Labuan	"
222	British Guiana	1896–97

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 223.

RODRIGUES.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 183 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR CHARLES BRUCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Mauritius,
14th October 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Rodrigues Blue Book by Mr. Colin, the Magistrate, for the year 1896.

I have &c.,

CHARLES BRUCE, *Governor.*

REPORT ON THE RODRIGUES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1896.

REVENUE.

The Revenue of the year (exclusive of Customs and sums received in Mauritius) amounted to Rs. 8,309·64, and the Revenue of 1895 to Rs. 10,372·00, showing a decrease of Rs. 2,062·36.

Licenses, Dog Tax, Pasturage Fees, Land Rent, Forest Produce, Fines, and Land Sales were the principal heads of revenue.

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EXPENDITURE.

The payments made in 1896 (not including sums paid in Mauritius and matters of account) amounted to Rs. 24,469·63, and the expenditure of 1895 (not including sums paid in Mauritius and matters of account) to Rs. 23,092·00, showing an increase of Rs. 1,377·63.

The ratio of the revenue to the population of 1896 was Rs. 3·15 and a fraction per head. The ratio of the expenditure was Rs. 9·32 and a fraction per head.

JUDICIAL.

Criminal Side.

The most common charges were for breach of forest and fishing laws, larceny, assault, abusive language, and possession of stolen property.

—	1895.	1896.
Number of informations filed (including applications for search warrants).	69	65
Number of adjudications	40	37
" " cases abandoned	13	11
" " persons convicted	37	46
" " persons acquitted	11	15
" " cases pending	18	2

Civil Side.

—	1895.	1896
Number of cases entered	49	99
Applications for warrants to levy, and provisional seizure warrants.	6	7

Most of the plaints entered were for damages and claims for amounts due on goods sold and delivered.

Stipendiary Side.

—	1895.	1896.
Number of cases	9	9
„ „ engagements	6	8
„ „ discharges	9	4

The total number of all cases of all jurisdictions was 133 in 1895, and 173 in 1896. The amount of fines paid was Rs. 550·91.

The Court revenue was Rs. 959·38 and the expenditure Rs. 262·78.

The Chief Officer of Police is the usher of the Court.

POST OFFICE.

The revenue collected for postage labels sold, unpaid letters, and money order commission was Rs. 248·41 in 1895, and Rs. 323·18 in 1896.

The letters received were 2,265 in 1896, and 1,354 in 1895. Newspapers 750 in 1896, and 889 in 1895.

The money orders drawn on Mauritius amounted to Rs.26,084·82 in 1895, and to Rs. 29,894·40 in 1896.

Orders drawn on Rodrigues amounted to Rs. 5,017·77 in 1896, against Rs. 4,455·16 in 1895.

CROWN LANDS AND FORESTS.

Land Rent.

—	1895.	1896.
The number of acres leased at Rs. 2 to cultivators amounted to—	666	630
The fishing posts numbered	51	65
„ islands were let for ... ... Rs.	85	40·25
„ towns lots leased were	12	14
„ number of lessees was	356	408

The total revenue actually received under the heading of Land Rent (including fishing posts, town lots, and islands and other leases) amounted to Rs. 2,135·50, against Rs. 1,903 in 1895.

Pasturage.

In 1896, there were 1,942 goats and 160 head of cattle declared. The Pasturage Fees received during the year amounted to Rs.319·55, against Rs. 1,433·20 in 1895.

Forest Produce.

The revenue derived from forest produce amounted to Rs. 260·14 in 1896, against Rs. 414·18 in 1895.

LAND SALES.

The amount received during the year under this heading was Rs. 490·50.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The sums paid by the subscribers during the year amounted to Rs. 355·38.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are two Roman Catholic chapels at Rodrigues: one at Port Mathurin, and the other at St. Gabriel. The expenditure under this heading was Rs. 4,344·28 in 1895, against Rs.1,999·92 in 1896. The Catechist of the Church of England officiates at the Government School of Port Mathurin.

MEDICAL.

The number of patients maintained in the public hospital of Mount Lubin was 63 in 1895, and 93 in 1896.

In 1895 medical care was given to 2,617 persons at both dispensaries (Port Mathurin and Mount Lubin), and 2,484 in 1896.

In 1895 seven deaths occurred at the hospital of Mount Lubin, and nine in 1896.

The prevailing diseases were dysentery, worms, and rheumatism, bronchitis, influenza, abscesses, &c.

RODRIGUES.
1896.

In 1895 103 children were vaccinated, and 175 in 1896.

No hospital fee is exacted.

The total expenditure was Rs. 3,701·74 in 1896, against Rs. 4,277·07 in 1895.

The rice given to the hospital servant to complete his rations is sent from Mauritius.

EDUCATION.

In 1896 there were two schools in operation at Rodrigues. The expenses thereof are paid by Government.

Books &c. (sent from Mauritius) were sold to the pupils to the amount of Rs. 80·38 in 1896, against Rs. 103·61 in 1895.

The cost of both schools amounted to Rs. 2,500·81 in 1896, against Rs. 2,327·37 in 1895. The annual cost to Government for each pupil inscribed in 1896 was Rs. 18·12.

With the exception of a few pupils, all are Roman Catholic. There are no Protestants in St. Gabriel's School.

GAOL.

Thirty-eight persons were committed to gaol in 1896, and 19 in 1895.

The Chief Police Officer is the keeper of the gaol, and the constables act as prison guard.

WATER SUPPLY.

Under this heading a sum of Rs. 681·25 has been spent specially for salary of a pipe-layer sent from Mauritius, and for assistance given to him by different persons employed as masons, &c.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The Chief Officer of Police took daily observations, which have been transmitted to the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory at Mauritius.

					n. Th.
Highest temperature (indoors)		15th March,	1896,	3 p.m.,	89. 08
Lowest	” ”	17th July,	1896,	9 a.m.,	67. 07
					n. Bar.
Highest barometer	”	27th Aug.,	1896,	9 a.m.,	30. 448
Lowest	” ”	25th Jan.,	1896,	11 a.m..	28, 574

Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours from 9 a.m. 9th to 9 a.m. 10th May 1896, 4 inches, 9 lines.

The month of January was the month in which there were the heaviest rainfalls—the rain gauge marked 18 inches, 88½ lines. A most violent hurricane visited the island in January 1896.

LEGISLATION.

Regulation No. 1 of 1896.—To make provision for the sale and lease of Crown lands and the lease of Pas Géométriques at Rodrigues.

2. Amended Regulation.—Money order business between Rodrigues and Mauritius.

3. Regulation No. 2 of 1896.—To prohibit the cultivation of gandia in Rodrigues.

4. Ordinance No. 4 of 1896.—To legalize certain acts of the Civil Status drawn up in Rodrigues, and to authorize the Chief Officer of Police to act as Civil Status Officer in certain cases.

5. Regulation No. 3 of 1896.—To provide for the maintenance of order and regularity amongst shipping at Rodrigues.

These were the only laws enacted during the year 1896.

POOR LAW.

15 males and 8 females were provided for in 1895, and 16 males and 8 females in 1896.

POPULATION.

The population on the 31st December 1896, was composed of 2,635 inhabitants, consisting of natives of this island, of Mauritius, Madagascar, India, China, Europe, Seychelles, and Réunion, who are traders, agriculturists, and fishermen.

Number of births in 1896	164
„ „ arrivals „	107
„ „ deaths „	38
„ „ departures „	138

The births number 24 more than in 1895, and the deaths 71 less.

Thirteen marriages were celebrated in 1895, and twenty in 1896.

SHIPPING.

The number of ships which arrived and left Rodrigues during 1896 was 11.

The service between Rodrigues and Mauritius was performed in six trips by the subventioned British schooner "Columbus." The barks "Lavina," "Ione," and the schooner "Venus" made five trips for trading purposes.

H.M.S. "Bonaventure" visited the Island in July 1896.

EXPORTS.

The exports (exclusive of specie) amounted to Rs. 169,449 in 1895, and to Rs. 103,181·25 in 1896.

The ratio of export per head was Rs. 66·71 in 1895, and Rs. 39·15 in 1896.

IMPORTS.

The imports amounted to Rs. 154,886·50 in 1896, against Rs. 137,773·56 in 1895.

The ratio of import per head was Rs. 58·78, against Rs. 54·24 in 1895.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The tobacco plantations have greatly decreased in 1896 on account of the tax imposed for the exportation thereof. The crops of beans and other plantations of the Island have greatly suffered on account of a cyclone which caused great damage in January 1896. There was another cyclone in February of the same year.

Although a good path has been made from Port Mathurin to St. Gabriel, much remains to be done to have proper roads in this Island.

The inhabitants of Port Mathurin have been able to enjoy the advantages of having good water about the middle of last year, but the works were not completed at the end of the year.

The jetty (although not constructed as recommended by the Government Engineer) has been extended, and proves a great advantage to the inhabitants.

Mr. Frederic Robert, Junior, replaced the titular magistrate from the 13th December 1895, to the 21st November 1896.

B. H. COLIN,
Magistrate.

1st April 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Gt. St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 250.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1897.

(For Reports for 1896, *see* Nos. 215 and 223.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	"
219	Lagos	"
220	Gold Coast	"
221	Labuan	"
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
231	Barbados	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"
235	Falkland Islands	"
236	Straits Settlements	"
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	"
240	St. Helena	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago	"
242	British Honduras	"
243	Malta	"
244	Fiji	"
245	Hong Kong	"
246	Leeward Islands	"
247	Grenada	"
248	Gibraltar	"
249	Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 250.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1897.

(For Reports for 1896, *see* Nos. 215 and 223.)

GOVERNOR SIR CHARLES BRUCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Mauritius,
26th August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of the Mauritius Blue Book for the year 1897, together with copies of the usual summary.

2. I also transmit the Report on the Blue Book, to which the Rodrigues Report is appended.

3. In transmitting the Blue Book and the accompanying Summary and Report, it is my duty to add that, since the close of the financial year ending 31st December 1897, the causes which led to a serious reduction of the revenue for the year, dealt with in the Blue Book, have told with disastrous consequences on the revenue of the current year. These causes may be briefly stated as a short crop of sugar, low prices, and the abnormally high price of Indian foodstuffs. The first and last of these causes may be considered as temporary; there is every promise that the crop of the season 1898–99 will be abundant, and there is an appreciable reduction in the price of foodstuffs; but the low price of sugar has been the result of causes which threaten the sugar industry of Mauritius with the loss of its hitherto profitable markets—India and Australia. The Indian market has been largely affected by the operation of the artificial bounty system of foreign governments in aid of beetroot sugar. In 1887 the total quantity of beetroot sugar imported into India amounted to only 630 tons, valued at Rs. 150,000, as compared with an

importation of 85,000 tons, valued at Rs. 20,650,000. During the first nine months of 1897, no less than 52,000 tons of beetroot sugar, valued at Rs. 11,637,000, were imported into India, against 74,000 tons of cane sugar, valued at Rs. 17,000,000. As regards the Australian market, it is enough to record the fact that, whereas Australia 15 or 20 years ago took one-half of the produce of Mauritius, the extension of sugar cultivation in the Australian Colonies threatens permanently to close to this Colony that hitherto lucrative market.

4. I have endeavoured in numerous despatches to lay before you the present financial position of the Colony. If I have felt bound to draw attention to the subject in this despatch, it is because the publication of the Blue Book and the accompanying Report might naturally lead to an inference that they correctly define the position of the Colony at this date. Such an inference would be altogether misleading.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. BRUCE,

Governor.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1897.

TAXATION.

1. Very little alteration was made in the items of existing taxation.

The bicycle, which, as I reported in the Blue Book Report on Barbados for 1896, had asserted itself in the West Indies, has now increased to taxable proportions in this Eastern Colony, and a license varying from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 was imposed on dealers in bicycles.

A few other items of not sufficient importance to necessitate special remark appear in the amendments and alterations of items of such taxes.

REVENUE.

	Rs.
2. The estimated revenue for 1897 was	8,238,517
The actual receipts were	7,996,706
Showing a deficit of	241,811

	Rs.
The revenue for 1896 had been estimated at ...	8,427,338
And the actual receipts for that year were ...	8,849,181
Showing a surplus of	421,843

Allowing, therefore, for certain items, such as Licenses, Fees of Court, and Miscellaneous (to which a windfall of Rs. 368,074 had accrued in 1896), and for an increase under the other heads which showed a steady upward tendency, the estimates for 1897 were quite justifiable.

3. Unfortunately a disastrous drought, the low prices for sugar, the high prices for rice and grains in India, and the tightness of the money markets there, formed an overwhelming combination of untoward circumstances which upset all calculations, and went very nigh to produce a general financial disaster. With a solitary exception (a casual rise in the receipts for Crown land shooting leases) every head of revenue showed a considerable falling off.

4. The Customs, which had been estimated at Rs. 2,948,000 on a sugar crop of 140,000 tons, produced Rs. 2,769,889, against Rs. 3,069,745 in 1896; shipping, of course, followed suit; the receipts under both heads showing together a falling off of Rs. 313,543; excise fell from Rs. 1,279,215 to Rs. 1,245,869; railway receipts showed a decrease of Rs. 71,688; educational fees Rs. 4,495.

The net total decrease in the revenue for 1897 compared with 1896 was Rs. 852,476.

5. In 1896, however, the Colony got the benefit of what is very rightly called in the Blue Book Report a "windfall" of Rs. 368,074 (the figure given in that Report is Rs. 351,024, but the rate of exchange was only then estimated—the exact sum is Rs. 368,074), caused by the surplus balance of the Sinking Fund provided for the redemption of the 6 per cent. debentures of 1864 having been brought to credit of the revenue of that year.

If that sum be eliminated, the comparison between the revenue of 1896 and 1897 will be Rs. 8,481,107 against Rs. 7,996,706, or a decrease for 1897 of Rs. 484,401.

6. The remaining available balances to the credit of the Colony were required to meet the immediate necessities for current expenditure, and for making good the deficiency. It was possible to meet all obligations, but only by great care, and by abandoning—for the time only, it is to be hoped—much that might otherwise have been done for the welfare of the population.

EXPENDITURE.

7. The total expenditure for 1897 was Rs. 8,626,798, against an estimate of Rs. 8,738,137 and an actual expenditure of Rs. 8,544,736 in 1896.

	Rs.
Of this personal emoluments were ...	3,015,220
Other charges	5,611,578
	8,626,798
The revenue for 1897 was	7,996,706
Showing an excess of expenditure	Rs. 630,092

8. Although the falling off in revenue was due to the exceptional temporary disadvantage of short crop, low prices, no markets, and high cost of Indian foodstuffs, there is every reason to fear that the present establishment and expenditure of the Colony are beyond its resources, and that considerable reductions must be made if income and expenditure are at least to balance each other.

9. It is of interest to analyse briefly the current expenditure of the Colony, and for this purpose it has been divided under the following heads, showing the principal items of which they are made up :—

	Rs.
1. Annual Charges :—	
Public Debt, Pensions, Military Contribution, Telegraph Subsidy	1,960,664
2. The Executive Administration only :—	
Legislation, Executive, Police, Prison, Public Works (recurrent)	1,416,791
3. Revenue Making Departments proper :—	
Inland Revenue, Customs, Shipping, Registration, Railway, Post Office, Water Works	2,227,637
4. Departments partially recouped by Fees, &c. :—	
Judicial, Education, Medical, Forests, Poor Law, Immigration, Crown Land ...	2,266,373
5. Ecclesiastical	141,321
6. [*]Annual Grants :—	
Sciences, Agriculture, Homes, Races, Local Boards, Fire Brigade, &c.	113,724
Carried forward	Rs. 8,126,510

---

[*] This item is susceptible of considerable reduction.

Brought forward	Rs. 8,126,510
7. Miscellaneous :—	
Interest on Deposits, Crown Agents, Exchange on Remittances, Loan Office, Dependencies	339,858
8. Special Expenditure :—	
Queen's Jubilee, Medical Mission to India, Depreciation of Currency Commissioners' Securities, Public Works (Extraordinary), New Edition of Laws, &c.	160,430
Total	Rs. 8,626,798

10. The revenue (say Rs 8,000,000) was absorbed (and in fact exceeded) by those heads of expenditure in the following proportion :—

	Approximate percentage.
1. Annual Charges	25
2. Executive Expenditure ...	18
3. Revenue Departments... ...	28
4. Departments partially recouped	28
5. Religion	2
6. Annual Grants...	1
7. Miscellaneous	2
8. Special Expenditure	4

	Rs.
11. The provision for the Education, Religion, Health, and Relief in sickness and old age of the Community was	1,559,453
and of the maintenance of Law and Order, and punishment of crime	1,313,432
Total ...	Rs. 2,872,885

The first represented Rs. 4·12 per head of the population, and the second Rs. 3·47.

The whole is about covered by the Customs receipts.

It is interesting to remark that in Barbados, an Island so far resembling this that it entirely depends on one and the same staple industry, sugar, and has a large agricultural labouring population (though very differently composed), the expenditure under these two heads bears about the same proportion to one another, and is defrayed by the Customs revenue.

MUNICIPALITIES, &c.

	Rs.
12. The total revenue of the Corporation of Port Louis in 1897 was	457,180
exclusive of a credit balance in hand on 1st January...	9,510
Total	Rs. 466,690
The total expenditure was	513,816
Leaving a deficit of ...	Rs. 47,126

13. The Debenture Debt at the end of the year stood as follows :—

—	1896.	1897.
	Rs.	Rs.
Conversion Loan	133,400	132,300
Colonial Loan, 1889	106,470	93,600
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892 ...	140,093	130,491
Colonial Loan, 1894	14,905	7,125
Government Overflow Loan, 1896... ...	—	45,833
Total ... Rs.	261,468	277,049

14. The Accounts of the District Boards of Commissioners show :—

	Rs.
Total Revenue	91,542
Expenditure	89,508
Debt to Government	20,000

PUBLIC DEBT.

15. The Public Debt of the Colony stood as follows on 31st December 1897 :—

	£	£
Unconverted Debentures 4 to 4½ per cent....	176,100	
Bonds paid	57,700	
		118,400
Converted Inscribed Stock 4 per cent. ...		480,750
Hurricane Loan Imperial Guarantee 3 per cent.		600,000
Treasury Bills redeemable		38,339
		£1,237,489

CURRENCY NOTES.

		Rs.
16. The amount of Treasury rupee currency notes in circulation on the 31st December was		3,114,250
	Rs.	
The specie in hand of Commissioners of Currency	1,570,000	
Investments	1,722,405	
		3,292,405
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...		Rs. 178,155

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

17. The total military expenditure of the Colony was Rs. 418,272.

The Colonial contribution was calculated on five and a half per cent. on the gross receipts of revenue generally (exclusive of land sales), and on the net receipts of certain specified items, in addition to which about Rs. 20,000 is at present paid in lieu of Customs Rebate.

The total strength of the garrison on 1st January 1898 was 1,078 (of all ranks), against 939 on 1st January 1897. In that year the expenditure was £63,906.

The increasing importance of Mauritius as a fortified coaling station on the direct route from the Cape of Good Hope to the East is likely to lead to an augmentation of the benefits it derives from the presence of Imperial troops.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

LEGISLATION.

18. Out of 42 Ordinances passed during the year, only one requires notice in this report, No. 38, "To consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Quarantine."

19. "Quarantine at Mauritius" had, it is no exaggeration, a wide-world reputation. The provisions of the existing law on the subject was by no means in consonance with the modern scientific views of the incubation period of germ diseases, and of the greater efficacy of medical inspection and isolation of actual, or observation of suspected cases, and of disinfection, than of prolonged detention in quarantine.

The rigid enforcement of the Quarantine Laws against vessels coming to Mauritius and its dependencies had become, to use the honest phrase, intolerable. Government troopships, ocean liners, mail and trading steamers were liable, and often subjected, to delays and the passengers to detention, in some cases for long periods on the ground of maladies, some of them not usually the subject of quarantine, existing at the ports or places from which they had sailed or at which they had called on the voyage here.

Grave complaints were received from the Government of India and from private companies, and it is more than probable that the abandonment of this route by one of the largest ocean services running between Europe and Australia via the Red Sea was due to the delays and difficulties experienced by their steamers when calling here.

In one case at least the Government had to pay heavy compensation for the detention of a steamer in quarantine beyond the maximum limit allowed by law.

20. It needs no argument to show how in these days of keen marine and mercantile competition the adherence, however well meant, to obsolete principles must result in a deadlock with shipping and trade interests, and re-act on the progress of the Colony. It was therefore decided to submit to the Legislature a measure which, while safeguarding the Colony as much as possible against the introduction of dangerous diseases, would, by adopting the principles of the International Sanitary Conferences of Dresden and Venice, substitute reduced periods of quarantine, coupled with medical inspection and active precautionary measures, for the prolonged detention and delays which were so much complained of.

21. The Ordinance was very fully considered and debated at several meetings of the Council of Government before it was finally passed.

It provides for :—

(1) Inspection by the Health Officer of all vessels arriving here.

(2) Prompt admission to pratique of healthy vessels.

(3) Temporary detention in quarantine of observation of suspected vessels.

(4) Quarantine for specified periods for the following diseases :—

Disease.	Period.	Old Period.
	Days.	Days.
1. Plague	15	15 to 21
2. Cholera	10	21
3. Small-pox	15	16 to 21
4. Yellow fever	10	15 to 21
5. Typhus	10	15 to 21

calculated from the date of sailing of the vessel from the port of departure or termination of last case on board or in quarantine.

(5) Prohibition and exclusion of certain articles from importation in the Colony.

22. The detail working of the law is effected by regulations to be made by the Quarantine Committee, and approved by the Governor in Executive Council.

Steps will be taken by the Government to establish a properly equipped disinfecting station in addition to the present one and other means at their disposal.

The above measure will afford much better facilities for dealing with the subject generally, and minimising the conflict with other interests, which is so liable to have an injurious effect on the prospect of the Colony.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

23. The number of electors registered was ... 6,230

The number who voted at the last General Election (quinquennial) 4,566

In two districts, however, there being only one candidate nominated, there was no polling.

In 1896 there were 6,468 electors registered, and 4,566 voters at the elections.

MAURITIUS,
1897.

COUNCILS.

24. No remarks.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

25. The principal changes in the Public Service of the Colony were :—

Governor—His Excellency Sir C. Bruce, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Windward Islands, succeeded Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, K.C.M.G., appointed Governor of Trinidad.

Supreme Court—Mr. J. Rouillard, 1st. Puisne Judge, died on the 21st October.

Colonial Secretary—Mr. G. R. Le Hunte, late Colonial Secretary of Barbados, succeeded Mr. C. A. King-Harman, C.M.G., appointed Administrator of St. Lucia.

Receiver-General—Mr. J. J. Brown, Collector of Customs, replaced Mr. L. E. Schmidt, retired.

Director of Forests and Gardens—Mr. W. Scott died on the 3rd October, and was succeeded by Mr. J. Vankeirsbilck (acting), the Assistant Director.

Collector of Customs—Mr. G. Lumgair, Storekeeper-General, succeeded Mr. J. J. Brown, appointed Receiver-General, and was succeeded as Storekeeper-General by Mr. L. S. R. du Vergé.

PENSIONS.

26. The pension list amounted to Rs. 364,655.68, against Rs. 362,773.29 for 1896.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

27. The total population is given at ... ... (over 536 to the square mile, about half the proportion of Barbados or Malta).	377,856
In 1896 it was	374,942
Increase ...	2,914

This increase is almost entirely a natural increment from excess of births over deaths. The increment from immigration excess of arrivals over departures is only 323.

28. The total Indian population was 260,540; the total Chinese 3,389; being an increase of 1,538 over 1896.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

The Indian population may be classified under three heads :—

1. Resident (Indo-Mauritians) ...	184,775
2. Immigrants	69,115
3. Other Indians	6,650
Total ...	260,540

representing about $\frac{7}{10}$ths of the total population of the Colony.

The general proportion of males to females in the total population is, approximately, 1,200 males to 1,000 females.

Births.

29. There were 13,657 births in 1897, or 2,139 more than in 1896 (but that year the birth-rate was abnormally low).

The birth-rate for the total population is 36·4 per 1,000, and in the Indian population 36·5 per 1,000.

The birth-rate varies in different districts, from the minimum 27·5 in Black River to the maximum 41·3 in Moka.

The birth-rate of Port Louis is below that of Madras, Cairo, and Alexandria, and above that of Bombay.

The proportion of illegitimate births was nearly 65 per cent. of the whole (lower, however, than for 1896 = 67·7).

30. There is a great difference in the percentage of illegitimate births acknowledged by the father. In the general population 21 per cent. were not acknowledged, in the Indian section only 3 per cent., showing that amongst the latter there exists a *bona fide* recognition of the responsibilities of paternity and solicitude for the care of their offspring.

Deaths.

31. There were 11,066 deaths in 1897 = 29.5 per thousand, against 15,843 deaths in 1896 = 42 per thousand, which, however, was an abnormally high rate.

The death-rate was lower and the birth-rate higher amongst the Indo-Mauritians, and they are increasing much more rapidly than any other group of the population.

The death-rate varies very much according to locality, from 40·4 per 1,000 in Port Louis (town) to 22·0 in Riviere du Rempart on the North-Eastern part of the Colony.

A very great improvement is noticeable in every district.

More than 50 per cent. of the deaths are due to zymotic diseases.

12 deaths were registered amongst the troops (1,014), 5 of enteric fever, 1 to remittent fever, and 6 to other non-climatic causes.

32. The report of the Medical Inspector of Immigrants, Dr. Lorans, with reference to the sanitary condition of the estates was generally satisfactory. Referring to the diminished death-rate amongst the labourers for 1897 against 1896, Dr. Lorans says:—

"This diminution is easily accounted for by the difference in the climatic condition of these two years. It is a common saying in the Island that a good sugar crop is accompanied by a heavy fever rate. The correctness of the statement was well exemplified in 1896, and though the converse may not be always true, the contrast was well marked in 1897. The drought, which in the latter year did so much harm to the sugar industry, especially in the northern districts of the Colony, was accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the fever prevalence in those districts."

The death-rate varied greatly on estates in different localities, the highest being 40·7, and the lowest 5·4 in Pamplemousses, 5·5 in Grand Port.

33. Speaking of the great increase, however, of the death-rate on certain estates in 1897 as compared with 1896, in one case 75 per 1,000 against 37 in the previous year, in another 59 against 27, in a third 36 against 9, Dr. Lorans makes a very interesting remark:—

"These four estates comprised in the valley of Cent Gaulettes have suffered from no special unsanitary condition which can account for the unhealthiness which prevailed there last year. The villages of the region have suffered similarly, and it seems probable that fluctuations in the level of the subsoil water brought on conditions favourable to the multiplication of the hematozoon of Laveran and of the germs causing dysentery. It should be remarked that the increased mortality on these estates was principally due to these two complaints, while diarrhœa was a frequent complication of the fatal fever cases."

It is satisfactory to observe that Dr. Lorans states that careful analytical examination completely exonerates the Mare-aux-Vacoas from any suspicion in the production of typhoid fever or dysentery.

34. Dr. Lorans draws very serious attention to the absence of any legislation for the compulsory notification of infectious diseases, and gives a grave warning that "unless steps be promptly taken to cause all cases of contagious diseases to be brought to the notice of the sanitary authorities, and powers granted them to ensure proper isolation and disinfection, when dealing with infectious disorders, it is to be feared that typhoid fever will, at no distant date, prove a terrible enemy to combat. Circumstances more favourable to the spread of this disease can hardly be imagined than those which obtain in Mauritius."

The subject is receiving the attention of the Government, and an Ordinance on the subject is in course of preparation for the Legislature.

Dr. Lorans also draws attention to the necessity for a Lying-in Institution, where some intelligent and suitable matrons could be trained in midwifery.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

35. There is a Government Widows and Orphans' Fund, to which all members of the Civil Service contribute 4 per cent. per annum of their salaries (Ordinance No. 2 of 1886).

The number of associates of the fund on the 31st December 1897 was 1,447, and the balance in the hands of the Government on that date was Rs. 435,617.

The fund receives from Government 6 per cent. on the mean monthly balance to the credit of the fund during the year.

The only other society assisted by Government grant is the Mutual Aid Society of Government Workmen for assisting members and their families in cases of sickness or death.

The number of members is 44, with 42 relatives and 105 children. The balance on 31st December was Rs. 1,505.

36. There is an excellent society among the Civil Servants, "The Mauritius Civil Service Mutual Aid Association," established under Ordinance 22 of 1894. Its object is to afford pecuniary assistance to Civil Servants going on leave to recruit their health, furnishing or repairing their houses, and in times of sickness or death in their families, when a sudden call on insufficient resources would entail great hardship or distress, and in many cases lead to the officers resorting to money lenders or other undesirable means of raising money to meet it.

The Act under which this society is formed allows an officer to voluntarily delegate a portion of his salary to the fund, which is deducted by the Receiver-General from his monthly salary. All other delegations of salary are expressly forbidden by the rules of the Service in this Colony.

The total number of members on 31st December was 1,037, and the balance in hand was Rs. 66,450.

There are seven other friendly societies, comprising altogether 3,108 members, with total funds Rs. 4,862.

EDUCATION.

1. *Royal College (Boys).*

(Affiliated to the University of London.)

37. The average number of scholars at the Royal College proper was 207, and at the two branch schools in Port Louis and Curepipe it was 69 and 154 respectively. Total average 361.

The expenditure altogether amounted to Rs. 148,600, and the receipts from fees and sale of books to Rs. 35,730.

The net expenditure represented Rs. 313, or rather over £20 per pupil, a large amount when compared with some other Colonies.

Two scholars are sent to the Universities in England every year, with a grant of £200 per annum for four years and passage to and from. This is not included in the above.

There are 23 private schools under managers associated with the Royal College. They receive a grant collectively of Rs. 7,000.

There is no college or public high school for girls in this Colony. The Government gives a grant of Rs. 7,000 for the higher education of girls. They are educated privately, and they enter for local examination; they also share in the prizes given by the Royal College.

2. *Government Schools.*

38. There are 49 first grade and 32 second grade Government Schools, 16 for boys alone and 15 for girls, or girls-infants, the remaining 50 being mixed.

The average attendance in the first grade school was 4,838 out of 7,719 on the roll, and in the second grade 1,293 out of 2,212.

Total average attendance 6,131 out of 9,931.

The total expenditure was Rs. 195,154.

3. *Aided Schools.*

39. The total vote for grants to Aided Schools is Rs. 100,000, which was distributed as follows:—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Grants Earned.
				Rs.
Roman Catholic ...	64	6,882	4,459	73,454
Church of England ...	32	2,090	1,332	22,530
Presbyterian	2	222	173	2,105
Mahomedan	1	162	109	1,612
Totals ...	99	9,356	6,073	99,701
Not included in the vote of Rs. 100,000:—				
(*a*) Grant for training of teachers				2,934
(*b*) Grant for drawing				300
Total ... Rs.				102,935

Receipts for sale of books ... ... Rs. 5,673

The re-establishment of a training institution is a much needed requirement. This Colony would do well to follow the example of the Leeward Islands in this respect, where the employment of certificated teachers, trained in the Mico Institution, has had such excellent results in the progress of education in these Islands.

The total cost of elementary education comes to nearly Rs. 25, or about £1 12*s*. per pupil, an excessive amount when measured by the results.

Industrial Education.

40. Five apprentices are annually selected by the School Committee for the Government Railway Works for five years' training, and two for the Botanical Station for four years. They are paid daily wages by Government.

The expenditure under this head for 1897 was Rs. 3,949.

It would be more satisfactory if these apprentices made more use of these opportunities afterwards. Very few of them appear to follow up the profession of mechanical engineering which the private apprentices do in many cases with great success, obtaining posts as engineers in the Mercantile Marine, &c.

Summary.

41. The net total educational expenditure was as follows :—

	Rs.
Higher Education	193,197
Elementary Education	298,089
Industrial Education	3,949
Total ...	Rs.495,235

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

1. *Imports.*

42. The total value of the imports for the year 1897 amounted to Rs. 27,056,008 (inclusive of charges and exchange), against Rs. 32,194,410 in 1896 and Rs. 30,506,571 in 1895.

43. In the Report on the Blue Book for 1896 and 1895, the figures on which the averages have been struck and comparisons made have, no doubt for some good reason, been taken "*Exclusive of Exchange*," that is at the value of the article at the port of shipment in rupees calculated at Rs. 10 to the £1 sterling. This will give a total value of imports of Rs. 18,948,234 in 1897, against Rs. 22,501,462 in 1896 and Rs. 20,787,652 in 1895 ; the averages for the five years being in round numbers Rs. 20,000,000.

This method of calculation is, however, possibly misleading to any one not acquainted with the real value of the factor "Exchange" in financial transactions between countries with a gold and rupee silver currency.

For instance, the total value of the imports from the United Kingdom for 1896 is given at Rs. 3,855,229 as the equivalent of £385,523, whereas as a matter of fact that sum in sterling was represented by Rs. 7,412,771, a very serious difference when it comes to paying for them.

Again, with the Indian trade, where the currency is the same in both countries, the item "Exchange" very materially alters the figures.

The imports from India in 1896 are given at Rs. 13,749,974, which with exchange come to Rs. 16,109,221.

In fact it may be summed up as follows, that in 1897 it took Rs. 27,000,000 in Mauritius to pay for the Rs. 19,000,000 debited to the Colony as its accounts for imports.

In order to preserve the comparison of the returns, however, the figures in this Report are given *Exclusive of Exchange.*

44. The fluctuations in specie movements to and from India, which are included in the return of imports-exports, require some explanation. They depend almost entirely on the facility of remitting money through the banks to India. If at any time the position of the banks, with regard to their available funds outside the Colony (from causes such as the withdrawal of capital invested in the Colony), do not admit of their issuing bank drafts to the public for remittances abroad, except at rates which make it cheaper to export specie in payment of Indian accounts, instead of a transaction on paper which would not figure in the trade returns, a quantity of specie is sent away which figures in the exports. Should money continue to be "hard" this movement of specie will continue until funds outside are available for the banks and draft remittances can be resumed. Meanwhile the circulating medium in the Colony is reduced below its requirements for agriculture and retail trade purposes, and the banks have to obtain fresh supplies of specie for the planters and local traders, which will figure as an "import."

45. As this ebb and flow of coin is purely accidental at any particular time, it should be taken into account separately when dealing with the actual trade statistics over any given period. The movement will also be intensified when the markets for sugar are abnormally bad, for although there may be a large quantity of export produce manufactured and ready for shipment, it may be difficult to obtain bills against it on account of the uncertainty of finding a sale for it in India, and in such cases it will be to the advantage of the Indian traders to remit specie. When money is hard at the banks, and markets bad in India, the greater will

be the amount remitted in specie in payment of the rice bills. Specie shipments in fact actually show whether the Colony is paying its way with its produce or not.

46. In 1897 the balance of trade was against the Colony, owing to the low prices of sugar, high prices for rice and grain. In addition to this, owing to the exchange being nearly 1*s.* 4*d.* the rupee, a considerable amount of European capital was withdrawn from the Island.

47. The following comparative return shows the imports from the several countries :—

—	1896.	1897.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. United Kingdom ...	3,855,229	3,750,780
2. British Possessions :—		
India	13,749,974	10,405,578
Australia	578,324	334,385
Singapore	177,635	175,417
Seychelles	190,295	149,946
Miscellaneous ...	241,409	319,636
Total ...	14,937,637	11,384,962
3. Foreign Countries :—		
France	2,154,651	1,727,261
Pondicherry... ...	193,477	241,560
Madagascar and Reunion	331,315	314,168
United States ...	318,191	426,379
China	243,446	435,902
Germany	108,810	89,114
Miscellaneous ...	358,706	578,108
Total ...	3,708,596	3,812,492
Grand total ... Rs.	22,501,462	18,948,234

48. It will be seen from the above that while the slight alterations in the trade with the United Kingdom and foreign countries almost balance each other, the decrease of three and a half millions of rupees falls on that with British Possessions, and it is found to occur entirely in the Indian trade.

The short crop in Mauritius consequent on the drought, and the low prices in India under the influence of plague, tight money, and bounty fed sugars, are sufficient causes for this without the additional rise in the price of rice and grains caused by the Indian famine and short supplies.

49. An analysis of the Indian trade shows a serious shrinkage in all items of ordinary consumption and use.

	Rs.
Foodstuffs decreased by	1,621,000
(There were 950 tons less rice imported, the staple article of food.)	
Soft goods	285,000
Hardware	68,000
Wood and woodenware	20,500
Narcotics	19,000
Chemical manure	139,500

If we eliminate specie (Rs. 1,275,728 less than in 1896), the returns show a falling off in all articles of general consumption and use, from India alone, of over two millions and a quarter of rupees.

50. Turning to the general imports the returns show that the imports per head of the population were Rs. 85.86 in 1896 and Rs. 71.60 in 1897. Apart from the articles above mentioned in the Indian trade, a considerable falling off occurred in those principally imported from other countries, amongst which are noticeable :—

	Rs.
Guano	101,000
Jewellery	21,000
Olive oil	19,700
Boots	19,000
Beer	15,000
Kerosine oil	13,500

51. The classification summary gives the following result :—

—	Values Exclusive of Charges and Exchange.		Increase + Decrease —.
	1896.	1897.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, food, drinks, and narcotics.	12,824,595	11,253,567	—1,571,028
2. Raw materials :—			
I. Textile	8,127	12,540	+ 4,413
II. Metal...	2,070	—	— 2,070
III. Others	422,404	907,829	+ 485,425
3. Manufactured articles :—			
I. Textile	2,230,178	2,027,132	— 203,046
II. Metal...	805,100	754,299	— 50,801
III. Others	3,671,962	2,730,832	— 941 130
	19,964,436	17,686,199	—2,278,237
4. Coin bullion and specie ...	2,537,026	1,262,035	—1,274,991
Total ... Rs.	22,501,462	18,948,234	—3,553,228

Exports.

52. The total value of the exports for 1897 (Rs. 81.12 per head of the population, against Rs. 90.55 in 1896) was Rs. 30,654,007, against Rs. 33,949,614 in 1896, showing a decrease of Rs. 3,295,607. But of this Rs. 2,522,109 was specie exported in excess of the amount in 1896.

Eliminating specie for both years the real decreases in the exports of produce and manufacture of the Island was Rs. 5,637,729.

Decrease.		Increase.	
	Rs.		Rs.
Sugar	5,955,248	Molasses	174,445
Rum	190,210	Vanilla	15,986
Aloe fibre	10,819	Hides	26,729
Coconut oil	8,314	Soap	36 112
		Miscellaneous ...	273,590
	6,164,591		526,862
	526,862		
Net decrease ...	5,637,729		

53. The decrease in the export of sugar was due (1) to the short crop consequent on the drought, (2) to the bad state of the Indian markets; a large amount of sugar remained in the warehouses at the end of the year and specie was remitted instead.

54. The preferential duty imposed in Madagascar in favour of French rum (from Bourbon) had the following effect on the exports of rum and molasses from here to that country:—

Export to Madagascar—

—	1896.	1897.
Rum	259,117 gallons.	52,448 gallons.
Molasses ...	18,318 cwt.	1 cwt. 16 lbs.

India, however, took 235,461 cwt. of molasses in 1897, against 54,537 in 1896.

55. The total quantities of sugar, rum, and molasses—about 98 per cent. of the total exports—were—

—	1896.	1897.
Sugar ...	153,575 tons.	138,079 tons.
Rum	506,560 gallons.	142,288 gallons.
Molasses ...	152,733 cwt.	243,505 cwt.

56. The following comparison shows the produce export to the several markets of the world :—

—	1896.	1897.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. United Kingdom ...	270,740	382,538
2 British Possessions :—		
India and Ceylon ...	16,443,173	12,429,346
South Africa... ...	4,965,493 (Natal—Nil)	4,854,913 (Natal—343,503)
Australasia	4,085,345 (New Zealand-671,210)	2,623,985 (New Zealand—Nil)
Hong Kong	341,885	224,900
Miscellaneous ...	160,659	158,051
Total ...	25,996,555	20,291,195
3. Foreign Countries :—		
United States ...	1,784,419	1,795,179
France	252,689	200,620
Madagascar	332,967	176,778
Delagoa Bay... ...	275,648	372,967
Zanzibar	Nil	15,864
Miscellaneous ...	148,123	188,271
Total ...	2,793,846	2,749,679
Grand total ... Rs.	29,061,141	23,423,412

57. Apart from the Indian trade, which has been separately dealt with, it will be seen that there was an increase in trade with the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Zanzibar, while there was a decrease in Australia, France, and Madagascar.

The Colony is losing in the Australian and Madagascar markets, and gaining in Natal, Delagoa Bay, and Zanzibar.

The sugar crop for 1898 promises to be a very large one, which will no doubt materially alter the figure for that year compared with 1897. Unfortunately the prospect of prices is not so promising.

MAURITIUS,
1897

SHIPPING.

58. The shipping returns show the following comparison between 1896 and 1897 :—

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels :—				
British	113	59,329	121	64,766
French	18	4,795	19	5,322
German	29	7,836	28	7,412
Norwegian	11	4,855	12	5,442
Danish	7	3,584	7	3,584
Various	5	2,972	4	2,441
1897—				
Total Sailing Vessels ...	183	83,371	191	88,967
Steamers :—				
British	80	155,680	82	160,059
French	59	78,606	59	78,606
German	8	7,994	8	7,994
Norwegian	2	3,057	2	3,057
1897—				
Total Steamers ...	149	245,337	151	249,716
Total Sailing Vessels ...	183	83,371	191	88,967
Total—1897 ...	332	328,708	342	338,683
Total—1896 ...	391	394,371	387	388,456
Decrease in 1897 ...	59	65,663	45	49,773

The falling off is due to the short sugar crop. The shipping figures for 1897 are, however, in excess of the average of the previous five years.

AGRICULTURE.

59. The return of agriculture shows that out of a total area of 473,760 acres, 83,392 were under cultivation, 4,425 being cultivated in the Métairie system, *i.e.*, let to tenants on shares of the crop.

69,000 acres are returned as under sugar cane ; 100 in tea ; 50 in vanilla ; 10 in coffee ; 269 in maize.

A considerable extent of land, 3,221 acres, is returned as under aloes for fibre, but the production of this article is now very small.

The remainder of the land included in estate lands, 72,799 acres, is under "catch crops," pasturage, or wood.

60. There were 147 cane mills (all steam), 58 of which are fitted with the "Triple Effect ;" 31 fibre machines ; 40 manure manufactories ; 30 distilleries (of which 12 were working). No new machinery of any kind was erected.

A great discouragement to the distillers here was suffered by the imposition of an import duty of 80 francs per hectolitre against all rum other than the export of French Colonies, in Madagascar this year, thus closing that market to Mauritius in favour of Réunion (Bourbon).

61. The average rates of wages were—

—	Per day.	Per task or job (one day's work).
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Agricultural ...	0.50 to 0.75	0 60
2. Domestic ...	0 75	
3. Tradesman ...	1.00 to 1.50	1 50

62. The following table shows the average prices of ordinary articles of consumption in the Colony :—

Article.		Price.			Article.		Price		
		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
Flour... ...	per lb.	0	0	1½	Butter (fresh)	per lb.	0	2	5
Bread ...	"	0	0	1½	" (salt)	"	0	1	0½
Milk ...	... per quart.	0	0	2	Cheese ...	"	0	0	10½

Article.	Price.			Article.	Price.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Beef ... ... per lb.	0	0	3½	Sugar... ... per lb.	0	0	1⅛
Mutton ... „	0	0	8½	Salt ... ... per 3 lbs.	0	0	0½
Pork ... ... „	0	0	7¼	Beer ... ... per doz.	0	9	6
Rice per bag of 165 lbs.	0	16	8	Wine, per cask (49½ galls.)	6	17	10
Tea ... ... per lb.	0	1	1	Tobacco ... per lb.	0	2	0
Coffee ...	0	0	7¼				

63. The following extracts from the report of the President of the Chamber of Agriculture are of great interest :—

"1897 opened badly for the Sugar Industry. A drought had already afflicted the Northern and Central Districts for the last two months of 1896, after a few showers in January, gained in severity, and was persistent through the year up to 5th December, when it broke with a cyclone of exceptional character as regards the early date of its appearance and the violence of the wind during its short duration. Considerable damage to buildings was occasioned by this storm, and some to canes; but the crop was for the most part reaped, and the canes for the next year were not sufficiently forward to suffer very severely. The damage by the wind was nothing in comparison with the benefit brought by the rains for the coming crop. Unhappily the drought had been more or less severe over the whole of the Island; least felt in the South, but in the Northern and Eastern quarters it was disastrous, many estates experiencing the loss of 50 per cent. up to 75 per cent. of an average yield. The total production of the Colony is estimated at about 115,000 against over 150,000 tons in 1896. Prices have shown very little improvement, owing partly to the immense production of beetroot sugar and the fact that a rise in the value of the rupee in India has permitted large importations of European granulated beetroot sugar into that market; and to aggravate the planters' difficulties the prices of all provisions, especially rice, has been 50 per cent. higher than before.

"Parcelling out land amongst Indians proceeds on a large scale; in the majority of cases no money passes for the first year or two, except the value of the canes if there be any ripe enough to cut in the first year. It is impossible to predict what will be the effect of this great settlement of labouring Indians upon the land; it will undoubtedly lead to a great increase in the production of sugar canes, raise the value of the land, and must ultimately lead to the establishment of central factories and the division of labour.

"The cultivation of tea has been extended, and produce of excellent quality has been put on the market in limited supplies. While the quality is sufficiently good to enable it to compete on the English market, the scale on which it has been produced has not been sufficiently large to show whether the cost of manufacture will permit of exporting it profitably."

CROWN LAND RETURN.

64. Practically no Crown lands were sold during the year.

The total area of the Crown lands of Mauritius at the present date is 79,285 acres, of which 5,895 acres are leased for periods of ten and twenty years. The total number of leases was 791.

The amount of Crown land rent for 1897 was Rs. 26,684 out of Rs. 41,657 due for the year.

The total amount of arrears of rent on 31st December 1897 was Rs. 19,161, of which Rs. 1,135 is struck off as irrecoverable.

PRISONS.

65. The total number of admissions were—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1896	6,118	385	6,503
1897	7,374	380	7,754
	Increase. 1,256	Decrease. 5	Net increase. 1,251

The above increase is found amongst the offences classified as under :—

Offences.	Total Number of Admissions.
Wounding	64
Larceny	636
Minor offences	374
Road cases	87
Vagrancy	374
Labour Law	125
	1,660

66. The Superintendent of Prisons in his report says : "I attribute the large increase in convictions to the extreme mildness of prison discipline, and to poverty and want of employment among the working classes."

Offences against prison discipline, except for very trifling matters, are dealt with by the Prison Board.

There were 18 escapes (17 recaptured), against 22 in 1896.

The average number of prisoners was as follows :—

Port Louis Prison (Town)	367
Central Prison (Beau Bassin)... ...	733
Total	1,100

The sick and death rate this year was unusually high.

—	Average in Hospital.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000
Port Louis (Town) ...	81·05	12	33
Central Prison		44	60
Total	81·05	56	46

67. The alarming high sick and death rate at the Central Prison led to the appointment of a Special Committee to enquire into its causes. They found that the majority of cases occurred amongst the short-sentenced prisoners who are taken from the poorest and physically weakest classes of the population. The causes of sickness and death were principally from malarial fever and its complications, phthisical complaints, and dysentery. The situation and sanitary arrangements of the large New Central Prison at Beau Bassin, and the prison diet, are to all appearances excellent, and the Committee did not attribute the effect to local causes ; but it is to be feared that at certain seasons of the year the whole locality is not as healthy as it used to be, and the cases of fever amongst the prison officers who reside in the vicinity of the prison was very large. At the same time no large increase of sickness was found amongst the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum or the Barkly Poor Law Asylum, which are close to.

But it is a significant fact that the prison at Port Louis (Town), which an Inspector of Prisons in England would probably at once condemn, is coming to be looked on by the prison officers and prisoners as the "Sanatorium" for the Central Prison, which is built on the latest principles.

Certain suggestions and recommendations of the Committee on the Central Prison are being carried out, which it is hoped may effect some improvement.

68. The cost of the prison for 1897 was Rs. 161,702, against Rs. 165,546 in 1896.

The total value of the prisoners' work was calculated at Rs. 133,846, against Rs. 115,402 in 1896, but the Superintendent remarks that the value of manufactured goods supplied and work performed for Government purposes shows a large decrease of Rs. 10,195.

REFORMATORY.

69. The number of boys sent to the Reformatory was 412: 310 for purpose of penal imprisonment, and 102 for non-payment of fine and costs.

The Superintendent remarks: "It is to be noted that 306 of these boys were committed on sentences varying from two days to three months only."

It is quite evident from the use to which this institution has come to be put that its title is a misnomer. No system of temporary detention of juveniles for non-payment of fine and costs, or for such sentences as those mentioned, can for a moment be associated with the idea of a reformatory, and it is useless to treat it as one until a complete change is made in the conception of its purposes.

70. The expenditure was Rs. 20,760. The earnings of the institution were calculated at Rs. 4,600, less by Rs. 325 than in 1896; and the Superintendent again remarks: "This is to be attributed to less indents (Government) for 'carpentering' and 'tinsmith's work' having been drawn on the institution this year."

The punishment returns show a marked improvement in discipline.

The health of the boys was good; no death occurred.

The number of boys on 31st December 1897 on the penal side of the institution was 64, and in the industrial school 18.

71. A committee has been appointed to report on the Reformatory, and this report will be presented during the year 1898. No doubt some beneficial changes will follow upon it.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

72. The following table is compiled from Police Statistics for five years 1893–1897 :—

Year.	Total Number of Cases Reported to Police.	Number of Cases Enquired into but not Prosecuted.	Number of Persons Prosecuted.	Number of Persons Charged				Amount of Property Recovered.
				Serious Offences.	Minor Offences.	Labour Law.	Vagrancy.	
								£
1893	21,457	8,788	15,072	3,664	8,532	1,041	1,739	28,238
1894	24,024	10,352	16,150	3,560	10,117	1,025	1,412	24,326
1895	24,592	10,706	16,461	3,179	10,904	977	1,341	25,212
1896	26,915	10,858	19,123	3,277	13,851	905	979	23,005
1897	26,963	10,341	19,710	3,858	12,986	920	1,835	26,753

It will be seen that there was an increase under nearly every head of offence. The prolonged drought and the scarcity of employment were probable factors in this, especially under the heading of vagrancy, which in this Colony is practically synonymous with " out of work."

Of the 1,835 persons arrested for vagrancy 877 were committed to prison, 21 to the Reformatory, and the rest otherwise dealt with.

HOSPITALS.

Civil Hospital.

73. Number of persons treated ...	5,121
Number of deaths	320
Number of patients discharged ...	4,690
Nationality of cases admitted :—	
Creoles	3,020
Indians	1,950
Europeans	135

The Medical Superintendent remarks on the frequency of tubercular affection of the lungs, which he attibutes to poverty, disregard of sanitary rules, alcoholism, and influenza "which very easily opens the door to the specific microbe."

Barkly Asylum Hospital (Poor Law).

74. Number of patients treated 2,454, 470 less than in 1896.

Death-rate 54 per thousand, against 73 in 1896.

There were 21 public dispensaries open in 1897, and the number of patients who obtained gratuitous medical assistance and medicine from them was 59,751.

75. *Lunatic Asylum.*

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of inmates on 1st January 1897.	232	134	366
Admissions during the year	56	34	90
Total number	288	168	456
Discharges	52	34	86
Died	6	6	12
Number of inmates on 31st December 1897.	230	128	358
Daily average 361.			
Average number employed daily	100	52	152

Of the 358 patients on the 31st December 1897 :—

Males.	Females.	—
139	52	= 191 were from the Indian population.
91	76	= 167 were from the general population.
230	128	= 358.

The average number of lunatics in the asylum for the ten years 1888–1897 was 391, the number varying from a maximum of 440 in 1892, the year of the last great cyclone, to a minimum of 358 in 1897.

The population in 1888 was 369,302, lunatic 1·01 per thousand.

" " 1897 " 377,856, " 1·06 "

The total expenditure of the lunatic asylum was in 1897 Rs. 81,645, giving an average cost per patient of R. 0·619 per diem.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

1. *Religious Institutions.*

76. The religious societies, with a certain amount of assistance from Government, provide for the instruction and care of a large number of the young and others.

The Roman Catholic Church has 90 institutions, convents, schools, orphanages, &c., providing for	8,275	persons
The Church of England, an orphanage and 41 schools	2,487	"
The Church of Scotland, two schools ...	222	"
Total religious institutions	10,984	"

2. *Government Relief.*

77. Medical.—Persons treated in hospital	... ...	13,872
" " in private infirmaries		574
" " at dispensaries	...	61,505
" " in lunatic asylum	...	429
" " in leper asylum	...	215
		76,595
Out-door relief.—Alimentary and pecuniary	...	1,857
Total ...	...	78,452

METEOROLOGICAL.

78. The Report of the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory (on a plain 179 feet above sea-level, 3 miles from the sea, long. 12° 6′ E., lat. 20° 5′ S.) shows that the mean rainfall for the Colony was 27·26 inches, being 21·37 inches below the average for the last 23 years, and the lowest on record, being 2·48 inches less than in 1886, hitherto the year of least rainfall.

The mean temperature was 74° as against an average of 73·5° for the last 23 years.

The maximum temperature in the sun (on 9th February) was 155·2° F.; in a room in the shade (on 18th January) 88° F.; in a screen on lawn (on 30th November) 92·6° F.

The minimum temperature in a room in the shade (21st May) 57·4° F.; in a screen on lawn (21st May) 53·1° F.

The mean dew-point 64·6°, maximum (14th January) 76·6°, minimum (21st May) 48·9°.

The mean barometrical pressure (sea-level) was 30·066 ins., maximum (7th September) 30·400 ins., minimum (5th December) 28·922 ins.

Storm warnings were issued on January 26, February 17, 18, 19, 22, 27, and 28, December 5, 6, and 19–25.

The tracks of five tropical cyclones in the South Indian Ocean were determined; one of these passed over Mauritius on the evening of the 5th December, but fortunately without doing much serious damage.

MAURITIUS
1897.

RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

Railways.

79. The receipts for the railways (105 miles), exclusive of Government traffic (Rs. 57,357), were—

	Rs.	Rs.
Passenger traffic	969,511	
Sugar „	390,889	
Goods „	351,922	
		1,712,322
The total expenditure was		1,166,440
Balance in favour of receipts ...		Rs. 545,882

Roads.

80. The cost of maintenance of roads (370 miles), bridges, and ferries was Rs. 192,170.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

Post Office.

81. The Report of the Colonial Postmaster shows the following work of the Department in 1896 and 1897 :—

—	Letters.	Post-cards.	Newspapers.
Mail packets ...	293,998	1,701	430,536
Private ships ...	79,996	406	34,129
Inland post... ...	860,329	23,689	940,638 [°]
Total	1,234,323	25,796	1,405,303
„ 1896 ...	1,226,357	25,608	1,301,558
Increase 1897 ...	7,966	188	103,745

[°] It may be noted that local newspapers pay no postage fee. There was an increase in the circulation of 100,000 in 1897.

Postal Parcels.

Year.	United Kingdom.	France and other Countries
1896	1,856	5,986
1897	2,093	6,898
Increase in 1897 ...	237	912

The sale of postage stamps, &c., realized Rs. 72,586, against Rs. 69,555 in 1896.

82. *Money Orders.*

Country.	Issued in the Colony.	Paid in the Colony.
	£	£
United Kingdom ...	3,539	2,000
South Africa ...	208	5,745
Australia	221	102
Total... £	3,968	7,847
	Rs.	Rs.
India and Ceylon ...	98,243	6,845
Dependencies ...	4,101	30,239
Total ... Rs.	102,344	37,084

Inland, Rs. 157,651.

Telegraph Department.

83. The gross revenue of the Telegraph Department was Rs. 97,153 in 1897, against Rs. 96,915 in 1896, showing an increase of Rs. 238.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

The total cost of the Postal and Telegraph Department, including payment for conveyance of mails, &c., was as follows :—

		Rs.	Rs.
1896—Establishments	...	87,516	
Other charges	...	136,856	
			224,372
1897—Establishments	...	86,136	
Other charges	...	98,967	
			185,103
Decrease in 1897 ...		...	Rs. 39,269

GENERAL.

84. There is very little to be added to what has been said already in dealing with financial and agricultural matters in this Report.

The sudden and unforeseen crisis into which the Colony was thrown threatened at one time to produce most serious and immediate disaster. The means by which that was averted will form a very interesting page in the financial history of the Colony, and will no doubt be dealt with in the Report for 1898, to which year it belongs ; but it will take long before the effects of 1897 are neutralized, and although the Government is taking every possible opportunity of reducing expenditure—which can only be economically effected, as far as establishments are concerned, gradually, as vacancies occur—and of revising and improving the collection of revenue, it will be a difficult, if not impossible, task to make its finances balance without recourse to some new source of income.

85. Fortunately towards the end of the year the drought ended, and the prospects of a large crop in 1898 are excellent. But the prices obtainable for sugar are now so low that the future is very uncertain. The planters are aware that there is only one way to face the struggle, by improving their sugar machinery so as to obtain the best result at the least cost of production.

86. Too much importance cannot be given to the subject of sanitation, and especially of providing a good water supply to the Island. This excellent work has been begun in part, and should be continued at all costs.

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE.

July 31st, 1898.

REPORT ON RODRIGUES FOR THE YEAR 1897.

Rodrigues, 1897.

TAXATION.

No change has been made in the taxation of this Dependency during 1897.

REVENUE.

	Rs.
The revenue of the year (exclusive of Customs and sums received in Mauritius), amounted to ...	8,007
and the revenue of 1896 to	8,310
showing a decrease of	Rs. 303

EXPENDITURE.

	Rs.
The payments made in 1897 (not including sums paid in Mauritius) and matters of account, amounted to	23,502
and the expenditure of 1896 (not including sums paid in Mauritius) and matters of account, to	24,469
showing a decrease of	Rs. 967

The ratio of the revenue to the population of 1897 was Rs. 2.88 and a fraction per head. The ratio of the expenditure was Rs. 8.47 and a fraction per head.

LEGISLATION.

The only law enacted for this Dependency during 1897 was Ordinance No. 16 of 1897, imposing a tax on land cultivated in tobacco at Rodrigues, and abolishing the import duty on it when imported into Mauritius.

JUDICIAL.

—	1896.	1897.
Criminal Side.		
Number of informations filed, including applications for search warrants	65	84
Number of adjudications	37	65
" cases abandoned	11	3
" persons convicted	46	76
" " acquitted	15	8
" cases pending	2	—
Civil Side.		
Number of cases entered	99	101
Stipendiary Side.		
Number of cases	9	4
" engagements	8	5
" discharges	4	9

The total number of cases of all jurisdictions was 173 in 1896 and 194 in 1897. The amount of fines paid was Rs. 221.54.

The Court revenue was Rs. 531.35, and the expenditure Rs. 248.

POPULATION.

The population on the 31st December 1897 was composed of 2,772 inhabitants, consisting of natives of this Island, of Mauritius, Madagascar, India, China, Europe, Seychelles, and Reunion, who are traders, agriculturists, and fishermen.

The number of births was	165
" " deaths	39
" " arrivals	85
" " departures	74

RODRIGUES, 1897.

The birth-rate shows an increase of one birth in 1897, if compared with the previous year, and the death-rate a similar increase.

Eight marriages were celebrated in 1897, against twenty in 1896.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are two Roman Catholic chapels at Rodrigues: one at Port Mathurin and the other at St. Gabriel. The expenditure under this heading was Rs. 1,999.92 in 1897.

EDUCATION.

In 1897 there were two schools in operation at Rodrigues, the cost of which is paid by Government. Total cost, Rs. 2,596.

EXPORTS.

The exports (exclusive of specie) amounted to Rs. 103,181.25 in 1896 and to Rs. 127,687.75 in 1897. The ratio per head was Rs. 39.15 in 1896 and Rs. 46.02 in 1897.

IMPORTS.

The imports amounted to Rs. 96,263 in 1897, against Rs. 154,886 and 50 cents in 1896. The ratio of import per head was Rs. 34.72 in 1897, against Rs. 58.78 in 1896.

SHIPPING.

The number of ships which arrived at and left Rodrigues was 8 in 1897, against 11 in 1896.

The service between Rodrigues and Mauritius was performed by sailing vessels under contract with the Government of Mauritius, which pays a subsidy of Rs. 7,500 for five trips in the year between April and December.

H.M.S. "Eclipse" and "Melpomene" visited the Island in July and August.

CROWN LANDS AND FORESTS.

Land Rent.

The total revenue actually received under the heading of land rent (fishing posts, town lots, and islands and other leases included) amounted to Rs. 2,198.25, against Rs. 2,135.50 in 1896, showing an increase of Rs. 62.75.

Pasturage.

In 1897 the pasturage fees received during the year amounted to Rs. 502.50.

Forest Produce.

The revenue derived from forest produce amounted to Rs. 267.01, against Rs. 260.14 in 1896.

Land Sales.

The amount received during the year under this heading was Rs. 231.37.

GAOL.

42 persons were committed to gaol in 1897, against 38 in 1896.

MEDICAL.

The number of patients maintained in the public hospital of Mount Lubin was 69 in 1897, against 93 in 1896.

In 1896 medical care was given to 2,484 persons at both dispensaries (Port Mathurin and Mount Lubin), and 2,497 in 1897.

In 1896 nine deaths occurred at the hospital of Mount Lubin, and eight in 1897.

The prevailing diseases were asthma, fever, anæmia, dysentery, debility, cramps, ulcers, disease of the heart, apoplexy, diarrhœa, tuberculosis, and rheumatic fever.

In 1896, 175 children were vaccinated, and 80 in 1897. No hospital fee is exacted as the persons treated are destitute.

The total expenditure for the medical branch was Rs. 3,734.63 in 1897, against Rs. 3,701.74 in 1896.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Thermometer.

	Degrees.
Maximum, 6th February	88·04
Minimum, 22nd August	68·00

Barometer.

	Inches.
Maximum, 7th September ...	30·500
Minimum, 27th January	29·734

No hurricane visited the Island this year.

POLICE AND FOREST RANGERS.

The expenses for those two branches amounted to Rs. 5,207.04 in 1896 and 5,019.00 in 1897.

POOR LAW.

24 persons received relief in 1897.

PUBLIC DEBT.

Outstanding on 31st December 1897 Rs. 1,486.50.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The Governor of Mauritius, Sir Charles Bruce, K.C.M.G., and His Lordship the Bishop of Port Louis visited Rodrigues in 1897. His Excellency arrived on H.M.S. " Melpomene " on the 15th August and landed on the 16th at Port Mathurin.

RODRIGUES, 1897.

The British ship "Traveller," from Java, put in for assistance on the 4th February and was thrown ashore during the next night, and became a total wreck.

The crops of beans and other plantations have been good in 1897. They were nearly double the amount exported in 1896.

The inhabitants have, at the latter end of the year, begun planting out lands with tobacco. This is the result of the suppression by Ordinance 16 of 1897 of the Custom dues which were imposed in Mauritius on the tobacco imported from Rodrigues.

It is anticipated that the revenue from the tax on lands planted with tobacco will be from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000.

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE,

Colonial Secretary.

August 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 279.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

REPORTS FOR 1898.

(For Reports for 1897, *see* No. 250.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November, 1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan...	"
254	Ceylon	"
255	Basutoland	1897-98
256	Newfoundland	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ..	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897-98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897-98
261	Jamaica	"
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"
266	Leeward Islands	"
267	St. Lucia...	"
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad...	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898-99
276	Gibraltar	1898
277	Bahamas	"
278	British Honduras	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 279.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

MAURITIUS, 1898.

(For Reports for 1897, *see* No. 250.)

GOVERNOR SIR CHAS. BRUCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Mauritius,
29th August 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1898, together with copies of the usual summary.

2. I also enclose the report by Sir Graham Bower, K.C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book.

3. The year 1898 was, for the Colony of Mauritius, a period of exceptional stress and strain. The value of the sugar crop of 1897–98, as compared with the crop of 1896–97, showed a shortage of some Rs. 500,000, while the cost of provisionment of the Colony with rice and imported food stuffs showed a very large excess owing to the unprecedentedly high prices prevailing in the Indian markets, the result chiefly of plague and famine. The Colony thus suffered from a serious contraction of the purchasing power of the community, while the cost of provisionment to which their purchasing power must of necessity be largely devoted was increased beyond all previous record. These difficulties were made still more grave by the stringency of the Indian money market. The Indian banks were in consequence compelled to restrict their operations and the facilities given for the transaction of business between Mauritius and India, and our local traders found the resources of their correspondents in India limited to an extent which forced them to meet their obligations in India by the export of specie. It became necessary, therefore, to take exceptional measures to avert the public calamity which threatened the community, and the crisis was averted by

Government coming forward to assist the financial institutions of the Colony to secure the regular course of commercial transactions, and the regular payment of wages and pecuniary obligations in the Colony. The measures adopted included the issue by the Government of drafts on Bombay, the temporary suspension of the law requiring the redemption of currency notes in specie, a loan to the Commercial Bank, and a loan to planters. These measures were entirely successful, and the crisis was fortunately followed by a bumper sugar crop, the export of sugar for the season 1898–99 exceeding the highest previous record by over 30,000 tons. Only an insignificant part of the crop derived any advantage from the rise of prices resulting from the countervailing duties Act passed by the Government of India, and the average prices realized were probably the lowest on record. But the crop of the season now commencing is of exceptional promise, and will realize the full benefit of the Act, for the passing of which this Colony has reason to be profoundly grateful.

4. The financial crisis of the year, or rather the causes that brought it about, affected every branch of the public revenue, and it became necessary not only to reduce the expenditure of the year to the lowest possible amount consistent with the efficient administration of the public service, but to impose additional sources of taxation. The expenditure of the year was reduced below the expenditure of 1897 by very nearly Rs. 500,000, while the additional taxation imposed was estimated to increase the revenue of an average year by about the same amount. Notwithstanding these measures the revenue of the year 1898, amounting to Rs. 7,620,318, or Rs. 376,386 less than that of the preceding year, fell short of the expenditure, amounting to Rs. 8,131,465, by Rs. 511,147. This deficit was met out of Treasury balances.

5. The necessity for the measures adopted to bring about an equilibrium of revenue and expenditure may be easily shewn. The average revenue of the Colony for the five years preceding 1898 was Rs. 8,351,569, and the average expenditure Rs. 8,423,881, showing a considerable excess of expenditure over revenue. The defect of equilibrium was concurrent with the falling fortunes of the Colony as indicated by a statement in the Blue Book Report, showing that while the value of imports in 1894 was Rs. 32,852,313, it fell in 1898 to Rs. 26,326,007. During the same period the value of the exported produce of the Colony, amounting in 1894 to Rs. 29,497,248, fell in 1897 to Rs. 23,423,412. These figures throw light on the causes of the financial depression of 1898. The superior fortunes of the sugar industry during the last part of that year, however, raised the value of the exported produce of the Colony to Rs. 26,013,061, but the realization of the sugar crop was too late to affect, to any considerable extent, the revenues of the year. It has, however, had a marked influence on the revenue of the current financial year.

MAURITIUS, 1898.

6. The direction of commerce during the year 1898 is sufficiently indicated by the following figures:—

British Possessions.

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	5,443,343	1,097,872
Continental India	11,879,590	10,185,267
Cape Colony	197,928	4,726,613
Ceylon	23,125	3,619,783
Australasia	942,414	1,516,787
Other British Possessions	326,307	538,232
Total	18,812,707	21,684,554

Foreign Countries.

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs.	Rs.
France	1,962,176	647,503
United States	896,365	3,574,210
Other Foreign Countries	1,658,404	1,413,162
Total	4,516,945	5,634,875

The above figures are exclusive of specie, the movement of which was as follows:—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs.	Rs.
Silver	4,756,780	1,598 640
Gold (inclusive of exchange)	2,630	1,200

The proportion of trade between Mauritius and other parts of the British Empire was, as regards imports, 84 per cent., and as regards exports, 81 per cent. of the whole volume.

7. As sugar constitutes about 95 per cent. of the entire exports of the Colony, and as the Blue Book figures embracing the calendar year do not very accurately indicate the comparative crop of successive seasons, the following table will be found interesting. It shows the export of sugar, in tons, of the last three seasons, and the principal markets to which it was sent:—

Export of Sugar in Tons.

Crop.	India.	Africa.	United States.	Australia.	England.	France.
1896-97	77,285	30,288	12,369	23,486	1,884	None.
1897-98	62,187	31,465	12,291	10,836	1,918	About 500
1898-99	93,390	27,800	44,574	6,493	6,772	2,100

8. It is worthy of special remark that the exports of the last season to the United States more than trebled the exports of the previous season. This was undoubtedly the consequence of the United States countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar aided by the low prices of Mauritius sugars, the result of large imports of bounty-fed sugar into India. It is probable that the effect of recent legislation in India will be to transfer to the Indian market a large share of the export diverted last year to the United States.

9. The effect of the protective policy of the Government of Madagascar on the Colonial rum trade has been to reduce the export of rum to Madagascar from 2,459,461 litres in 1895 to 6,474 litres in 1898.

10. I have on several recent occasions drawn attention to the rapid acquisition of land in the Colony by the Indian population, and the parcelling out of great estates into small holdings. Notwithstanding the financial depression of the year, real property to the extent of 14,792 acres, of the value of Rs. 2,087,837, was acquired by 1,427 East Indians, of whom 485 were immigrants originally introduced at the expense of the Colony. During the four years 1895 to 1898 East Indians acquired property to the value of Rs. 7,048,776. Although I am unable to obtain any definite statistics on the subject, I am assured by well informed persons that about one-third of the sugar crop is now grown by small proprietors.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. BRUCE,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1898.

MAURITIUS,
1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The following are the heads of revenue for the years 1897–98:—

REVENUE.

Heads of Revenue.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Customs	2,769,889.25	2,723,834.24	—	46,055.01
Port, harbour, wharf, and lighthouse dues.	189,850.49	180,378.33	—	9,472.16
Licenses, excise, and internal revenue not otherwise classified.	2,399,304 37	2,159,345.06	—	239,959.31
Fees of court or office payments for specific services, and reimbursement in aid.	213,484.97	235,325.50	21,840.53	—
Post Office and telegraphs.	102,028.89	125,951.64	23,922.75	—
Government railways ...	1,712,322.86	1,568,389.48	—	143,933.38
Rent of Government property.	71,760.65	69,243.20	—	2,517.45
Interest	489,731.01	481,870.34	—	7,860.67
Miscellaneous receipts...	47,518.53	69,687.91	22,169.38	—
Land sales	814.62	6,293.26	5,478.64	—
Total ...	7,996,705.64	7,620,318.96	73,411.30	449,797.98

Deduct increase 73,411.30

The receipts of 1898 show a decrease of Rs. 376,386.68

MAURITIUS, 1898.

The above figures are clearly indicative of a period of financial depression. The decreases under customs and railways are indicative of a bad crop, due to drought, and show a decrease of exports and imports, as well as a decrease in the amount of sugar carried by the railways.

On the other hand the increases are equally indicative of "hard times," for the increases in fees of court and mortgage fees speak for themselves.

The following is a comparative statement of the heads of expenditure for the years 1897 98:—

Heads of Service.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Public debt	584,888.53	584,807.59	—	80.94
Pensions	364,655.68	349,769.97	—	14,885.71
Governor and Legislature.	69,570.36	69,386.42	—	183.94
Colonial Secretary ...	56,468.95	61,443.53	4,974.58	—
Receiver-General ...	146,565.53	128,710.55	—	17,854.98
Auditor-General ...	56,075.44	55,671.85	—	403.59
Customs	225,526.47	225,346.65	—	179.82
Port and marine ...	200,510.71	166,460.03	—	34,050.68
Observatory	17,242.52	18,412.87	1,170.35	—
Museum...	4,650.09	4,686.56	36.47	—
Registrar-General ...	21,731.66	21,077.94	—	653.72
Receiver of registration dues.	58 671.31	56,888.71	—	1,782.60
Post Office	190,327.29	200,262.58	9,935.29	—
Botanical gardens ...	17,621.24	16,821.03	—	800.21
Woods and forests ...	105,183.35	97,696.20	—	7,487.15
Judicial Departments...	530,774.99	505,798.39	—	24,976.60
Ecclesiastical	141,320.93	139,006.66	—	2,314.27
Education	473,365.32	471,333.06	—	2,032.26
Medical and Health Department.	672,946.47	641,066.35	—	31,880.12

Heads of Service.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Quarantine	43,814.99	25,010.84	—	18,804.15
Poor Law Commission	182,081.30	196,444.17	14,362.87	—
Police	596,953.30	581,147.33	—	15,805.97
Prisons	168,532.14	165,870.19	—	2,661.95
Storekeeper-General ...	32,531.89	32,481.40	—	50.49
Immigration	124,576.21	121,787.21	—	2,789.00
Dependencies	47,076.01	44,415.00	—	2,661.01
Crown Agents	4,186.04	4,185.09	—	.95
Writers and copyists ...	6,180.91	5,941.59	—	239.32
Transport	8,923.56	6,751.60	—	2.171.96
Miscellaneous	297,608.81	261,855.12	—	35,753.69
Charitable allowances ...	13,468.61	14,057.48	588.87	—
Interest	125,226.22	123,720.06	—	1,506.16
Military contribution ...	418,272.75	366,358.53	—	51,914.22
Railways	1,166.438.77	1,192,887.27	26,448.50	—
Surveyor-General ...	62,709.41	59,377.34	—	3,332.07
Public works (recurrent)	306,940.96	255,428.11	—	51,512.85
ditto (extraordinary)	104,250.04	40,293.92	—	63,956.12
Loan Commission ...	15,296.62	14,659.47	—	637.15
Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.	51,691.95	37,711.85	—	13,980.10
Exchange	911,940.95	766,434.55	—	145,506.40
Total ...	8,626,798.28	8,131,465.06	57,516.93	552,850.15

The decreases are indicative of economy in the administration, necessitated by the decrease in the revenue, whilst the increase under the head of Poor Law Commission proves that, apart from the fixed charges, there are branches of expenditure which cannot be diminished in times of financial distress.

But the expenditure, even when reduced, seems large for so small a Colony. This is due to the fact that Mauritius possesses a highly centralised system of government, and many duties which in other countries fall on the Municipalities, or are left to private or charitable enterprise, are in Mauritius undertaken by the central Government. Thus the Railway vote, the vote for Water-Works, the Ecclesiastical vote, the vote for Education, and the vote for the Medical and Health Department and Poor Law Commission, as well as charitable allowances, absorb large sums which swell the expenditure. Then, too, such votes as Public Debt, Pensions, Military expenditure, Interest, and Exchange, are entirely beyond the control of the Government.

The revenue and expenditure for the preceding five years were :—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1893	8,103,922	7,872,096
1894	8,534,427	8,587,039
1895	8,273,612	8,488,736
1896	8,849,181	8,544,736
1897	7,996,705	8,626,798
Total	41,757,847	42,119,405
Average ...	8,351,569	8,423,881

It is evident from these figures that for the preceding five years the average expenditure exceeded the average income.

The averages compared with the year 1898 stand as follows :—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
Average	8,351,569	8,423,8
1898...	7,620,318	8,131,465
Less than average	731,251	292,416

showing a marked decrease on the average revenue and expenditure.

The excess of expenditure over revenue was Rs. 511,146.

The deficit was met out of Treasury balances.

The changes in taxation were :—

1. An alteration in the mode of assessing Customs duties by which the duties and the revenue were increased. (Ordinance No. 5 of 1898.)

2. A surcharge of 10 per cent. on existing Customs duties. (Temporary) Ordinance No. 52 of 1898.

3. An increase in the Excise of Spirits. (Ordinance No. 33 of 1898.)

4. Increases in Stamp duties, Registration dues and Stamps on Customs certificates and on Contracts. (Ordinances Nos. 6 of 1898, 16 of 1898, 21, 24, 28 and 46 of 1898.)

5. Increased duties on salt and on petroleum oil. (Ordinance No. 51 of 1898.)

6. An increase in the rent levied on the lessees and proprietors of the Oil islands. (Ordinance No. 62 of 1898–99.)

7. A license duty on the manufacture of vinegar and an excise duty on vinegar manufactured in the Colony.

8. Licenses to be paid by Government contractors not already licensed under existing laws. (Government Notice No. 196.) Addition of certain licenses to schedule. (Government Notices Nos. 24, 81, and 152.) Addition of traction engines and trucks to schedule of direct taxes. (Ordinance No. 49 of 1898.)

In a Colony situated as Mauritius is, it is difficult to devise new sources of taxation that will not involve hardship.

Almost the sole industry of the Island is the sugar industry and many sugar estates have, partly through a scarcity of capital which prohibits the improvement in machinery so necessary to economical production, and partly through the low price of sugar, been brought perilously near to the margin of profitable production.

It would be imprudent, therefore, to increase the burdens on the sugar industry to any material extent.

On the other hand there are large numbers of persons who have barely sufficient income to sustain life.

The rate of wages is low and the habit of life is necessarily frugal, a frugality imposed by penury ; to tax the lower classes would therefore mean to increase still further the distress which prevails amongst many of them and to fill the hospitals, the infirmaries, and the gaols.

The increased taxation has, therefore, been so arranged as to fall on the general community, without pressing unduly on the sugar industry or the poorest class of the population.

Balances.

The year 1898 closed with an excess of expenditure over revenue of Rs. 511,146, which was met out of the Treasury balance, which was reduced thereby to Rs. 438,866.

At the close of the preceding year it amounted to Rs. 899,336 and at the close of 1896 it was Rs. 1,487,557, thus showing a steady exhaustion of the reserve fund.

Currency.

The notes in circulation, consisting of notes for five rupees, for ten rupees, and for fifty rupees, amounted to Rs. 3,404,250, represented as follows :—

	Rs.
Specie in hands of Commissioners	1,360,000
Investments and securities held by trustees in England	2,166,244
Total assets	3,526,244
Deduct notes in circulation	3,404,250
Leaves a balance in favour of Commissioners of ...	121,994

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony on the 31st December 1898 amounted to £1,195,690 16*s*. 0*d*., as follows :—

	£	£
Unconverted 4 per cent. debentures	164,200	
Less bonds redeemed	51,400	
		112,800
Converted inscribed stock, 4 per cent.		482,390
Poor Law Commission 5 per cent. debentures, issued in 1873	10,000	
Bonds redeemed	9,500	
		500
Hurricane loan (Imperial Guarantee 3 per cent.) ...		600,000
Total		£1,195,690

The public debt at the close of 1897 was	1,237,489
It was at the end of 1898	1,195,690
It has been reduced therefore by	£41,799

due chiefly to the repayment of Treasury bills and to bonds redeemed during the year 1898.

The foregoing statement gives an idea of the money assets and liabilities of the Colony. But this statement in no way corresponds with the form of statement that would be presented by a commercial company. A commercial statement would include amongst the assets, the railway and rolling stock, the public lands and forests, public buildings, &c., which, if they were included in assets would more than counterbalance the liabilities.

Curatelle.

The amount due to Vacant Estates at the close of the year was Rs. 425,198, of which investments represent Rs. 272,455, the balance represented by cash in bank being Rs. 152,743.

The public debt is secured on the general revenue of the Colony.

A financial crisis took place in the early part of 1898, which had to be met by exceptional measures. The crisis was caused partly by the short sugar crop of 1897–98—a short crop due to continued drought during the year—partly also by a steady fall in the price of sugar, and partly by the export of silver to India—an export necessitated by the obligations incurred by merchants, which could not, as in ordinary years, be met by the balance of trade.

The export of specie for the four years preceding 1897 had shown a balance of Rs. 1,500,000 over imports. The balance of imports and exports in 1897 to the middle of December showed a balance against the Colony of Rs. 1,940,000. From the middle of December 1897 to the beginning of February 1898 another sum of Rs, 500,000 was exported, showing a total net export of Rs. 3,940,000.

The Colony was in fact being rapidly drained of its rupee currency.

The banks had in 1898 raised their drawing rate to 5 per cent. premium, an unprecedented rate. Unfortunately, too, the banks, owing to the strain on their realisable resources, were unable to afford the necessary financial support to the sugar growers, and the industry was threatened with commercial disaster.

The measures taken were :—

(1) An Ordinance empowering the Governor to suspend the operation of Article 5 of Ordinance No. 28 of 1876 (the Currency

Act), which made it obligatory on the Commissioners of Currency to issue on demand silver rupees of India to the holders of Mauritius Currency Notes, and wherever the Governor in Council considered it urgently necessary to suspend the provisions of Articles 2 and 14 of the Currency Act, and by his warrant to authorize the issue of currency notes, payable on demand by the said Commissioners, to the total amount specified in the warrant, in exchange for securities to be transferred to the account of the Trustees of the Commissioners in England.

In virtue of this law a Proclamation was issued, No. 8 of 8th February 1898, temporarily suspending the Currency Act, and under the Governor's warrant Rs. 1,000,000 in currency notes were issued to the financial officers against securities transferred to the Trustees of the Commissioners of Currency, and were lent to the Mauritius Commercial Bank on the security of dock warrants on sugar in the Dock Companies' stores in Port Louis, and of the Treasury bills held by the bank.

The loan was made repayable on or before the 15th August 1898, with interest at 4 per cent., and the sum so advanced was refunded before the date fixed.

While suspending the Currency Act, the Governor issued a Government notice, stating that the Government would, as far as possible, endeavour to meet the requirements of small holders of currency notes by the issue of limited amounts of specie for purposes of change, and was prepared to deal with the banks to meet the requirements of the holders of larger amounts who might desire to make remittances in India by the issue of drafts on the Crown Agents or on Bombay in exchange for currency notes.

Instructions were given to the Commissioners, which were carried out so as to avoid inconvenience to the public while discouraging speculators.

The effect of these measures was such that whilst the drain of silver was checked the credit of the currency notes was not impaired.

For though theoretically the Colony possessed for a time an inconvertible paper currency, still the facilities for foreign payments were such that no depreciation took place.

The Commissioners of Currency received from the local banks in February and March Rs. 1,250,000 in notes in exchange for drafts on Bombay. These drafts were honoured by the National Bank of India, and to repay the bank the Crown Agents lent the Colony £83,500 at bank rates. On this transaction a sum of Rs. 6,250 was paid to the Government by the banks in the shape of premium. The banks also undertook to issue their drafts at an amount not exceeding 1¼ per cent. premium, and to discourage the wholesale export of rupees by speculators.

Further, the Currency Commissioners, under the Governor's warrant, issued to the financial officers a sum of Rs. 1,120,000 in notes, the financial officers being authorized to lend this sum to the Mauritius Commercial Bank on the guarantee of rupees in transit, the specie being shipped from Bombay to the order of the Receiver-General in March, May, and June 1898.

The Government received Rs. 5,928 as interest on this transaction.

(2) Ordinance No. 2 of 1898 was passed to facilitate the raising of money on loan by owners and others carrying on the cultivation of land in the Colony, to enable them to carry on such cultivation and to realise their crops.

The Commissioners of Currency lent the financial officers Rs. 1,250,000 in notes, which enabled the Government to make loans to the extent of about a million and a half of rupees to planters on the guarantee of first-rank mortgages on their estates, and on the produce thereof consigned to agents in Port Louis, approved by the Government. These loans, bearing interest at 8 per cent., were made in sterling at the Bombay rate of the rupee at the time of the advances, and were repayable at the same rate on or before the 30th April 1899.

All these loans have been fully repaid, and the profit realised was a little over Rs. 20,000.

The measures taken were exceptional, but they were successful. They illustrate the dangers of a small Colony dependent on a single industry and separated by long distances from a strong financial support. The drain of specie, which in England is controlled by the bank rate and the bank reserve, has no such control here. The financial support offered by the Bank of England as the bank of the banks is absent, and duties which in other countries would naturally devolve on the National Bank had to be undertaken by the Government.

The Proclamation suspending the Currency Act was repealed early in 1899 (Proclamation No. 10 of 5th March 1899).

Towards the close of 1898 rupees began to flow back into the Colony and specie is now abundant everywhere.

Municipalities and Boards.

The only elective Municipality in Mauritius is that of Port Louis.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure of this Municipality for five years. The revenue is derived partly from a Government contribution in lieu of quay dues, amounting to Rs. 90,000 annually, the remainder being collected by the

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Municipality from rates, licenses, rents, water rates, dog tax, and other miscellaneous sources of revenue :—

—		Revenue.	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.
1894...		439,418.79	486,352.12
1895...		425,327.09	451,573.11
1896...		459,301.13	457,090.35
1897...		457,180.12	513,628.56
1898...		455,157.96	478,187.79
Receipts on account, 1894-98 (New Oriental Bank Corporation in liquidation and arrears of accounts, viz., rent of markets, &c.).		13,631.46	—
Loans :—			
1894—Mauritius Government deficit.	Rs. 28,500		
1897— Do. do. (over-flood).	50,000		
1898—Debentures issued, Grand River Bridge.	26,000		
		104,500.00	—
1895—Government subsidy for upkeep of Fire Brigade.	5,000		
Subsidies from Insurance	2,709.69		
		7,709.69	—
Total		2,362,226.24	2,386,831.93

The following is a statement of the debts of the Municipality of Port Louis, showing the terms of repayment:—

—	Original Debt.	Amount Repaid.	Balance due on December 31, 1898.	Terms of Repayment.
	£	£	£	
Conversion Loan	140,000	8,700	131,300	In 49½ years by annual drawings conformably to Ordinance No. 33 of 1881 and 16 of 1884–85.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Colonial Loan	156,000	70,200.00	85,800.00	By annual drawings of 78 debentures (Ordinance 42 of 1888).
Government Hurricane Loan ...	150,000	23,890.67	126,109.33	By annuity in 25 years (Ordinance 24 of 1892 and 26 of 1893).
Government Special Loan... ...	28,500	28,500.00	—	In 4 equal instalments (Ordinance 19 of 1894).
Government Overflood Loan ...	50,000	8,333.32	41,666.68	In 12 yearly instalments (Ordinance 31 of 1896).
Grand River Bridge Loan... ...	26,000	—	26,000.00	By annual drawings of 20 debentures from 1899 (Ordinance 31 of 1897).
Total	410,500	130,923.99	279,576.01	

There are three Boards of Commissioners for the government of the townships under their control, namely :—

The Board of Curepipe ;
The Board of Beau Bassin and Rose Hill ;
The Board of Quatre Bornes.

All these Boards are nominated by the Governor.

Their revenue is collected partly by the Commissioners, as in the case of local rates on houses, &c., and partly by Government, as regards licenses and taxes, under Ordinances Nos. 6, of 1878, and 24, of 1895.

The following is the table of receipts and expenditure of the three Boards :—

Curepipe.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1894	51,461	49,282
1895	51,493	48,884
1896	52,600	49,601
1897	59,024	55,531
1898	59,863	57,550

Beau Bassin and Rose Hill.

1896	26,540	22,410
1897	26,618	24,584
1898	24,743	20,439

Quatre Bornes.

1896	3,638	2,647
1897	9,223	9,748
1898	9,655	9,306

The Board of Rose Hill and Beau Bassin owes Rs. 18,000 to the Government. This amount is refunded by annual instalments of Rs. 2,000. The other Boards have not contracted any debts.

Grants or moneys collected for and paid to the Municipalities appear as part of the general revenue of the Colony.

Fines and law charges received and paid to the Municipality of Port Louis appear as matter of account.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statements show the total value of the imports and exports of Mauritius during the past five years. They also show in comparative form the value of the principal imports during the years 1894, 1896, 1897, and 1898, as well as the chief articles of export during the years 1897 and 1898 :—

Imports.

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	21,096,011	20,125,402	19,964,436	17,944,886	16,701,778
Exchange and Charges	10,917,054	9,718,918	9,692,947	8,107,774	6,854,994
Specie and Bullion	839,248	662,250	2,537,026	1,003,348	4,769,235
Total	32,852,313	30,506,570	32,194,409	27,056,008	28,326,007

Exports.

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Produce and Manufacture of the Colony ...	29,497,248	24,751,037	29,061,141	23,423,412	26,013,061
Shipping Charges	1,731,071	1,732,987	2,055,839	2,461,332	2,940,568
British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	1,731,371	2,496,598	2,408,874	1,823,394	1,314,167
Specie and Bullion	430,982	2,548,679	423,760	2,945,869	1,598,640
Total	33,390,672	31,529,301	33,949,614	30,654,007	31,866,436

The increase is chiefly under the following heads :—

1. Fibre-aloe	Due principally to increased demand from England, France, and Germany.
2. Hardware	Increased demand from Reunion.
3. Millwork	Sent to Reunion.
4. Oil-cocoanut ...	Sent to England especially.
5. Molasses and sugar..	Due principally to the excellent crop (the heaviest on record) and to the American anti-bounty tariff, which created a demand for a low quality of granulated sugar for refining purposes.
6. Rum	Increased demand from England.
7. Tea...	Madagascar was the principal market to which our tea was sent. (Rs. 10,586.)

The rate of imports and exports per head of population was as follows :—

—	1897.	1898.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	71.61	74.76
Exports	81.12	84.10

Imports.

Excluding specie and bullion, exchange, and other charges, the statement shows that there has been a gradual but decided decrease since 1894. The difference between that year and 1898 being nearly 21 per cent., as compared with 1897 the decrease is nearly 7 per cent.

Including specie and bullion, exchange, and other charges, the year 1898 is 13·80 per cent. under 1894, but is nearly 4½ per cent. over 1897.

Exports.

The total value of exports, including shipping charges on local produce and specie and bullion, was Rs. 31,866,436 in 1898, as against Rs. 33,390,672 in 1894 and Rs. 30,634,007 in 1897, being a reduction of 4½ per cent. and an increase cf nearly 4 per cent. respectively.

The returns show generally a large reduction in value of imports in 1898 as compared with 1894 and 1896, although with few exceptions the United Kingdom has retained her hold on our trade.

Apothecary wares from France show a large increase as compared with 1894, while the United Kingdom shows a reduction. There is, however, an increase when compared with 1896.

Beef, salted.—The United States of America are becoming the chief supplier, and thus superseding the United Kingdom and Australia.

Brassware.—The United Kingdom shows a large increase, while France has decreased.

Butter—Denmark and the United States now provide our market with this article. The imports from the United Kingdom, France, and Italy being diminished in consequence.

Cheese.—Holland and New Zealand show large increases.

Clocks and watches.—The United Kingdom shows a decrease; France and the United States an increase.

Coffee.—Indian and Ceylon markets have been supplanted by Java, Arabia, and Pondicherry. Even the United Kingdom sends coffee in increasing amounts.

Barley.—The United States supplied a large quantity in 1898, interfering with the supply from India.

Oats.—The United States and Australia increased their supplies.

Fish, pickled.—The United States seem to be suppressing supplies from the United Kingdom.

Haberdashery.—Germany in this line has made large strides, while the United Kingdom, France, and India fell off.

Hosiery.—Germany is gaining largely in this line, to the gradual exclusion of the United Kingdom, France, and India.

Hardware shows an increase from the United Kingdom and decreases from France and India.

Lard.—France and the United States show an increase, the United Kingdom a falling off.

Matches.—Japan and Sweden have nearly driven English matches from the Mauritius market. From enquiries made amongst merchants, there seems to be no reason why the ground lost should not be recovered. The English wax match is probably the best in the world, but an idea has become prevalent that they are not damp proof, that the heads stick together, and that they are not suited to the Mauritius climate

This is probably an unfounded belief, for the wax matches imported by the King's Royal Rifles and used by them at Curepipe, the dampest place in the Island, answered perfectly. In regard, however, to wooden safety matches, there is a reason which might be noticed by British manufacturers. The ordinary safety match is large, and made up in boxes unsuited to the smoker's pocket. The Japanese and Swedish matches are in more convenient sizes. The duty is R. 1.10 levied per gross on boxes containing each not more than 100 matches, and a proportional duty on boxes containing more than 100 matches. If, then, the British match makers were to make small matches put up in boxes containing not more than 100 matches, they might recover the place which the superiority of their matches entitles them to.

Provisions.—American goods are on the increase.

Shooks.—America is supplanting India.

Woollen, mixed with cotton and silk.—Increase in German importations, decrease, United Kingdom and France.

Vacoa bags, aloe fibre, and soap have increased.

Hides and Rum have diminished.

Sugar has attained a record in 1898. There has been a record export in quantity, but a decline in value.

Tea is now beginning to show as export.

Vanilla has declined in quantity while increasing in value.

The following return of the trade with Madagascar for the last five years shows clearly the effect of the duties now levied in that island :—

TRADE WITH MADAGASCAR FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1894–98.

Inclusive of Charges and Exchange.

IMPORTS.

1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
502,028	383,003	460,666	464,518	481,801

Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.

EXPORTS

1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
432,422	401,882	332,967	176,778	110,226

[NOTE.—The above figures show that whilst the imports from Madagascar have been increasing yearly, the exports thereto have decreased to one-fourth the value of exports in former years. The decrease is due to the imposition at the end of 1896 of a duty of Fcs. 120 per hectolitre on foreign spirits imported into Madagascar.]

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in Mauritius, and though there are workshops, there are none that could be dignified with the title of manufactories. Nevertheless, vinegar and rum are made and exported, and soap, which is made from cocoanut oil, is beginning to show on the list of exports.

There are also workshops for the repair of machinery, and small coasting vessels are frequently built in Mauritius.

The fisheries are protected by special Ordinances and by the creation of Crown reserves which are strictly preserved, as well as by the establishment of private barachois, by the creation of a close season, and by the prohibition of the capture of an illegal size of fish, and the prohibition of illegal nets.

Salted fish is becoming an article of export, and the industry shows signs of expansion.

The following are the laws in force in the Colony for the protection of the reserves :—

Ordinances 42 of 1881, 11 of 1883, and 16 of 1892.

These laws regulate the size of fish to be caught, the time during which they may be caught, and the size of the nets to be used in the capture of fish.

Certain parts of the coast of Mauritius are set apart which are called reserves, and in which no fishing can take place,

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except by rod and line, or by basket net. These reserves are watched by the Internal Revenue Guards, who have boats to patrol the spots selected.

There is a Fishing Committee appointed by the Governor, whose duty it is to advise the Government on all questions which may be referred to it.

The following are the fish reserves :—

1. Black River Bay.
2. Tamarind Bay.
3. Petite Riviere Bay.
4. Grand River N. W. Bay.
5. Tombeau Bay.
6. Arsenal Bay.
7. La Mare La Raie.
8. The inner part of Flacq Bay.
9. Trou d'eau douce.
10. Grand River, S. E. Bay.
11. Mahebourg Harbour.
12. Le Chaland Bay.
13. Grand Gaube Bay.
14. Poudre d'Or Bay.
15. Souillac Bay.

The protection of the reserves is left to the Inland Revenue Branch of the Receiver-General's Department, consisting of one superintendent, five inspectors, and twenty-five guards.

The police have also concurrent jurisdiction in detecting contraventions under the Fishery Laws.

The following gives the close season for crabs, camarons, rougets, sardines, and sprats, all dates inclusive :—

Crabs, female	16th September to 14th April next following.
Camarons, female ...	1st October to 1st March following.
Rougets	10th November to 10th December.
Sardines and sprats ...	1st August to 31st January following.

The sizes of the different kinds of fish, 32 in number, that may be taken range from above 8 centimetres to above 28 centimetres, the prohibition varying with different species.

Oysters, mussels, and crabs called "petite espèce" must measure 5 centimetres, homards 23 centimetres, shrimps 8 centimetres. The size of nets is regulated by Ordinance No. 16 of 1892; they consist of:—

1. Large net.
2. Sprat net.
3. Mosquito net.
4. "Canard" net.
5. Shrimp net.
6. Basket net.

Any other device or instrument differing from the above and made use of for fishing is illegal.

Private Barachois.

There are ten private barachois or enclosures communicating with the sea, duly registered under Ordinance No. 42 of 1881.

The private barachois are practically walled ponds or "fish paddocks," which, by permission, may be replenished from Government reserves.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

There are two botanical gardens properly so called in Mauritius, one being a branch of the other, but, in addition, the extensive grounds of the Government House at Reduit are used as an experimental plantation, and there is a Station Agronomique which devotes itself to the experimental growth and study of sugar canes and other productive plants, as well as to their chemical analysis. The botanical gardens at Pamplemousses, which are amongst the most famous, as they are also amongst the most beautiful, in the world, are used partly as a public garden, but also as a nursery and acclimatisation garden. Plants and seeds are supplied to the public, and most of the economic plants, fruit trees, &c., grown in the Colony were originally cultivated in one or other of the botanical gardens.

The varieties of canes known in Mauritius came chiefly from Pamplemousses Gardens. But the Gardens also devote attention to cultivating varieties of aloe fibre, hemp, spices, and indiarubber. They also act as nurseries for reafforestation purposes.

The climate of Mauritius varies at different altitudes and in different districts. The force of the wind varies also with the locality, and there is great variety in the rainfall; all these factors point to the necessity of constant experiment to ascertain the varieties of economic plants best suited to the different districts, and the subject is carefully considered by the officers of the Department.

The aloe fibre industry, which was declining for some years, shows signs of reviving, but the main industry of the Colony is, and must continue to be, the sugar industry. Experiments as to the most profitable variety of cane are thus most likely to give advantageous results, and new varieties have been imported from the West Indies and elsewhere. Tea, which is a young and growing industry, is capable of improvement. It is the subject of study both at the Gardens and at the Station Agronomique.

LAND GRANTS.

Lands are granted by the Government by lease and by sale. Lands which are situated on the sea coast beyond the limits of Port Louis, known as *Pas Géométriques*, can only be leased by public auction, except those forming part of villages which have been proclaimed such. The sales are invariably made by public auction, the purchase price being paid, if so desired, by the purchasers in four instalments, the first on the day of the sale, and the others at intervals of eight months. There is an exception to this rule in cases where lands are desired for charitable, religious, or educational purposes. The rent derived from Crown lands in 1898 was Rs. 43,047 for 5,678 arpents. The sales realised Rs. 1,924 for 12.98 arpents. The average rental value of Crown land is, therefore, Rs. 7.58 per arpent, and the average value of lands sold Rs. 148.23 per arpent.

SHIPPING.

The following returns show:—A.—The shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years. B. and C.—The number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in the years 1897 and 1898, distinguishing nationalities.

There has been an increase of shipping and tonnage under the British flag, while vessels under foreign flags have on the whole diminished.

It is not easy to give a satisfactory explanation of the increase, but the tendency of trade is towards the British possessions and to follow the lines on which British companies have already established a regular service of steamers.

It is to be regretted that the absence of proper facilities in the harbour of Port Louis causes undue delay to the large steamers now frequenting the port; but it is hoped that a scheme of harbour improvement may be devised shortly which will give more rapid despatch to shipping and permit a considerable reduction in the port charges.

A. SHIPPING INWARDS AND OUTWARDS

	BRITISH.							
	With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargoes.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
							Sailing	*Vessels*
1894	119	70,472	5	1,402	124	71,874	54	18,375
1895	139	81,214	7	3,179	146	84,393	45	17,814
1896	134	77,094	12	6,863	146	83,957	52	19,862
1897	106	56,676	7	2,653	113	59,329	55	16,995
1898	118	58,856	4	1,751	122	60,607	31	12,872
								Steamers
1894	91	148,729	2	2,363	93	151,092	56	72,542
1895	84	154,043	7	13,018	91	167,061	52	72,587
1896	85	156,602	18	35,964	103	192,566	65	84,078
1897	73	144,063	7	11,617	80	155,680	69	89,657
1898	65	140,131	10	17,312	75	157,443	57	84,625
							Sailing	*Vessels*
1894	100	41,132	31	34,988	131	76,120	44	13,026
1895	112	48,337	26	32,236	138	80,573	51	17,808
1896	114	37,486	28	41,786	142	79,272	67	24,290
1897	91	36,276	30	28,490	121	64,766	55	16,686
1898	88	30,870	27	25,568	115	56,438	38	12,582
								Steamers
1894	83	131,596	17	27,329	100	158,925	54	68,843
1895	65	119,617	25	43,813	90	163,430	52	71,984
1896	79	147,874	22	40,683	101	188,557	67	85,813
1897	63	127,705	19	32,354	82	160,089	64	85,693
1898	57	125,132	17	29,276	74	154,408	47	76,573

FOR THE YEARS 1894-98.

FOREIGN.				TOTAL.					
In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.	
Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Entered.									
8	2,467	62	20,842	173	88,847	13	3,869	186	92,716
9	3,739	54	21,553	184	99,028	16	6,918	200	105,946
21	7,562	73	27,424	186	96,956	33	14,425	219	111,381
15	7,047	70	24,042	161	73,671	22	9,700	183	83,371
13	4,882	44	17,754	149	71,728	17	6,633	166	78,361
Entered.									
—	—	56	72,542	147	221,271	2	2,363	149	223,634
1	912	53	73,499	136	226,630	8	13,930	144	240,560
4	6,346	69	90,424	150	240,680	22	42,310	172	282,990
—	—	69	89,657	142	233,720	7	11,617	149	245,337
4	6,817	61	91,402	122	224,756	14	24,129	136	248,885
Cleared.									
10	6,465	54	19,491	144	54,158	41	41,453	185	95,611
5	4,088	56	21,896	163	66,145	31	36,324	194	102,469
6	3,767	73	28,057	181	61,776	34	45,553	215	107,309
15	7,515	70	24,204	146	52,962	45	36,005	191	88,967
5	3,428	43	16,010	126	43,452	32	28,996	158	72,448
Cleared.									
1	1,369	55	70,212	137	200,439	18	28,698	155	229,137
2	2,625	54	74,609	117	191,601	27	46,438	144	238,039
4	6,757	71	92,570	146	233,687	26	47,440	172	281,127
5	3,964	69	89,657	127	213,398	24	36,318	151	249,716
14	14,869	61	91,442	104	201,705	31	44,145	135	245,850

B.—NUMBER AND TONNAGE OF SAILING VESSELS OF EACH NATION.

Entered.

Nationality of Vessels.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		1898.*	
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	1897	106	56,676	7	2,653	113	59,329		
	1898	118	58,856	4	1,751	122	60,607	+ 9	+ 1,278
German	1897	23	6,026	6	1,810	29	7,836		
	1898	15	4,943	9	2,847	24	7,790	— 5	— 46
French	1897	15	2,239	3	2,556	18	4,795		
	1898	2	38	2	1,328	4	1,366	— 14	— 3,429
Norwegian	1897	7	3,301	4	1,554	11	4,855		
	1898	5	2,234	2	707	7	2,941	— 4	— 1,914

Danish	1897	6	3,221	1	363	7	3,584		
	1898	—	—	—	—	—	—	— 7	— 3,584
American	1897	1	334	—	—	1	334		
	1898	3	2,662	—	—	3	2,662	+ 2	+ 2,328
Arabian	1897	1	848	—	—	1	848		
	1898	—	—	—	—	—	—	— 1	— 848
Italian	1897	1	531	—	—	1	531		
	1898	4	2,069	—	—	4	2,069	+ 3	+ 1,538
Swedish	1897	1	495	1	764	2	1,259		
	1898	—	—	—	—	—	—	— 2	— 1,259
Russian	1897	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	1898	2	926	—	—	2	926	+ 2	+ 926
Total		...	...	...	...	...	...	— 17	— 5,010

* + Increase. — Decrease.

MAURITIUS,
1898.

Cleared

Nationality of Vessels.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		1898.*	
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	1897	91	36,276	30	28,490	121	64,766		
	1898	88	30,870	27	25,568	115	56,438	— 6	— 8,328
German	1897	25	6,166	3	1,246	28	7,412		
	1898	24	6,761	1	326	25	7,087	— 3	— 325
French	1897	16	4,080	3	1,242	19	5,322		
	1898	4	1,366	—	—	4	1,366	— 15	— 3,956
Norwegian	1897	8	3,119	4	2,323	12	5,442		
	1898	3	1,281	2	1,070	5	2,351	— 7	— 3,091
Danish	1897	4	2,139	3	1,445	7	3,584		
	1898	—	—	—	—	—	—	— 7	— 3,584

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American	1897	1	334	—	—	1	334		
	1898	2	891	1	1,320	3	2,211	+ 2	+ 1,877
Arabian	1897	1	848	—	—	1	848		
	1898	—	—	—	—	—	—	— 1	— 848
Swedish	1897	—	—	2	1,259	2	1,259		
	1898	—	—	—	—	—	—	— 2	— 1,259
Russian	1897	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	1898	2	926	—	—	2	926	+ 2	+ 926
Italian	1897	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	1898	3	1,357	1	712	4	2,069	+ 4	+ 2,069
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	— 33	— 16,519

* + Increase. — Decreas

C.—Number and Tonnage of Steam Vessels of each Nation.

Entered.

Nationality of Vessels.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		1898.*	
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	1897	73	144,063	7	11,617	80	155,680		
	1898	65	140,131	10	17,312	75	157,443	— 5	+ 1,763
French	1897	59	78,606	—	—	59	78,606		
	1898	48	73,491	2	3,560	50	77,051	— 9	— 1,555
German	1897	8	7,994	—	—	8	7,994		
	1898	2	2,118	—	—	2	2,118	— 6	— 5,876
Norwegian	1897	2	3,057	—	—	2	3,057		
	1898	—	—	1	1,969	1	1,969	— 1	— 1,088
Austrian	1897	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	1898	7	9,016	1	1,288	8	10,304	+ 8	+ 10,304
Total		...	...	...	...	...	...	— 13	+ 3,548

Cleared.

British	1897	63	127,705	19	32,354	82	160,059		
	1898	57	125,132	17	29,276	74	154,408	— 8	— 5,651
French	1897	54	74,642	5	3,964	59	78,606		
	1898	41	68,622	9	8,429	50	77,051	— 9	— 1,555
German	1897	8	7,994	—	—	8	7,994		
	1898	2	2,118	—	—	2	2,118	— 6	— 5,876
Norwegian	1897	2	3,057	—	—	2	3,057		
	1898	1	1,969	—	—	1	1,969	— 1	— 1,088
Austrian	1897	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	1898	3	3,864	5	6,440	8	10,304	+ 8	+ 10,304
Total		...	...	...	...	...	...	— 16	— 3,866

* + Increase. — Decrease.

MAURITIUS,
1898.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The legislation for the year 1898 may be divided under four heads :—

1. Financial.
2. Consolidation and Codification.
3. Sanitary and Quarantine.
4. Miscellaneous.

The chief financial measures have already been described in previous sections of this Report.

The codifications of the laws by a series of consolidated Ordinances was begun during the session.

The first measure was the Interpretation and Common Form Ordinance No. 8. By this measure a number of principles, common to all legislation, were settled on the lines indicated by the Imperial Interpretation Act of 1889. Article 15 of this Ordinance defines the effect of disallowance of a local Ordinance by the Queen. Article 24 settles the language by which cumulative or alternative punishments are imposed, and Article 26 permits the use of French equivalents to English expressions, in certain cases allowing those expressions to be interpreted by French law.

A consolidated Ordinance was passed dealing with the Savings Bank, No. 45, and three Ordinances, 40, 41, and 42, dealt with the Penal Code. Great progress was made in the amendment of the law of 1838. Attempts to commit certain misdemeanours, larceny being the most important, are made punishable. The general tendency of the amendments is, however, to make the law more merciful.

The charges to which the Colony was exposed from the spread of plague caused the passing of two Ordinances, one, No. 44, to amend the Quarantine Laws by allowing the Governor to proclaim certain ports or districts as infected, and another, No. 47, to provide for the notification of infectious and contagious diseases to the Sanitary Authorities, and for the prevention and mitigation of such diseases. This latter Ordinance was based almost entirely on the English Public Health Statutes.

The miscellaneous Ordinances dealt with the constitution of the Benches of Magistrates, an amendment of the Petroleum Ordinance, and an Ordinance to transfer to the Supreme Court the jurisdiction in insolvency, bankruptcy, and winding up of companies.

There were also other miscellaneous Ordinances of purely local interest.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Public primary education is imparted to two classes of schools, the Government Schools and the State-aided Schools. In 1898 the number of pupils on the roll was :—

Government Schools	9,826
Roman Catholic Aided Schools... ...	6,674
Church of England Aided Schools ...	2,017
Presbyterian Mission	203
Mahommedan	153
	18,873

The Government Schools are entirely supported by Government. The State-aided Schools are under the control of private persons styled managers, and receive a liberal grant from the Government.

The Government Schools are divided into non-result and result schools. All the State-aided schools are result schools.

There are no industrial, technical, or agricultural schools. The only training of this kind consists in the instruction given to five boys who are sent yearly to the Government railway workshops and to two others who are sent yearly to the Botanical Gardens. The workshop boys are apprenticed for five years and the Botanical Garden boys for four years. Four girls are sent yearly to learn millinery and dressmaking for three years.

Education is not compulsory, and is gratuitous. Less than a fourth of the estimated number of children of school age attend school.

The total expenditure for 1898 was Rs. 302,319.42.

There can be no doubt that the weak point in the system is the absence of sufficient and suitable technical and industrial education.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Secondary education is under the control of the Council of Education, and more immediately of its College Committee.

Provision is made for the education of boys by means of :—

1. The Royal College.
2. The Royal College Schools.
3. The Associated Schools, *i.e.* aided schools affiliated to the Royal College.

In 1898 the number of pupils attending the Royal College and its two schools was 428.

The Associated Schools are not subject to inspection, but they are expected to submit all their pupils annually for examination.

In 1898 there were 24 Associated Schools in the Island. The total number of pupils presented for examination was 449.

The Royal College has a classical and a modern side. Two leaving scholarships of £200 a year, tenable in Europe for four years, are awarded annually, one on the classical side, the other on the modern side.

Eleven scholarships and exhibitions open to all youths of the Colony are annually offered for competition. Sixteen more are limited to pupils of the Primary Schools, three to pupils of Associated Schools, and three to pupils of the Royal College.

Grants of free tuition are frequently made to poor scholars, and there are twenty-six eleemosynary scholarships and exhibitions in the Governor's gift.

In 1898, out of 428 boys, 142 were non-paying pupils. The fees are Rs. 12 per month in the Royal College and Rs. 5 in the Royal College schools.

The cost of the Royal College and its two schools was Rs. 184,516.

For the encouragement of the higher instruction of girls a scheme of annual examination was started in 1884. There are four standards for girls under 11, 12, 15, and 17 respectively. Medals, books, and money prizes are awarded to the successful candidates, and result grants rising from Rs. 25 to Rs. 100 are paid to the managers of schools. A sum of Rs. 7,000 is voted annually for this purpose. An Education Ordinance is now (1899) under consideration to remedy some defects in the system, but looking at the educational system generally, it is hardly to be doubted that there are few countries in the world that offer to the children of the poor a higher class of scholastic instruction on more liberal terms. There is no reason why the clever son of a day labourer should not receive a first-class public school education, and eventually proceed to an English University without costing his father a single rupee.

But the system, like the system of primary education, is weak on the strictly technical and industrial side. The clever boy may become a lawyer, a doctor, or an engineer, but his less talented comrades, who are left behind, find the market for clerks overstocked.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

There were nine public hospitals in Mauritius in 1898, including the Lunatic Asylum. The following is a return of patients treated:—

—	1897.	1898.
Indoor patients	18,207	20,464
Outdoor "	59,751	54,521
Total	77,958	74,985

There were also 21 dispensaries.

The most important of the hospitals is the Civil Hospital of Port Louis. In the year 1898 there were 4,467 males and 1,221 females admitted into the Civil Hospital, and the daily average was 148 males and 57 females. Of these, 4,225 males and 1,143 females were cured. 256 males and 100 females died in 1898.

There were 1,394 cases of malarial fever and 276 of malarial cachexia. There were 311 cases of phthisis, 187 of dysentery, and 183 of pneumonia. There were also 507 cases of bronchitis. There were also 143 cases of syphilis and 45 of Bright's disease. The other diseases do not need to be mentioned particularly.

In the Lunatic Asylum there were 296 males and 174 females, making a total of 470 inmates under treatment in 1898. Of these, 7 were cured and 21 died during the year. The patients are employed in gardening, in masonry work, and at various trades, such as blacksmith, carpenter, making mattresses, straw hats, &c.

ASYLUMS AND POOR HOUSES.

There is one general asylum, called the Barkly Asylum, which contains:—

(*a*) A hospital for the treatment of the sick poor.

(*b*) An asylum for the reception and maintenance of old and infirm paupers.

(*c*) An asylum for the reception of harmless pauper lunatics transferred to the lunatic asylum.

(*d*) An orphanage.

During the year 1898, the Barkly Asylum received 3,949 pauper patients for treatment. 418 old and infirm people were admitted into the asylum proper, and 123 harmless lunatics were admitted into the lunatic branch. 166 orphan children were admitted into the orphanage. Light work is required from the pauper inmates of the Barkly Asylum.

In addition to the Barkly Asylum, there are six poor houses throughout the Colony. 702 paupers were admitted into these six poor houses in the year 1898.

There is also a Leper Asylum, St. Lazare, into which 219 pauper lepers were admitted in 1898.

Eighty-four orphan children have been admitted into private institutions at the expense of the Poor Law Commission.

Rice, money, medical assistance, medicine, and medical comforts are also given to the poor. Charitable grants are also made by the Governor from a special fund voted for the purpose. 4,350 persons were relieved during the year 1898.

The following is a table showing the persons who received indoor and outdoor relief in 1898 :—

1. Sick in Civil Hospital, Port Louis ...	3,848
2. „ Canal Street Convent Hospital ...	297
3. „ District Hospitals	11,100
4. Infirm, Barkly Asylum	418
5. „ the Convents	702
6. Lepers, St. Lazare Asylum	219
7. Insane patients, Lunatic Asylum ...	438
8. „ „ Barkly Asylum ...	123
9. Orphans, Barkly Asylum	166
10. „ private institutions	84
11. Alimentary and pecuniary aid	2,314
12. Sick at dispensaries (medical)	64,852
Total	84,561

The Poor Law Commissioner reports that poverty is gradually increasing in the Colony, and more especially in Port Louis.

REFORMATORY.

The following return shows the working of the Reformatory for the year 1898. The total cost of maintaining and guarding the boys in 1898 was Rs. 13,583, against Rs. 19,082 in 1897. The average cost per boy was Rs. 181, as against Rs. 236 in 1897. The earnings in 1898 amounted to Rs. 4,432, as against Rs. 4,599 in 1897.

COMPARISON of ADMISSIONS, CHARGES, &c., for the YEARS 1898 and 1897.

Year.	Admissions.	Discharges.	Daily average number of admissions.	Daily average nnmber of boys unlocked.	Escapes and Recaptures.		Admissions to hospitals.	Daily average admitted to hospital.	Daily average of sick in hospital.	Number of deaths.	Cost of guarding and maintaining of boys.	Total cost per head on average number of boys.	Earnings.	Earnings per head.
					Escapes.	Re-captures.								
1898	420	405	1·15	102·67	4	3	61	·16	5·33	Nil	Rs. 18,583.08	Rs. 181	Rs. 4,483.99	Rs. 43.67
1897	416	393	1·14	80·97	5	5	159	·44	5·97	Nil	19,082.79	236.20	4,599.35	56.93
	+ 4	+12	+·01	+21·70	—1	—2	—98	—·28	—·64	Nil	—499.71	—55.20	—115.36	—13.26

+ Increase. — Decrease.

The working of the Reformatory is admittedly defective. It is in fact a boys' prison rather than a reformatory. Trades are taught, and the boys are visited and instructed by the clergymen of the denominations to which they belong. Scholastic instruction is given, and the report of the Inspector of Schools states that progress has been very satisfactory as a whole; but the boys are not reformed. Fifty-seven ex-reformatory boys passed through the prison in the year 1898.

The period of detention, which in the case of 316 boys varied from two days to three months, is too short to make any impression on the character of the boys. Moreover, a more complete subdivision and classification of the boys, which will prevent the corruption of the more hopeful cases by the incorrigible and wholly bad boys, is desirable. This is a matter which will doubtless be considered when the state of the finances permit.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The savings deposited at the bank at 3½ per cent. interest amounted to Rs. 2,701,292 on the 31st December 1898, compared with Rs. 2,834,978 on 31st December 1897. Although the total sum of deposits was Rs. 130,000 less than that of the previous year there were 223 more depositors in 1898, making 24,226 in all, of which 10,373 were of the Indian population with a sum of Rs. 1,253,795 standing to their credit, against 10,381 in 1897 with a balance of Rs. 1,333,119 to their credit. The remaining depositors belong to the general population. The financial position of the bank at the close of the year was as follows :—

Investments	Rs. 2,888,333.87
Cash in hand	26,497.48
Receiver-General	113,500.75
	3,028,332.10
Liabilities due to depositors ...	2,701,292.03
Balance in favour of bank ...	327,040.07

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE, PRISON, AND CRIMINAL.

The following table shows the number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1898 :—

Total No. of Offences.	Offences against the Person.	Prædial Larceny.	Offences against Property other than Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences.
33,803	6,152	509	5,582	21,560
Number of above proceeded with.				
24,687	983	491	2,879	20,334

Prædial larceny in the above table means robbing provision grounds or homesteads or cane fields.

Of the above, 3,367 were discharged for want of prosecution by complainant or for want of evidence, 1,998 cases were dismissed on the merits, and 21,851 were summarily convicted. 89 were committed for trial at the assizes.

The returns show a marked falling off in prosecutions for offences against the person. Many of the cases reported were of so harmless a nature as not to warrant prosecution at public expense.

There is an increase in the number of prosecutions for prædial larceny, due to increased vigilance on the part of sugar estates guardians, who succeeded in many cases in arresting the offenders in the act of stealing sugar canes.

The general tendency of the figures in the Blue Book is to show that, whilst the number of offences known to the police has not greatly varied during the last four years, the number of convictions during the last two years has considerably increased.

At the same time it cannot be said that the number of convictions for offences against property, other than prædial larceny, have yet reached a satisfactory proportion. This is partly due

MAURITIUS, 1898.

to the great facilities for theft which the mode of life in the Island affords. Houses and grounds are open, and there are great facilities for the disposal of stolen goods. Property was stolen to the value of Rs. 21,011; of this amount the police recovered Rs. 10,542. 230 fires formed the subject of investigation by the police. There were 18 persons charged and 13 convictions for arson.

To deal with the above offences the strength of the police was 742, composed as follows :—

42	Europeans.
520	Natives of Mauritius.
166	Indians.
1	Arab.
2	Americans.
2	Australians.
2	Natives of Cape Colony.
2	Natives of Madagascar.
1	Native of Trinidad.
4	Natives of Reunion Island ;

a very composite force.

245 sub-officers and constables of police were in possession of the silver and bronze good conduct medals.

PRISONS.

There were 10,531 persons committed to prison in 1898; of these, 1,490 had one previous conviction, 675 had two, and 1,322 had three or more previous convictions.

The daily average was 1,168, and the daily average on sick list was 78. There were 56 deaths in prison during 1898.

The gross cost of housing, maintaining, and guarding the prisoners was Rs. 165,870. There were 26 escapes and 25 recaptures.

In Port Louis the prisoners are employed as printers, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, basket and rattan makers, mat and mattress makers, also at stone breaking; at Beau Bassin at gardening and building work and at stone breaking.

The prevailing diseases in the prisons were pneumonia, malarial fever, dysentery, and diarrhœa.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

MAURITIUS, 1898.

On the 31st December 1898 the resident population of Mauritius consisted of 378,872 men, women, and children of different races and nationalities. The troops stationed in the Island are excluded, so are the crews of all non-Colonial ships temporarily in the harbour of Port Louis.

The last census, which was taken on the 6th of April 1891, indicated a population of 370,588 persons, excluding the military and shipping, so that the population of the Colony has increased by 8,284 during the last eight years—that is to say, by an average of a little over 1,000 yearly.

This excess is mainly due to an excess of births over deaths. The general population, including Chinese, numbered 117,650 at the end of 1898. The Indian population numbered 261,222, the Indo-Mauritians numbered 189,416, the immigrants 65,147, and the other Indians 6,659. Other Indians are Indians who have settled in the Colony after their term of service has expired.

There were 13,704 births in 1898, or 47 more than in the previous year. The birth-rate in the total population was 36·3 per 1,000. In the general population it was 33·0, and in the Indian section 37·7 per 1,000. The proportion of illegitimate births was 64·4 per cent. of the whole, being 36·3 in the general population, and 74·9 per cent. in the Indian population. Twenty-one per cent. of the illegitimate births in the general population were not acknowledged by the fathers. In the Indian section only 4 per cent. were not so acknowledged.

There were 12,064 deaths in 1898, or an increase of 998 deaths on the previous year; a death-rate of 31·9 per thousand against 29·5 in 1897. The death-rate was lower in the Indian (31·7) than in the general population (32·4).

This, when compared with births, shows a steady proportional increase of the Indian population as compared with the general population.

The death-rate of Port Louis is always the highest, and far above that of the whole Island.

Sixty-eight per cent. of the total number of deaths in 1898 were due to zymotic diseases.

The mortality of 1898 was relatively low, though higher than that of 1897. In 1896 the death-rate was 41·9, the highest but one since the epidemic of fever of 1867.

The favourable climatic conditions which obtained in 1897 were absent in 1898, which was a comparatively rainy year—hence both the good crop and the high death-rate.

The rainfall in inches was 47·76 as against 27·26 in 1897, but was slightly below the general average for twenty-four years, nevertheless, when the humidity (81·6 in the month of February, a month in which the rain was below the average) is reckoned the effects of rain and damp are apparent, for in the month of March the largest number of cases of fever were under treatment.

There was a cyclonic disturbance in the month of February. There was also a cyclone from the 17th to the 21st December. Neither of these cyclones were violent.

Annexed is a diagram showing the number of cases of fever in each month, and of intermittent fever in particular.

There were 736 cases of influenza.

The first suspected case of plague, though not diagnosed as such at the time, occurred on the 26th December 1898.

In the opinion of the medical officers phthisis is on the increase.

The sanitary conditions of Port Louis have not materially improved. Overcrowding was as bad as, or worse than, ever, and the increase of poverty in the town has naturally contributed to bad sanitary conditions.

The following table shows the mean temperature at the Botanical Gardens, Pamplemousses :—

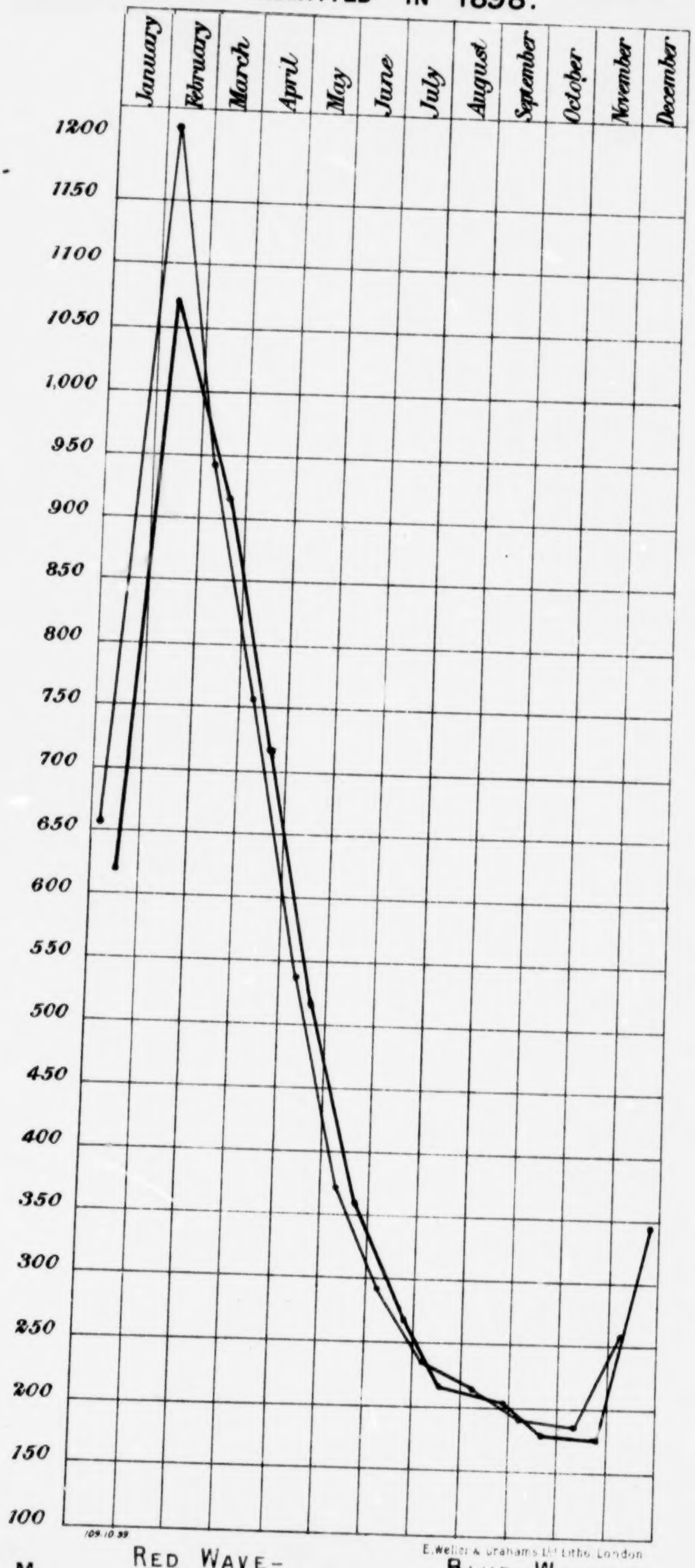
——	1898.	——	
Mean temperature	74·7	Average	74·0
" maximum temperature ...	82·9	"	81·6
" minimum " ...	66·5	"	66·5

It will be observed, therefore, that, on the whole, 1898 was a hot year.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 3·76.

The mean direction of the wind was E. b. S. ½ S., and the mean velocity 11·0 miles an hour.

DIAGRAM SHEWING NUMBER OF CASES MALARIAL FEVER ADMITTED IN 1898.



109.10.99
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VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

RAILWAY.

The revenue of the Post Office was Rs. 125,951, including Rs. 17,476 for telegrams.

In 1898 the Post Office dealt with 1,296,408 letters, 51,444 post cards, 1,432,114 newspapers, 9,246 parcels, and 62,552 telegrams.

Twenty-nine and a half miles of additional telegraph wire were erected in 1898.

The telephones are the property of a private company. There are also 17 fire alarms, which are rented from the Telephone Company.

The Railway Department showed a marked improvement in goods traffic. The figures are 248,371 tons for 1897 and 302,639 tons for 1898—an increase due to a good sugar crop.

There was, however, a decrease in passenger traffic of Rs. 61,118, due to the financial distress that prevailed.

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The Imperial military garrison of Mauritius numbered 2,096 of all ranks.

The Colonial contribution to the military expenditure was Rs. 366,358.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

It will be evident from what has already been written, that a steady but absolutely sure change is taking place in the population of Mauritius, a change which is likely to have important social, political, and economic consequences.

Thirty years ago Port Louis was to all intents and purposes a European town. Now the greater part of Port Louis has passed into Asiatic hands, either Indian or Chinese.

Nor does the change stop at the town. A process of "morcellement" is being carried out on sugar estates, and many

MAURITIUS, 1898.

of the old French sugar planters are parting with their lands, which are passing into the hands of Indians. In 1898 land to the value of Rs. 2,087,837 was purchased by Indians.

The economic effect of this change has yet to be ascertained. It may be inferred that a peasant proprietor is, as a rule, less able to bear the vicissitudes incidental to agriculture than a capitalist proprietor employing labourers at fixed wages.

When disaster comes it is probably more widespread with a peasant than with a capitalist proprietor, and disaster is always possible in a country so frequently visited by hurricanes. Moreover, the financial support of a peasant proprietor rests, as a rule, with the small and not over scrupulous money-lender rather than with respectable banks.

But whatever the economical problem may be the political and social consequences are apparent. The old French creole population, which has in its isolation preserved the manners and grace of the *ancien régime*, is being slowly but surely pushed to the wall. This is a deplorable fact and it is to be hoped that, by improved educational and technical training, something may yet be done to save a race which has counted for so much in the history and literature of Mauritius.

GRAHAM BOWER,

Colonial Secretary.

10th August 1899.

REPORT ON THE RODRIGUES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1898.

RODRIGUES, 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The receipts of the year 1898, exclusive of customs dues, matters of account, and sums received in Mauritius, amounted to Rs. 13,645 against Rs. 8,006 received in 1897, showing an increase of Rs. 5,639.

Licenses, dog tax, land rent, pasturage fees, forest produce, and tobacco tax were the principal heads of revenue.

The payments made in 1898, not including sums paid in Mauritius, and matters of account amounted to Rs. 24,058 against Rs. 23,502 in 1897, showing an increase of Rs. 556.

The ratio of revenue was Rs. 4.75 per head, and that of expenditure Rs. 8.38.

Exports and Imports.

The exports, exclusive of specie, amounted to Rs. 84,973 against Rs. 72,296 in 1897, showing an increase of Rs. 12,677.

The imports amounted to Rs. 104,353 against Rs. 100,040 in 1897, showing an increase of Rs. 4,313.

The ratio of exports per head of population was Rs. 29 in 1898 against Rs. 25 in 1897.

The ratio of imports shows the following differences :—

Rs. 36.3 against Rs. 34.8 in 1897.

II.—EDUCATION.

The expenditure for the two Government Schools at Rodrigues was Rs. 2,701 against Rs. 2,621 in 1897.

The total number on the roll of both schools was 108 boys and 102 girls. The average attendance was 70 boys and 70 girls.

III.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Medical.

The total expenditure was Rs. 4,700 against Rs. 3,743 in 1897.

In 1898 there were 123 admissions into the hospital, and 8 deaths. In 1897 there were 93 admissions and 8 deaths.

The consultations at Port Mathurin and Mont Lubin dispensaries amounted to 3,215 against 2,497 in 1897.

The sanitary expenditure amounted to Rs. 600.

Poor Law.

Eighteen men and seven women received assistance from Government. They each received 500 grams of rice per day; a suit of clothes and R. 1 were given to each of them at the end of the year.

IV.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police and Prisons.

Thirty-six persons were committed to gaol in 1898, and 42 in 1897.

V.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The population on the 31st December 1898 was 2,870 souls, being 1,595 males and 1,275 females. The population is composed almost entirely of persons of African descent. There are about 20 Indians on the Island.

The births in 1898 were 92 males and 74 females. The deaths in 1898 were 21 males and 23 females.

RODRIGUES,
1898.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Highest barometric reading	30·422 on 5th July, 1898.
Lowest „ „	29·574 on 7th February, 1898.
Highest temperature	90·03 on 16th February, 1898.
Lowest „	67·02 on 24th July, 1898.
Heaviest rainfall	660 lines on the 6th February.

There was no cyclone in 1898.

VI.—GENERAL REMARKS.

Taxes are paid with difficulty on account of the truck system adopted by the traders of Rodrigues.

GRAHAM BOWER,

Colonial Secretary.

August, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 302.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

REPORTS FOR 1899.

(For Reports for 1898, *see* No. 279.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November, 1900.

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1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
276	Gibraltar	1898
277	Bahamas	"
278	British Honduras	"
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
280	Grenada	"
281	St. Vincent	"
282	Hong Kong	"
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos...	1898
285	Seychelles	"
286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands ...	1899
287	Straits Settlements...	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	"
290	British Guiana	1897–98 and 1898–99.
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados	"
295	Malta	"
296	Fiji	"
297	Turks and Caicos Islands...	"
298	Bahamas	"
299	Sierra Leone	"
300	Gambia	"
301	Seychelles	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica...	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.

No. 302.

MAURITIUS 1899.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

(For Reports for 1898, *see* No. 279.)

ACTING GOVERNOR SIR GRAHAM BOWER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Mauritius,
13th July, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1899.

2. I also enclose my Report on the Blue Book.

I have, &c.,

GRAHAM BOWER,
Administering the Government.

6591—800—8/1900 Wt 24600 D & S—5

MAURITIUS, 1899.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1899.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The following are the heads of Revenue for the year 1899, as compared with the year 1898 :—

Heads of Revenue.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Customs	2,723,834.24	3,465,082.58	741,248.34	—
Port, harbour, wharf, and lighthouse dues.	180,378.33	193,026.90	12,648.57	—
Licenses, excise, and internal revenue not otherwise classified.	2,159,345.06	2,505,974.39	346,629.33	—
Fees of court or office, payments for specific services, and reimbursements in aid.	235,325.50	202,705.32	—	32,620.18
Post Office and telegraphs.	125,951.64	134,403.25	8,451.61	—
Government railways...	1,568,389.48	1,876,302.95	307,913.47	—
Rent of Government property.	69,243.20	56,895.46	—	12,347.74
Interest...	481,870.34	539,429.46	57,559.12	—
Miscellaneous receipts	69,687.91	90,165.64	20,477.73	—
Land sales	6,293.26	2,327.44	—	3,965.82
Total ...	7,620,318.96	9,066,313.39	1,494,928.17	48,933.74
Deduct decrease...			48,933.74	

The receipts of 1899 show an increase on 1898 of Rs. 1,445,994.43

The increases mentioned in this statement are due to the improved condition of the Colony in 1899, consequent on a good sugar crop, to the imposition of countervailing duties in America, Canada, and India on bounty-fed sugar, and to increased taxation.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

EXPENDITURE.

The following is the Expenditure for the year 1899, as compared with the year 1898 :—

Heads of Service.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Public debt	584,807.59	837,232.30	252,424.71	—
Pensions	349,769.97	463,872.45	114,102.48	—
Governor and Legislature.	69,386.42	70,043.45	657.03	—
Colonial Secretary ...	61,443.53	65,652.75	4,209.22	—
Receiver-General ...	128,710.55	140,325.05	11,614.50	—
Auditor-General ...	55,671.85	54,769.90	—	901.95
Customs	225,346.6	213,325.04	—	12,021.61
Port and marine ...	166,460.03	177,060.53	10,600.50	—
Observatory	18,412.87	19,450.58	1,037.71	—
Museum...	4,686.56	4,874.12	187.56	—
Registrar-General ...	21,077.94	19,291.61	—	1,786.33
Receiver of Registration Dues.	56,888.71	55,281.54	—	1,607.17
Post Office	200,262.58	174,413.37	—	25,849.21
Woods and forests ...	114,517.23	116,273.81	1,756.58	—
Judicial Departments...	505,798.39	469,870.64	—	35,927.75
Ecclesiastical	139,006.66	143,460.91	4,454.25	—
Education	471,333.06	478,496.26	7,163.20	—
Medical and Health Department.	641,066.35	608,969.01	—	32,097.34
Quarantine	25,010.84	615,672.09	590,661.25	—
Carried forward ...	3,839,657.78	4,728,335.41	998,868.99	110,191.36

EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

Heads of Service.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward ...	3.839,657.78	4,728,335.41	998,868.99	110.191.36
Poor Law Commission	196,444.17	190,343.52	—	6,100.65
Police	581,147.33	544,278.67	—	36,868.66
Prisons	165,870.19	136,871.34	—	28,998.85
Storekeeper-General ...	32,481.40	32,641.00	159.60	—
Immigration	121,787.21	119,065.36	—	2,721.85
Dependencies	44,415.00	41,225.54	—	3,189.46
Crown Agents	4,185.09	4,680.74	495.65	—
Writers and copyists ...	5,941.59	5,253.89	—	687.70
Transport	6,751.60	3,190.01	—	3,561.59
Miscellaneous	261,855.12	331,704.28	69,849.16	—
Charitable allowances ...	14,057.48	15,969.36	1,911.88	—
Interest and exchange...	890,154.61	185,198.07	—	704,956.54
Military contribution ...	366,358.53	388,606.91	22,248.38	—
Railways	1,192,887.27	1,254,133.69	61,246.42	—
Surveyor-General ...	59,377.34	57,978.22	—	1,399.12
Public works (recurrent)	255,428.11	249,105.48	—	6,322.63
ditto (extraordinary)	40,293.92	26,342.00	—	13,951.92
Loan Commission ...	14,659.47	14,337.71	—	321.76
Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.	37,711.85	47,936.21	10,224.36	—
Drainage works ...	—	30,029.69	30,029.69	—
Total ...	8,131,465.06	8,407,227.10	1,195,034.13	919,272.09

The increase is mainly due to the expenditure incurred on account of the plague, to increased charges on account of the Public Debt and pensions. The increase under the head of quarantine, an increase which was either directly or indirectly caused by the plague, amounted to Rs.590,661. Had it not been for this heavy but unavoidable item, the expenditure would have shown a net decrease.

The financial condition of the Colony greatly improved during the year 1899. But it is to be feared that the charge for plague, which appears for the first time as an item in the accounts, must be recurrent.

The plague has arrived in Mauritius, and, for reasons which will be more fully set forth in another portion of this Report, it is to be feared that it has come to stay—and that it will not only cause a heavy expenditure for an increased medical staff, sanitary guards, special constables, disinfecting staff, &c., but also many charges for compensation.

Compensation for the poorer classes of houses, which cannot be disinfected and must be burnt, cannot, consistently with justice or humanity, be evaded.

It follows that the Colony, though fortunate in the benefits it has derived from good harvests and the friendly legislation of India, Canada, and America, cannot but be anxious as to the burdens which would be imposed by a bad year, which, by causing financial depression and an increase of poverty, would promote the conditions most favourable to the spread of plague, whilst it would leave the Colony less able to bear the burden of the necessary expenditure.

It becomes necessary therefore to husband carefully the surplus gained during a good year, to meet the possible requirements of bad years. This is a measure dictated not only by ordinary prudence but by the conditions of the island, whose staple industry is at the mercy of any chance hurricane.

At the same time, if we put aside the natural anxiety caused by the plague—an anxiety which must always weigh when considering any future estimate—the financial condition of the Colony, as will be seen from the following statement of the position of the Colony at the close of the year 1899, is full of hope:—

POSITION OF THE COLONY AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1899.

At the close of the year 1898 the balance in favour of the Treasury amounted to Rs.438,866·00, at the close of 1899 it was Rs.1,077,715·00, showing an increase of Rs. 638,849·00.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

The Revenue and Expenditure and the Treasury balances of the previous five years, at the close of each year, were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894	8,534,427	8,587,039	1,551,046
1895	8,273,622	8.488,736	1,254,403
1896	8,849,181	8,544,736	1,487,557
1897	7,996,705	8,626,798	899,336
1898	7.620,318	8,131,465	438,866

The Revenue of 1899 compared with 1898 shows an increase of Rs.1,445,994, the principal increases being:—

Customs and Harbour	Rs.753,896
Licenses and Excise, &c.	346,629
Railways	307,913

The Expenditure of the year 1899 was in excess of that of 1898 by Rs.275,762. This was caused by the extraordinary expenditure on account of the plague in 1899, amounting to Rs.562,413. There was also an increase of quarantine expenditure due to the same cause.

From the above return for the five years preceding 1899, it will be seen that the Revenue is the largest the Colony has realised during the last six years, and if we look further back still, we find that the only Revenue year exceeding it was 1882, when the Revenue was Rs.9,551,635, and the Expenditure Rs.8,280,107, leaving a surplus of Rs.1,271,528.

The prospects of the coming crop are exceedingly favourable owing to the absence of hurricanes or droughts this year, and thanks to an exceptionally good season. It is expected that under a continuation of these favourable circumstances the crop for 1900 to 1901 will be in excess of that of 1898-99.

The cultivation of small holdings, chiefly by the Indian population, is steadily increasing, and this, with the good harvests, is the explanation of the large increase in the sugar crops of late years. These small cultivators receive remunerative prices from the mill-owners, who crush their canes. There is keen competition among the mill-owners, which will probably result in an enhanced price being given for canes during next crop. With these altered conditions of culture and with improved machinery, capable of extracting the maximum quantity of sugar from the cane, Mauritius will, it is to be hoped, be able to hold its own in the sugar markets of the world.

TAXATION.

The principal changes introduced in the laws relating to taxation in 1899 were as follows:—

1. Customs duties Ordinance No. 10 of 1899.—The surcharge of customs duties, 10 per cent., imposed by Ordinance No. 52 of 1898 was increased to 20 per cent. from 12th July. This surcharge was to provide additional ways and means for meeting the public expenditure of the Colony in connection with the plague.

2. Excise Ordinance No. 11 of 1899.—An equivalent duty to the surcharge on customs duties imposed by Ordinance No. 10 of 1899 was, by this Ordinance, imposed on spirits and wines manufactured in the Colony. The two last-mentioned Ordinances were temporary, and were not extended beyond 31st December, 1899.

3. Bonded Warehouse Ordinance No. 17 of 1899.—By this Ordinance a duty of Rs.5, per six calendar months, for each warehouse or part of a warehouse under Crown lock, appointed and approved by the Collector of Customs under the provisions of Article 57 of Ordinance 28 of 1892, was added to the License Tariff (Schedule A of Ordinance 24 of 1895), the duty being payable in advance from date of notification of approval of the Collector in the Gazette.

4. Ordinance 49 of 1899.—By this Ordinance a surcharge of 10 per cent. is levied on all sums paid as customs duty on goods imported into Mauritius on or before the 31st December, 1900. This Ordinance was to come into force on 1st January, 1900, and to lapse on 31st December, 1900.

5. Ordinance No. 50 of 1899—Customs and Excise Duties.—This Ordinance repealed Item 159 of Schedule B to Ordinance No. 29 of 1895, as amended by Ordinance No. 30 of 1896, and replaced it by an enactment showing the following modifications:—The duty of Rs.7·65, and the further duty of Rs.1·32 per degree of alcohol, per hectolitre, was made applicable to all wines contained in vessels other than bottles of one litre and less, the duty of 8c. per litre on wines in any vessel, not being a cask or bottle, of one litre or less, being abolished, and the additional duty was made payable proportionately per fraction of a degree, instead of the whole duty being payable per degree or fraction of a degree.

The duty on champagne or other sparkling wines has been increased from Rs.2·40 per dozen bottles, exceeding one litre but not exceeding two litres, to Rs.5, and a new item has been introduced, *i.e.*, not exceeding one litre each per dozen bottles Rs.2·50, and not exceeding half a litre each per dozen bottles R.1·25.

The following new item is added to Schedule B of Ordinance No. 29 of 1895:—

"Carcases of all animals, each R.0·10." This is a reduction, the former duty being *ad valorem* of 10 per cent., Item 160 of the Tariff.

The duty on tea imported was raised from R.0·10 per kilogram to R.0·40.

The first paragraph of Article 5 of Ordinance No. 30 of 1897 was repealed and replaced by a provision raising the duty on wines manufactured in the Colony from Rs.7·65 to Rs.8·42 per hectolitre, and the further duty of R.1·32 per degree or fraction of a degree of alcohol per hectolitre, and a proportional duty per fraction of a degree above 16 degrees, according to Gay Lussac's alcohometer, contained in such wines, was raised to R.1.45. This measure was taken to equalise the duties on colonial manufactured wines and on wines imported.

Ordinance No. 50 of 1899 came into force on 26th December, 1899, date of its publication.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue of 1899 was Rs.9,066,313, showing an increase of Rs.1,445,995, as compared with the Revenue of 1898, which was Rs.7,620,318.

The Expenditure of 1899 was Rs.8,407,227, showing an increase of Rs.275,762 on the Expenditure of 1898, which was Rs.8,131,465.

The ratio of the Revenue to the population was Rs.23·88 per head, and that of the Expenditure Rs.22·12 per head.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1900.

(1.) *Commissioners of Currency.*

Assets	Rs.4,704,885·42
Liabilities	4,699,250·00
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...	Rs.5,635·42

(2.) *Government Savings Bank.*

Assets	Rs.2,999,800
Liabilities	2,885,966
Balance in favour of the Bank ...	Rs.113,834

(3.) *Curatelle.*

Assets	Rs.432,296·65
Liabilities	432,296·65

(4.) *Treasury Proper.*

Assets	Rs.2,230,372·29
Liabilities	1,152,657·11
Balance in favour of Treasury ...	Rs.1,077,715·18

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt stood as follows on 31st December:—

	£	s.
Savanne Railway 4½ per cent debentures, payable by annual drawings ...	46,693	10
Moka Railway 4 per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings in and from 1884	600	0
Consolidated 4 per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings from 1882...	62,500	0
Mauritius Inscribed Stock 4 per cent., under Ordinances 1 & 22 of 1887 (including the loan made for the Mare-aux-Vacoas £36,000)	482,390	16
Hurricane Loan, 1892, 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock, under Ordinance 4 of 1892	600,000	0
	£1,192,184	6

For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the Trustees on the 31st December, 1899, amounted to £111,524 15*s.*, the amount duly provided by law.

The sum to the credit of the sinking funds on the 31st December, 1899, showed an increase of £10,872 11*s.* 9*d.* on the previous year.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

CURRENCY.

Amount of currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1899:—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1848 & 1849 (dollars & cents) ...	483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,639	0	0
	4,122	16	5

Rupee notes issued under Ordinance No. 28 of 1876:—

1. In the Financial Officer's vault ...	Rs.294,250
2. In the hands of the public, including the banks	3,606,000
	Rs.3,900,250

MUNICIPALITIES AND BOARDS.

The following is a comparative statement of the total revenue and expenditure of the Municipality of Port Louis for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1895	435,305	453,823
1896	460,242	459,390
1897	508,079	510,666
1898	*433,597	482,134
1899	†432,998	424,442

---

* Including Rs. 50,000 raised by a loan on account of overflood expenses.

† Including Rs. 26,000 raised by a loan for repairs to Grand River Suspension Bridge.

LOCAL BOARDS.

The following are the statements of revenue and expenditure of the Local Boards of Curepipe, Quatre Bornes, and Rose Hill and Beau Bassin for the last five years:—

Curepipe.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1895	51,493.79	48,884.83
1896	52,600.51	49,601.24
1897	59,024.04	55,531.87
1898	59,863.74	57,550.88
1899	61,568.61	59,085.14

*Quatre Bornes.**

1896	3,900.10	2,957.24
1897	9,895.44	10,210.76
1898	9.191.79	8,838.71
1899	9,831.74	9,689.68

*Beau Bassin and Rose Hill.**

1896	26,540.00	22,410.26
1897	26,618.87	24,584.76
1898	24,743.98	20,439.04
1899	27,603.50	23,626.60

* NOTE.—These Boards have only been in existence for four years.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is a comparative statement of the value of the chief articles of Imports and Exports for the years 1898–99 :—

Articles	Imports.		Exports.			
			1898.		1899.	
	1898.	1899.	Home Produce.	Foreign.	Home Produce.	Foreign.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	213,468	245,127	1,791	13,705	110	1,200
Apothecary wares	143,266	127,615	60	3,256	—	3,905
Brass and copper wares	54,607	66,359	—	24,150	—	29,772
Corn, grain, flour, &c.	8,935,049	8,935,396	413	471,576	75	91,416
Cotton manufacture	518,190	1,267,495	—	13,538	—	—
Earthen and china wares	35,584	37,936	237	1,841	—	377

Fibre aloe	—	—	427,112	—	566,030	—
Haberdashery	294,823	395,423	—	9,862	—	3,128
Hardware and cutlery	341,554	300,111	54,884	62,704	96,577	9,958
Jewellery	23,688	18,125	—	9,415	—	2,700
Leather (wrought and unwrought) ...	115,369	126,496	62,839	4,304	37,304	207
Machinery	84,195	271,096	10,015	—	6,305	4,302
Malt liquors, wines and spirits	525,519	693,317	79,814	5,427	160,221	6,621
Manures and fertilizers	1,232,387	1,020,786	—	13,159	—	3,690
Matches	13,044	54,404	—	2,381	—	715
Molasses	—	—	335,580	—	275,535	—
Oils of all kinds	592,593	663,107	31,707	59,197	28,360	24,816
Painters' colours, &c.	43,922	35,686	—	59,610	—	819
Provisions*	1,080,307	1,043,445	60,848	256,038	24,728	12,513
Seeds of all sorts	31,739	56,736	1,417	2,689	162	194
Silver (specie)	4,797,410	1,086,898	—	1,666,440	—	40,314
Soap	39,795	115,842	66,048	2,691	6,062	97

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* Tea is included.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—*continued*.

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1898.		1899.	
	1898.	1899.	Home Produce.	Foreign.	Home Produce.	Foreign.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Stationery	110,898	105,836	—	742	—	280
Sugar...	—	—	24,727,688	—	23,044,657	—
Timber and wooden wares	247,414	538,931	1,943	11,745	3,661	[illegible],664
Tobacco	210,832	190,257	—	3,735	—	804
Toys	17,084	24,708	—	140	—	16
Umbrellas and parasols	21,732	23,792	—	144	—	10
Vanilla	—	—	140,096	—	133,946	—
Miscellaneous	1,746,544	2,744,186	10,569	214,359	56,876	98,216
Total	21,471,013	20,189,110	26,013,061	2,912,808	24,440,609	344,734

The rate of imports and exports per head of population was as follows:—

—	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	74.76	74.23
Exports	84.10	72.12

Excluding specie and bullion, exchange and charges, the statement* shows that there has been a falling off on imports during the years 1896, 1897, 1898 as compared with 1895, whilst the year 1899 shows an increase of nearly two and a half millions of rupees as compared with 1898, or 14·34 per cent., and a decrease of one million rupees as compared with 1895, or 5·11 per cent., when the value of the imports amounted to the large sum of Rs.20,125,402.

Including specie and bullion, exchange and charges, the year 1899 shows a slight falling off as compared with 1898, owing to the large quantities of rupees imported from India that year, amounting to Rs.4,769,235, as against Rs.1,092,397 imported in 1899.

The proportion of specie and bullion with regard to the value of goods imported in 1899 is in the ratio of nearly one to 18.

Acid Carbolic.

There has been a large increase in the importation of this disinfectant, due entirely to the prevalence of plague in the Colony. The United Kingdom was the chief supplier, whilst France furnished us with the drug to the extent of 4,752 kilos., of a declared value of Rs.1,148, against 15,956 kilos., of Rs.2,159 in value, of British manufacture.

A fact worthy of notice is that the quantity imported in 1899 in connection with the plague epidemic is double that which was received in 1894, during the small-pox epidemic.

Acid Phosphoric.

The enhanced prices of the article from the United Kingdom may, to a certain extent, be responsible for the decreasing importation of the British article. The effect of the cost price upon the importation appears when comparing the quantity received from the United Kingdom, which was 286,213 kilos. in 1894, as compared with 118,177 in 1899.

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* *Vide* statement on page 23.

Belgium made its appearance on the market of 1899 with 10,000 kilos., at an intrinsic cost price of nearly 30·4 per cent. below English prices.

Apothecary Wares.

In consequence of large demands and use of patent French medicines in the Colony, France shows a vast increase in the value of apothecary wares ever since 1895, when the imports reached Rs.25,646.

During 1899 the importation reached Rs.81,285, exclusive of charges and exchange, as against Rs.36,545, imported from the United Kingdom in that year. In 1895 the importation from the United Kingdom was about 50 per cent. in excess of the value of French goods received in Mauritius, whilst in 1899 it is almost the reverse in favour of goods from France.

Beef, Salted.

The United States of America supplied the market with nearly 75 per cent. of the whole quantity imported during the year 1899. The importation from the United Kingdom, which had fallen in 1898 to the figure of 9,513 kilos., of a value of Rs.3,424, showed signs of increase during the past year, when the quantity received amounted to 21,667 kilos., of a declared value of Rs.6,857.

Butter.

An increase in the supply from the United Kingdom took place during 1899 as compared with the quantity of the previous year.

The weight of this article from Denmark—whence the importation is the largest—has increased 33 per cent., and has more than doubled in value during 1899.

Decreases are shown in the importation from the United States.

Coals.

Coals do not offer any special point of interest, with the exception that the largest supplies are still derived from the United Kingdom. In 1899 32,558,408 kilos. were imported from the United Kingdom, or 200 per cent. more than the aggregate quantity of 15,590,319 kilos. from other competitive countries, which stand in the following order for their supplies:—

Australia, India, Natal, China, France.

Coffee.

On the whole, the quantity imported in 1899 compares very poorly with the stock received in previous years. Decreases have occurred in receipts from Java, whose exportation to this Colony fell by 50 per cent. as compared with 1898. Slight increases, however, have taken place from India, Algeria, and the United States.

Rice.

China and Hong Kong, which supplied a certain quantity of this article previous to 1899, have hardly sent any in that year. This decline is due to the low prices obtained for Chinese and Hong Kong rice as compared with Indian rice.

Cotton Goods.

There has been a large advance made in the importation of these goods from the United Kingdom in 1899. The value shipped to this port has risen by nearly 50 per cent. when compared with 1898. This may be accounted for by the importation of greater quantities of cheaper goods, which are exclusively used by the poorer classes of the people of Mauritius.

Irons of all Sorts.

The advantageous position over other countries is still maintained by the United Kingdom in the trade of irons of all sorts.

Lard.

China, the United States, and Continental India are the chief suppliers.

There has been a large reduction in the quantities imported during 1899 when compared with 1895 and 1897, as follows:—

1895	1,049,212 kilos.
1897	596,343 „
1899	357,179 „

The falling off in the consumption of hog's lard is to be attributed to the high price demanded for this commodity in the European markets, which is beyond the reach of the poorer classes, who have recourse to cheaper articles for culinary purposes, such as mustard oil, pistacchio nut oil, &c.

Leather-Boots and Shoes.

Larger quantities of inferior and cheaper qualities for the poorer classes have been received from Continental India during 1899, thus competing with the United Kingdom. France stands, with regard to value, second in rank to India, the importation from France having been of Rs.20,301 worth in 1899, showing a decrease of nearly 30 per cent. when compared with the importation of 1898, which amounted to Rs.27,299 worth.

The importation from the United Kingdom is valued at Rs.2,407, as against Rs.7,281 for the previous year.

The quality and make of the articles are not generally appreciated by the well-to-do classes of the inhabitants, who prefer the foreign article to the more substantial British boot.

Matches.

One-tenth of the total quantity of matches imported into Mauritius in 1899 was from countries other than Japan and Sweden. The last-mentioned countries have supplied this market with cheaper matches, and they will undoubtedly long retain their hold on this industry.

Pork, Salted.

The importation from the United States has remained nearly stationary during 1899, when the imports were 19,984 kilos.

The importation from the United Kingdom, which was 26,515 kilos. in 1895, fell to 12,269 in 1897. This is due to the competition of the United States, the prices of pork, salted, imported therefrom being lower than that of the British market.

In 1899 the importation from the United Kingdom was 14,473 kilos., against 11,115 kilos. received in 1898.

Silk, Satin, and Ribbons.

There has been a large increase in the importation of silk goods from the United Kingdom and France during 1899. These two countries have supplied goods of a declared value of Rs.20,539 during the last year, whilst in 1898 the imports were only Rs.8,218. This is due to the more prosperous state of the Colony in 1899. There has been a falling off in the supplies from China, India, and Pondichery since 1895. The disease called "pebrine," reported by Handels as having attacked the silkworms in China in past years, may have influenced the production of this article in such a way as to increase the market value of the silk to such an extent as to lessen the export from these countries.

Spirits—Brandy.

Our chief supplies are of French manufacture in this line. Germany has appeared on the market in 1899 with a total quantity of 431 litres of Rs.500 in value.

Spirits—Whisky.

There has been an increase of 6,000 litres from the United Kingdom. This increase advantageously replaces a decrease in the importation of brandy from the United Kingdom in 1899 as compared with 1898.

The United Kingdom is our chief supplier.

Tobacco—Manufactured.

The United States of America, on account of the cheapness of this article, which is much prized by the poorer classes, has maintained the first rank for past years.

The quantity imported from America in 1894 was 27,967 kilos., as compared with 25,933 kilos. from Reunion Island. Whilst the importation from Reunion in 1899 was 31,698 kilos., the American produce reached the large figure of 85,555 kilos., representing more than half of the total quantity imported into the Colony that year.

EXPORTS.

Aloe Fibre.

There has been a decidedly large increase in the manufacture and exportation of this article, consequent upon the war going on in Manilla. Nearly all the fibre mills here have been very active in the production of this textile.

The quantity exported in 1895 was 1,311,838 kilos., of a declared value of Rs.406,736. In 1898 it increased to 1,494,928 kilos., of the value of Rs.427,112, and in 1899 the quantity exported has reached the high figure of 2,249,809 kilos., of the value of Rs.566,030. The difference in favour of 1899 is 754,881 kilos., of the value of Rs.138,918. Nine-tenths of our produce has been exported to the United Kingdom, the remainder has been distributed among Germany, France, India, and Holland.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

Molasses.

The quantity exported in 1899 was 12,681,205 kilos. of the value of Rs.275,534, as compared with 12,967,400 kilos. of the value of Rs.335,580 for 1898. The exportation has been entirely to India, except 125 kilos. to America.

Hides, Tanned.

Show a decrease in value when compared with 1898. The figures stood thus:—

1898	Rs.55,318
1899	Rs.32,821

Soap.

The closing of the Madagascar ports and of Reunion on account of plague was the cause of the great falling off in the exportation of our Colonial-made soap. The following figures will explain this:—

1897 ...	266,455	kilos. of the value of	Rs.65,890
1899 ...	26,532	„ „ „	Rs.6,061

Rum.

The exportation, which had fallen off in 1898 on account of the Madagagscar ports being practically closed to our rum by the prohibitive duties imposed thereon, revived last year, when 1,468,104 litres of the value of Rs.154,812 were exported. More than nine-tenths of the total quantity was exported to the United Kingdom.

Sugar.

The exportation during 1898 reached 155,000 tons, but this high figure has been surpassed in 1899, when the exportation amounted to above 164,911 tons, an increase of over 9,000 tons, or 6·39 per cent.

India, the United States, the Cape, and Australia receiving the bulk of our produce.

The exportation of foreign goods from Mauritius to Reunion and other neighbouring islands was almost nil during the last year, owing to the existence of plague here.

The following is a statement of the value of imports and exports during the five years 1895-99:—

IMPORTS.

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	20,125,402	19,964,436	17,944,886	16,701,778	19,096,213
Charges and exchange	9,718,918	9,692,947	8,107,774	6,854,994	7,991,869
Specie and bullion	662,250	2,537,026	1,003,348	4,769,235	1,092,897
Total	30,506,570	32,194,409	27,056,008	28,326,007	28,180,979

EXPORTS.

Produce and manufacture of the Colony ...	24,751,037	29,061,141	23,423,412	26,013,061	24,440,609
Shipping charges	1,732,987	2,055,839	2,461,332	2,940,568	2,595,818
British, foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufacture.	2,496,598	2,408,874	1,823,394	1,314,167	304,420
Specie and bullion	2,548,679	423,760	2,945,869	1,598,640	40,314
Total	31,529,301	33,949,614	30,654,007	31,866,436	27,381,161

The following table shows the trade with Madagascar for the five years 1895-99, and is interesting as showing the effect of the protectionist tariff on the export trade of Mauritius:—

Inclusive of Charges and Exchange.

IMPORTS.

1895.	1896.	1897.	1898	1899.
Rs. 383,003	Rs. 460,666	Rs. 464,518	Rs. 481,801	Rs. 461,008

Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.

EXPORTS.

1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Rs. 401,882	Rs. 332,967	Rs. 176,778	Rs 110,226	Rs. 51,752

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in the Colony, and the fisheries produce barely sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants.

There is a decreasing export of fish, dry and salted. Salted and dried fish are imported in considerable quantities from the outlying Dependencies of St. Brandon and Rodrigues, from India and South Africa, and occasionally from Muscat. Reunion, which in the year 1898 imported salt fish from Mauritius of the value of Rs.3,280, did not import any, and the export to Singapore has greatly fallen off.

The principal manufactures are rum, aloe fibre, tea, soap, vinegar, and wine. Vanilla is also grown and prepared in the Colony for export.

Rum.

The quantity of rum consumed in the Colony in 1899 was 978,128 litres; in 1898 it was 801,488 litres; showing an increase in favour of 1899 of 176,640 litres

The quantity exported in 1899 was 1,468,104 litres, chiefly to the United Kingdom, which took 1,336,918 litres. Madagascar, formerly our principal market, took none, owing to a prohibitive duty of 120 francs per hectolitre, imposed by the French Government. In 1898 the export was 828,783 litres, of which 366,262 litres to the United Kingdom and 400,008 litres to France; this latter amount due to exceptional circumstances, a special shipment, owing to a decrease in potato spirit produced in Russia in 1899; showing an increase in favour of 1899 of 639,421 litres.

The excise duty on rum in 1899 amounted to Rs.1,359,677; in 1898 it was Rs.1,067,604; showing an increase on 1898 of Rs.292,073.

The export of rum is free.

There were 29 distilleries in the island capable of being worked in 1899, of which only eight were under licence and working during the year.

Fibre.

This manufacture, owing to the war in the Philippine Islands, which paralysed the fibre industry there, and to a consequent rise in prices in the British market, took a considerable extension in 1899; there were 60 factories working against 30 in the previous year.

The whole of this produce is exported. The average selling price in the Colony in 1899 was Rs.375 a ton.

The exports in 1899 amounted to 2,249,809 kilos.; in 1898 the exports were 1,494,928 kilos.; showing an increase in 1899 of 754,881 kilos.

Tea.

There are four factories in the Colony and several plantations, covering approximately 200 acres. The tea made is nearly all consumed in the Colony. In 1898 there were five factories and 367 acres under cultivation. The average selling price in 1898 and 1899 was R.1.20 per kilo.

The approximate quantity manufactured in 1899 was 27,000 kilos., of which only 2,585 were exported, chiefly to the United Kingdom. In 1898 it was 40,000 kilos., of which 7,266 kilos. were exported, chiefly to Madagascar. The year 1899 shows an approximate decrease of 13,000 kilos.

The coming crop is estimated to exceed that of 1899.

The aloe fibre and tea factories pay no licence, and no precise statistics are obtainable; the information is as approximate as possible.

Soap.

There are three small factories in the island, which produced in 1899, 416,712 kilos.; in 1898, 502,044 kilos.

The exports in 1898 were 292,356 kilos.; in 1899 only 26,532 kilos.; showing a decrease in 1899 of 265,824 kilos.

The decrease in 1899 is due to the closing of the Madagascar market, owing to prevalence of plague in this Colony.

Vinegar.

This is a new industry. There is only one factory, which produced 51,605 litres. A licence of Rs. 50 per half-year is paid for this industry. The excise duty amounted to Rs.475. The excise duty is equivalent to the import duty.

The vinegar is manufactured from rum, issued free of duty, and the manufacture is carried on in a special warehouse, approved by the Receiver-General, under the supervision of an Inspector of Distilleries, at the expense of the manufacturer. The export is free, and the quantity exported in 1899 amounted to 242 litres; this was a trial shipment, and will lead to future shipments.

Wine.

This is also a new industry. The wine (claret) is made from the dried raisins. There is only one factory. There is a licence of Rs.120 per half-year on this industry, and an excise duty equivalent to the import duty on wines is imposed. The quantity produced in 1899 was 6,467·60 litres. The revenue derived from the excise duty was Rs.593·71.

Vanilla.

Vanilla is prepared in the island at two or three factories; the whole quantity is exported.

In 1899 the amount exported was 3,709 kilos.; in 1898, 4,042 kilos. There is a decrease in 1899 compared with 1898 of 303 kilos.

There are several other small manufactures scarcely worth mentioning carried on in the Colony, such as brick-making, pottery, woodenwares, and jewellery; this last is, however, taking a greater extension, especially in Indian jewellery. The imports from India have declined by 58·19 per cent. in 1899 as compared with 1898.

In 1899 the total imports from India were valued at Rs.3,112, and in 1898 at Rs.8,458; increase Rs.5,346.

It appears that, bullion being allowed to enter free of duty, Indian jewellers import silver and gold bullion, mix it with alloy and manufacture Indian jewellery in the Colony, instead of importing it.

They thus escape the *ad valorem* duty. No Indian jewellery has been imported since the beginning of the year 1900.

BOTANICAL GARDENS.

The Botanic Gardens are divided into three sections, viz.:—

1. The Pamplemousses Gardens, situated at about 250 feet above sea level.

2. The Reduit Gardens, situated at 1,000 feet above sea level.

3. The Curepipe Gardens, situated at 1,800 feet above sea level.

The most important of these are the old Pamplemousses Gardens, which are 65 acres in extent.

Large numbers of useful plants, fruit, and timber trees are propagated there, and sent all over the island; amongst these the following are the most important:—

Economic Plants and Fruit Trees.

Coffee, litchis, nutmegs, cloves, different varieties of citrus, kola, coca, aegle marmelos, pine-apple, bananas, cacao, cocoanut, manihot, &c.

Fibres.

Sanseviera, different varieties of agave, China grass, New Zealand flax, &c.

Rubber.

Ceara, para, cryptostegia, vahea.

Fodder Plants.

Teosinte, desmodium tortuosum.

Canes.

A collection of 97 varieties.

A certain number of School Board apprentices, selected by the Schools' Committee, are sent yearly to the gardens to be trained. After a certain time, those that have given satisfaction are promoted in the Department or recommended for employment in private gardens.

REDUIT GARDENS.

These form part of the Reduit domain, His Excellency the Governor's residence.

Part of the ground is under forest; extensive plantations of timber trees have lately been made there. These produce every year a large quantity of seeds, which are used for re-afforestation purposes.

CUREPIPE GARDENS.

This garden is chiefly used as a nursery for economic plants and timber trees that cannot be successfully grown at Pamplemousses, owing to the climate.

Large numbers of seedling exotic plants are raised yearly, namely, juniperus, pinus sinensis, eucalyptus, which are either sold to the public or used for planting upon the Government lands all over the Colony.

LAND GRANTS.

The transactions in Crown land in an old country like Mauritius are insignificant.

Ten arpents of Crown land were sold in the year 1899, and fetched Rs.775.

But if the sale of town land is insignificant the purchase of fixed property by the Indian population is most significant. The following return shows the purchases of land by the Indian population for four years:—

Year.	Value of Purchases.
	Rs.
1896	2,401,878
1897	1,346,042
1898	2,087,837
1899	1,268,320
Total	7,104,077

This means that the land is passing from the hands of Creoles of either European or mixed blood into the hands of Indians, and, taken in conjunction with the unboubted tendency towards the centralisation of the sugar mills, it means the elimination of the middle-class proprietor of moderate means. He is being gradually squeezed out by the limited liability company on one side and the Indian peasant proprietor on the other.

From the point of view of the economic production of sugar this may be, and possibly is, inevitable or even desirable, but from the social and moral point of view it means the extinction or expatriation of an intelligent, cultivated, and graceful people, and the substitution of Asiatics for European thought and culture.

In a word, if the present movement continues, Mauritius must in a few generations become a purely Indian island, governed and administered by a few English officials, some factory managers, and a military garrison.

SHIPPING.

The following are statements of the shipping entered and cleared in 1899:—

Statement of number and tonnage of British and foreign sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for 1898-99 :—

Entered.

—	1898.		1899.		Difference.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.*	Tonnage.*
Sailing vessels	166	78,361	136	73,780	— 30	— 4,581
Steamers	136	248,885	136	263,589	—	+ 14,704
Total	302	327,246	272	337,369	— 30	+ 10,123

Cleared.

Sailing vessels	158	72,448	142	79,168	— 16	+ 6,720
Steamers	135	245,850	133	260,019	— 2	+ 14,169
Total	293	318,298	275	339,187	— 18	+ 20,889

* + Increase. — Decrease.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

In the following table the shipping is classified by nationalities :—

Entered.

Nationality.	Vessel.	1898.		1899.		No.°	Tonnage.°
		No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.		
British	Steamer ...	75	157,443	78	170,714	+ 3	+13,271
	Sailing ...	122	60,607	94	54,069	— 28	— 6,538
German	Steamer ...	2	2,118	3	3,308	+ 1	+ 1,190
	Sailing ...	24	7,790	15	4,090	— 9	— 3,700
French	Steamer ...	50	77,051	46	78,327	— 4	+ 1,276
	Sailing ...	4	1,366	4	2,817	—	+ 1,451
Norwegian	Steamer ...	1	1,969	1	936	—	— 1,033
	Sailing ...	7	2,941	8	2,536	+ 1	— 405

Entered—continued.

Nationality.	Vessel.	1898.		1899.		No.*	Tonnage.*
		No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.		
Danish	Steamer	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	—	—	2	1,411	+ 2	+ 1,411
American	Steamer	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	3	2,662	5	5,839	+ 2	+ 3,177
Italian	Steamer	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	4	2,069	6	2,092	+ 2	+ 23
Russian	Steamer	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	2	926	2	926	—	—
Austrian	Steamer	8	10,304	8	10,304	—	—
	Sailing	—	—	—	—	—	—

* + Increase. — Decrease

MAURITIUS
1899.

Cleared.

Nationality.	Vessel.	1898.		1899.		No.*	Tonnage.*
		No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.		
British	Steamer ...	74	154,408	77	169,211	+ 3	+ 14,803
	Sailing ...	115	56,438	98	57,289	— 17	+ 851
German	Steamer ...	2	2,118	2	1,656	—	— 462
	Sailing ...	25	7,087	15	5,217	— 10	— 1,870
French	Steamer ...	50	77,051	45	77,912	— 5	+ 861
	Sailing ...	4	1,366	4	2,817	—	+ 1,451
Norwegian	Steamer ...	1	1,969	1	936	—	— 1,033
	Sailing ...	5	2,351	9	2,831	+ 4	+ 480

* + Increase. — Decrease.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

Cleared—continued.

Nationality.	Vessel.	1898.		1899.		No.*	Tonnage.*
		No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.		
American	Steamer	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	3	2,211	2	1,411	— 1	— 800
Italian	Steamer	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	4	2,069	6	2,092	+ 2	+ 23
Russian	Steamer	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	2	926	1	463	— 1	— 463
Austrian	Steamer	8	10,304	8	10,304	—	—
	Sailing	—	—	—	—	—	—

* + Increase. — Decrease.

There has been an increase of 13,271 tons in British steamers. This is due to the number of steamers that have put into this port, principally during the last quarter of 1899, for coals and for cargoes of sugar for Indian ports and Australia.

The falling off in French steamers is owing to the messageries boat, "Djemnah," not arriving with the mail in the last quarter of the year, and also to the steamer under French flag employed in the transport of cattle from Madagascar having been replaced by a vessel under the Austrian flag. A break has also occurred in the voyages of the French steamer transporting cattle from Madagascar.

The falling off in the tonnage of sailing vessels is, I believe, due to the closing of the ports of Reunion and Madagascar to goods from this port, on account of the prevalence of plague in this island. The trade with the above-named ports was principally carried on by small crafts under British flag.

The unsettled state of South Africa has also much contributed to the reduction in the number and tonnage of sailing vessels.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The legislation for the year 1899 dealt mainly with sanitary and other measures rendered necessary for the purpose of dealing with the plague epidemic. The tendency of these Ordinances was to increase the powers of the Medical Director, and to make his Department practically despotic, with power to enter any house during the day or night and order such measures as they might think fit.

An important Education Ordinance (No. 33) was passed, which completely remodelled the system of education in the Colony. A Director of Public Instruction is to be appointed—the Council of Education is to be abolished, together with its Committees.

Advisory Committees of primary and secondary education are to be nominated.

The system of State-aided schools was put on a sounder basis and the financial arrangements improved.

The effect of the new Ordinance will probably be greater efficiency and closer supervision of the denominational schools, as well as improved technical education.

Some Ordinances were passed, mainly of a patch-work character, amending previous laws, the most important being "The Public Officers' Guarantee Ordinance," which establishes a guarantee fund for public officers.

Another important law was "The Divorce and Judicial Separation Amendment Ordinance," which introduces the English system of divorce by petition, allows damages to be claimed, and abolishes the French system of imprisonment for adultery.

Some Ordinances were passed for increasing taxation. These were necessitated by the increased expenditure due to plague.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Primary education in Mauritius is carried on by means of Government schools and State-aided schools. The Government schools are practically undenominational, though the clergy have access to scholars of their own faith. The State-aided schools are practically denominational, though, as will be seen from a table given lower down, they accept all religions.

There are also two Royal College schools which are preparatory schools for the Royal College.

At the end of 1899 there were 176 primary schools in operation, divided as follows:—

Government and secular schools ...	78
Aided and denominational	98
	176

In all primary schools the teaching of the English and French languages is obligatory.

The number of pupils under instruction last year was 19,181 on roll, and 11,945, or 62·27 per cent., in average attendance. The low percentage of attendance is to be accounted for by the plague, the inoculation scare, and quarantines enforced by planters on their estates.

The Government schools include the following categories:—

1. First grade first division in which no result payments are made.

2. First grade second division 3. Second grade full time 4. Second grade half time	in which teachers are paid fixed salaries and result grants.

In 1899 there were:—

Thirteen first grade first division schools with 2,598 pupils on roll and 1,482 in average attendance. In these 1,585 pupils were presented for examination, 821 or 51·79 per cent. of whom passed.

Thirty-five first grade second division schools with 5,069 pupils on roll and 3,149 in average attendance. These presented 3,117 pupils for examination, 2,128 of whom or 68·27 per cent. passed.

Twenty-four second grade full time schools with 1,724 pupils on roll and 1,031 in average attendance. 882 pupils were presented for examination in these schools, and 565 or 64·05 per cent. passed.

Six second grade half time schools with 386 pupils on roll and 222 in average attendance. These sent up for examination 174 pupils, of whom 102 or 58·62 per cent. passed.

The denominational-aided schools stood as follows in 1899:—

Roman Catholic.—64 schools, educating 6,844 scholars on roll and 4,433 in average attendance. In these schools 3,477 pupils were presented for examination, 2,484 or 71·44 per cent. of whom passed.

Church of England.—31 schools with 2,195 pupils on roll and 1,387 in average attendance. 1,167 pupils were presented for examination and 760 or 65·12 per cent. passed.

Presbyterian Mission.—Two schools, which had 170 pupils on roll and 121 in average attendance. 119 were examined and 74 or 62·18 per cent. passed.

Mahomedan.—One school with 195 pupils on roll and 120 in average attendance. This school presented 104 pupils for examination and 42 or 40 per cent. passed.

With regard to their race the scholars attending the primary schools last year are to be classified as follows:—

Government schools:—

Children of European or African descent ...	6,781
Indians and Indo-Mauritians	2,996

Aided schools:—

Of European or African descent	6,277
Indians or Indo-Mauritians	3,127

With reference to Creed, they stood as hereunder in 1899:—

In Government schools:—

Roman Catholics	6,703
Church of England	276
Other Christian Sects	106
Mahomedans	878
Hindoos	1,764

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In the Roman Catholic aided schools:—

Roman Catholics	5,975
Church of England	24
Other Christian Sects	27
Mahomedans	226
Hindoos	608

In the Church of England schools:—

Roman Catholics	541
Church of England	283
Other Christian Sects	6
Mahomedans	310
Hindoos	1,035

In the Presbyterian Mission Schools:—

Roman Catholics	81
Church of England	7
Other Christian Sects	63
Mahomedans	15
Hindoos	15

In the Mahomedan school:—

Roman Catholics	40
Church of England	6
Mahomedans	62
Hindoos	100

The foregoing tables are certainly curious, especially the last, and furnish evidence of a very liberal tone in regard to religious questions.

Exclusive of the cost of administration, maintenance of Government buildings, scholarships, and books and stationery for sale to the schools, and of industrial apprenticeships, Government expended in 1899 on primary schools a sum of Rs.292,125·28.

The cost per pupil was:—

In Government schools	Rs.15·86
In Aided schools	10·93

With regard to industrial, technical, and agricultural schools, there are none properly so-called. The only attempt towards technical and industrial education in the Colony lies in the yearly selection, after examination, of seven lads, coming from any school, five for training at the Plaine Lauzun workshops, and two at the Botanical Gardens. At Plaine Lauzun these apprentices are taken on for five years, and at the Botanical Gardens for four years, each set receiving wages which increase yearly. At the end of 1899 there were 20 apprentices at Plaine Lauzun, and eight at the Botanical Gardens.

The teaching staff in the primary schools in 1899 comprised:—

In the Government schools:—

- 63 Masters.
- 15 Mistresses.
- 75 Assistants.
- 120 Monitors and monitresses.

In the Aided schools:—

- 96 Head teachers.
- 94 Assistants.

The weak point in the system is that many of the teachers are not properly qualified as such, and that the possession of a certificate is not always a guarantee of competence as a teacher.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The Royal College provides secondary education for boys, and with its two schools, as well as with the associated schools, aims at providing a higher class of primary education than is attainable at the Government schools, or the ordinary State-aided schools. The headquarters, which were formerly situated in Port Louis, have, on account of the plague epidemic, been temporarily moved to Curepipe.

The College itself is affiliated to the University of London.

There are 24 schools associated with the Royal College and two Royal College schools.

The average attendance for the year 1899 was as follows:—

Royal College proper	203
Royal College school, Port Louis	61
Royal College school, Curepipe	156

The revenue from school fees and sale of books was Rs.30,729, and the total expenditure, including salaries, was Rs.182,411.

Two English scholarships, *i.e.*, scholarships intended to maintain the successful competitors at English universities or technical colleges, are granted every year, and reports are regularly received as to the progress of the successful scholars.

The new Education Ordinance passed in 1899 is likely, when the newly-constituted Director of Public Instruction assumes office, to introduce modifications in the educational system pursued at the Royal College. It is not necessary therefore to waste space on further description of details which may soon become obsolete.

A fairly full account will be found in the Report for the year 1898.

But it may be observed that the weak points of the Mauritius Educational system are:—

1. Deficient technical education. The average Mauritian boy is in poor circumstances, and his first requirement is to be taught how to earn his living.

They cannot all become doctors or lawyers, and a purely scholastic training, however desirable from the point of view of general culture, is practically a drug in the market.

2. The second defect is the absence of school life, with all that it means at an English public school. It is not necessary to dwell at any length on the training, both physical and moral, afforded by English public school life, nor of its effect on the formation of character. It will be sufficient to say that, owing to local conditions, the Royal College lacks facilities for this training, and that there are, owing to climatic and social conditions, great difficulties in the way of supplying it.

But the problem is fully recognised as one requiring solution, and there need be no fear that the matter will escape consideration.

All classes are beginning to recognise that, owing to the increase of population, their boys may have to fight the battle of life outside the island of Mauritius, and that they must be fully equipped mentally, morally, and physically for the struggle of competition in other countries or colonies.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

Including the civil, prison, and reformatory hospitals, there are ten hospitals in Mauritius, supported and controlled by the Government. During the year 1899 there were 15,147 patients treated in these hospitals.

These figures do not include plague hospitals or plague patients, which will be dealt with separately.

The mortality in the public hospitals for the year 1899 was was as follows:—

1st Quarter	219
2nd "	361
3rd "	263
4th "	221
Total	1,064

The largest number of malarial fever cases far exceeded those of any other illness, the numbers being:—

Intermittent	3,969
Remittent	134
Pernicious	49

But it will be readily understood that malarial fever is answerable for many more cases of illness than are brought to account under that heading—for anæmia, debility, and other diseases are often traceable to attacks of malarial fever. There were 322 cases of anæmia and 504 of general debility, probably traceable to poverty or previous attacks of malaria.

There were 1,902 cases of disease of the respiratory system, and the Medical Superintendent of the Port Louis Civil Hospital reports a great increase of pulmonary phthisis amongst the lower classes of the population.

The patients of the Civil Hospital of Port Louis, owing to the discovery of plague-infected rats in the linen room of the hospital, were transferred in April 1899 to the Royal College buildings, a much healthier site. The Medical Superintendent in charge reports very favourably of the change.

Some deficiencies have been reported in the hospitals, which have been remedied. Proper lying-in wards are being provided where possible, and the drainage and water supply are receiving attention.

Altogether, it may be said that the hospitals have benefited by expenditure on improved sanitation, brought about by the plague epidemic. There has been a determination, not only to set our houses, but our hospitals in order.

POOR HOUSES AND ASYLUMS.

Poor Law relief is under the administration of a Poor Law Commissioner, a Government officer, assisted by a regular staff and Poor Law officers. The principal asylum is the Barkly Asylum, situated at Beau Bassin.

The Barkly Asylum is divided into four branches, namely, (*a*) the hospital for the treatment of the sick poor; (*b*) the asylum proper, for the reception and maintenance of old and infirm paupers; (*c*) the lunatic branch wards, for the reception and maintenance of harmless, insane paupers from the General Lunatic Asylum; and (*d*) the orphanage.

During the year 1899 the Barkly Asylum Hospital received 2,827 pauper patients for treatment; 2,499 were discharged, 246 died, and the number remaining on the 31st December amounted to 82.

The number of infirm paupers admitted into the asylum amounted to 370; 248 were discharged, four died, and the number remaining on the 31st December, 1899, amounted to 118.

The number of harmless lunatics admitted amounted to 122; six were discharged and 16 died, the number remaining on the 31st December, 1899, amounted to 100.

The number of pauper orphan children admitted amounted to 131; 88 were discharged and one died, the number remaining on the 31st December, 1899, amounted to 42 (exclusive of 14 of them, who were under treatment in hospital).

The expenditure incurred for the Barkly Asylum (exclusive of the hospital, which is under the management of the Medical and Health Department) for the year 1899, including every item of expense, amounted to Rs.40,164·16.

Those pauper inmates of the Barkly Asylum who are able to do some light work, such as cleaning the garden, sewing, &c., are bound by the regulations to do so. (*Vide* Part V. of the Poor Law Commissioners' Annual Report for 1899.)

POOR HOUSES.

(1.) *The Convent Branch Infirmaries.*

In addition to the Barkly Asylum there are throughout the Colony six Convent branch infirmaries or asylums, namely:—

(*a*) One at Rempart Street, into which 151 old and infirm paupers were admitted in 1899; 39 were discharged, 62 died, and the number remaining on the 31st December amounted to 50.

(*b*) The second at Belle Rose, Quatre Bornes, into which 156 infirm paupers were admitted; of these 40 were discharged, 29 died, and the number remaining on the 31st December amounted to 87.

(*c*) The third at Pamplemousses, into which 101 infirm paupers were admitted; of these 17 were discharged and 44 died, the number remaining on the 31st December amounted to 40.

(*d*) The fourth at Calebasses, into which 206 infirm paupers were admitted in 1899; of these 51 were discharged and 43 died, the number remaining on the 31st December, 1899, amounted to 112.

(*e*) The fifth at Chemin Grenier, Savanne, in which 12 infirm paupers were maintained during the year 1899; of these two were discharged and none died, and the number remaining on the 31st December, 1899, amounted to 10.

(*f*) The sixth at St. Julien, Flacq, at which 11 infirm paupers were maintained during the year 1899; of these none were discharged and one died, and the number remaining on the 31st December, 1899, amounted to 10.

The cost of maintenance of these branch infirmaries for 1899 amounted to Rs.40,499·23.

(2.) *The St. Lazare Leper Asylum.*

There is also the leper asylum (St. Lazare) in the district of Port Louis, into which 202 pauper lepers were maintained in 1899; 29 were discharged, 24 died, and the number remaining on the 31st December amounted to 149.

The amount paid by the Government for the maintenance and treatment of pauper lepers at St. Lazare during the year 1899 was Rs.36,141·44.

(3.) *Convent Orphanages.*

Pauper orphan children are also maintained in the several Convent orphanages at the expense of the Poor Law Commission.

(*a*) At Rempart Street, 43 were admitted in 1899; 14 were discharged, one died, and 28 were at the institution on 31st December.

(*b*) At La Paix Street, seven were admitted, of whom none were discharged or died.

(*c*) At Canal Street, 20 were admitted; two were discharged, one died, and 17 were remaining on 31st December, 1899.

(*d*) At Grand Port six were admitted, of whom none were discharged or died.

(*e*) At Moka seven were admitted, of whom none were discharged or died.

The sum paid by the Government for the maintenance of pauper orphans in these several Convent orphanages during 1899 amounted to Rs.4,966·51.

POOR LAW RELIEF AND CHARITABLE GRANTS.

Poor Law relief is granted by the Poor Law Commissioner, as follows:—

1. To the sick poor and their families.
2. To old and infirm paupers and their families.
3. To pauper lunatics and their families.
4. To children whose parents are paupers.
5. To orphan children.

Such relief consists of rice, money, medical assistance, medicine, and medical comforts (fresh beef, bread, wine, milk, &c.).

The sum expended for relief in cash and rice for the year 1899 amounted to Rs.29,082·54.

Small pecuniary grants are also made from the Governor's charitable allowance fund, through the Poor Law Commissioner, and these grants constitute a great boon to the poor, who are thus afforded the means of buying clothes, paying arrears of house rent, &c.

The sum paid for these charitable grants during the year 1899 amounted to Rs.2,609·65.

The total expenditure of the Poor Law Department for the year 1899 amounted to Rs.193,166·31, against Rs.202,421·87 for the preceding year, showing a decrease of Rs.9,255·56.

There has been a total decrease of 14,168 persons relieved during the year 1899 as compared with the preceding year.

INCREASE OR DECREASE OF POVERTY.

Poverty is, nevertheless, tending gradually to increase in Mauritius, and more especially in Port Louis.

The system of Poor Law Relief adopted is, however, open to criticism, as the labour test is rarely applied. The effect being that pauperism is in many cases encouraged, and that persons who are undeserving receive relief. But the extreme poverty of the lower classes in Mauritius and their debilitated condition, a condition promoted by poverty and malaria, renders it extremely difficult to apply the labour test on a large scale. The whole question of Poor Law relief is at present under the consideration of the Government.

REFORMATORY.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

During the year 1899 there were altogether 301 boys in the reformatory. The daily average was 81·4, and amongst these there was an average of 5·21 sick. There were no deaths. The occupation and instruction of the boys was the same as in the year 1898, and the same remarks apply. The reformatory is a boys' prison rather than a reformatory. The boys do not stay long enough to permit of any genuine work in the way of reform, whilst the classification and separation of the hopeful cases from the more vicious and hopeless cases is not possible under the existing system. It is hoped that under the new Education Ordinance, which will take practical effect after the arrival of the new Director of Public Instruction, this matter will receive attention.

SAVINGS BANK.

The amount deposited in 1899 was Rs.1,000,142. This amount compared with the deposits of 1898 shows an increase of Rs.131,368, the deposits in 1898 being Rs.868,774.

The amount withdrawn in 1899 was Rs. 988,628, showing a decrease on the preceding year of Rs.108,119, the sum withdrawn in 1898 being Rs.1,096,747.

The total sum standing to the credit of depositors, at the end of 1899, including the interest due to them, was Rs.2,885,942·01.

Of this sum Rs.1,297,969 belonged to the Indian population, showing an increase of Rs.44,176 on the preceding year.

The number of depositors increased from 24,226 in 1898 to 24,784 in 1899; of these 10,454 were of the Indian population, being an increase of 81 on the previous year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The total effective strength of the police force, as allowed by Government, was 709 on the 31st December, 1899; the actual strength, however, was 706 (the force having been reduced to the strength laid down in Schedule A of Ordinance No. 16 of 1893, *i.e.*, 708, plus one 1st class constable taken on).

The nationalities of these 706 men were 18 in number, and composed of 41 Europeans, 493 natives of Mauritius, 159 Indians, one Arab, two Americans, one Australian, one New Zealander, one native of British Guiana, two of Cape of Good Hope, one of Madagascar, and four of Reunion Island.

Eighty-one constables were enlisted during 1899, of whom 11 were dismissed as unlikely to make efficient constables. The total number of dismissals during the year was 27.

Two hundred and thirty-one sub-officers and constables were in possession of the silver and bronze good-conduct medals on the 31st December, 1899.

PRISONS.

There are two prisons in Mauritius, which are distinct from the police "lock-ups."

The Port Louis prison is used for prisoners waiting trial and for prisoners after sentence waiting transfer to the central prison at Beau Bassin.

Of the two, the Port Louis prison, though the older and inferior prison, is the healthier.

The Beau Bassin prison, though an admirable prison, built on the best English model, with spacious yards and grounds, all well kept, has hitherto proved to be unhealthy. The prevailing diseases being dysentery and malarial fever.

Efforts have been made to trace these diseases to their cause and various improvements have been effected. The surface drainage has been put in thorough repair, verandahs have been added to the prison hospitals, and shelter sheds have been erected to protect the prisoners whilst at work.

But nevertheless the sickness continues, and orders have been given to fill in all holes in the neighbourhood of the prisons that hold water after rain. The bush or jungle in the neighbourhood of the prisons is being cleared, and orders have been issued to take greater precautions in regard to the drinking water used by the prisoners whilst working on the roads.

Additional precautions are being enforced to prevent the contamination of the Mare aux Vacoas water in the prison itself. This water supply if not contaminated is perfectly healthy and free from all injurious matter.

The following is a return of Admissions, Discharges, total Aggregate of Prisoners, Daily Average under Detention, Deaths, and Percentage of Deaths on average daily number in the Mauritius Prisons:—

Prison.	1899.															No. of Deaths.	Ratio per cent. of Deaths.
	Entered Prison.			Left Prison.			Aggregate of Prisoners.			Daily Average.			Daily Average Sick.				
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	M.
Port Louis ...	7,195	293	7,488	7,281	294	7,575	85,101	6,546	91,647	233·15	17·93	251·09	28·97	3	31·97	11	4·38
Beau Bassin	—	—	—	—	—	—	230,116	—	230,116	630·46	—	630·46	33·31	—	33·31	28	4·44
Total ...	7,195	293	7,488	7,281	294	7,575	315,217	6,546	321,763	863·61	17·93	881·55	62·28	3	65·28	39	4·42

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following are the Criminal Statistics for the year 1899:—

(1.) *Offences.*

Table showing the number of offences reported to the Police or to the Magistrates during 1899:—

Total No. of Offences reported.	Offences against the Person.	Prædial Larceny.*	Offences against Property other than Prædial Larceny.†	Other Offences.
21,585	1,428	288	2,723	17,146

* By "Prædial larceny" is meant the offences, prevalent in sugar-growing and coolie-importing colonies, of robbing provision grounds and homesteads.

† Including both offences against rights of property and injuries to the subjects of property.

(2.) *Apprehensions and Summonses.*

Table showing the number of persons brought before the Courts of the District and Stipendiary Magistrates of Mauritius, by arrest or summons, for offences, and how their cases were disposed of in the Magistrates' Courts during 1899:—

—	Number discharged for want of prosecution by party complaining, or for want of evidence.	Number of persons whose cases were dismissed on the merits.	Number of persons summarily convicted.	Number of persons committed for trial at the Assizes.
Offences against the person	263	390	817	48
Prædial larceny	10	41	252	—
Offences against property* other than prædial larceny.	1,095	343	1,326	17
Offences against the law relating to masters and servants, including Acts relating to indentured coolies.	881	113	1,867	—
Other offences	835	778	13,554	—
Total number of persons summoned or apprehended.	3,084	1,665	17,816	65

NOTE.—Purely civil cases in which Magistrates exercise jurisdiction are not included in this table.

* Including both offences against rights of property and injuries to the subjects of property.

(3.) *Summary Convictions.*

Table showing the number of convictions by the District and Stipendiary Magistrates of Mauritius for various classes of offences, and the punishments inflicted during 1899 :—

Punishment.	Total number of offences.	Assault and other offences against the person.	Malicious injuries to property.	Prædial larceny.	Offences against property other than malicious injuries to property or prædial larceny.	Offences against the laws relating to revenue, highway, health, and other laws relating to the social economy of the Colony.	Offences against the law relating to masters and servants, including acts relating to indentured coolies.	Other offences.
Fine and conviction for non-payment of wages ...	12,094	396	4	150	61	9,554	256	1,673
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety	1,580	118	5	19	17	1,224	48	149
Detention at reformatory in lieu of imprisonment ...	178	5	1	6	86	28	16	36
Peremptory imprisonment	3,741	277	87	77	1,065	54	1,345	836
Prolongation and cancellation of contracts	202	—	—	—	—	—	202	—
Bound over with or without sureties to keep the peace	21	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	17,816	817	97	252	1,229	10,860	1,867	2,694

NOTE.—Where there has been an appeal from the Magistrate's decision, the case is entered as finally decided, and not necessarily according to the Magistrate's original decision.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

(4.) *Informations in the Supreme, District, and Stipendiary Courts of Mauritius during 1899.*

How case tried ended. (Each prisoner tried is counted as a separate case, but where any large batch of prisoners* have been convicted together, the fact is mentioned below.)	Total.	Murder other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter.	Attempt at murder.	The numbers between include attempt to commit the several offences.													
					Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Child murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injuries to property.	Robbery with violence.	Prædial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Vaccination.	Miscellaneous offences.
Judgment for the Crown ...	17,840	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	3	1	819	99	44	252	1,194	—	15,421
Judgment for the prisoner ...	1,668	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	386	4	8	41	331	—	891
Prisoner found insane... ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—
Cases which fell through for want of prosecution, including cases which the Procureur General declined to take to the Assizes	3,084	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	258	436	9	10	650	—	1.716

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* *i.e.*, Five or more than five in number.

Comparative Table.

Comparative table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years :—

—	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
The number of offences known to the police or the magistrates.	21,585	33,803	35,571	36,212
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	24,244	28,945	32,553	30,605
The number of convictions in Inferior Courts :—				
1. For offences against the person.	817	694	1,003	1,001
2. For prædial larceny	252	547	548	277
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	1,326	1,768	1,469	1,519
4. For other offences	15,421	18,842	21,129	20,125
The number of convictions in the Supreme Court :—				
1. For offences against the person.	13	21	18	21
2. For prædial larceny	—	—	—	—
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	11	31	30	15
4. For other offences	—	—	—	—
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the Inferior Courts ...	1,665	1,998	5,161	5,320
2. In the Supreme Court ...	3	19	4	13

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

On the 31st December, 1899, the resident population of the Colony was 379,659. The troops of the garrison here have, however, been excluded, as well as the crews of all non-Colonial ships temporarily anchored in the harbour.

When the last census was taken, *i.e.*, on the 6th April, 1891, the total population, not including military and shipping, was estimated at 370,588 persons, so that the population of the Colony has increased by 9,071 during the last nine years, or an average of a little over 1,000 yearly. This increase is mainly—if not solely—due to an excess of births over deaths.

The total population is divided into two section:—The "General" and the "Indian."

The General population numbered 117,920; the Chinese residents, numbering 3,079, have been included therein.

The Indian population numbered 261,739, or over two-thirds of the total population of the island.

The Indian population is classified under two heads, viz., Immigrants" and "Indo-Mauritians."

"Immigrants" comprise all Indians who have emigrated to this Colony under contract of service, and are either still under engagement or have settled here.

"Indo-Mauritians" include Indians born in this Colony and all Indians other than immigrants.

The immigrants numbered 62,387, and the Indo-Mauritians 199,352.

In the whole population, without distinction of race, the males predominate, the proportion being 1,133 males to 1,000 females.

PROPORTION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Births.—There were 13,889 births in 1899, or 185 more than in the previous year.

The birth rate in the total population was 34·1 per 1,000. In the general population it was 34·14, and in the Indian population 37·79 per 1,000.

The birth rate of Port Louis in 1899 was below that of Madras, but above that of Bombay.

The birth rate varied in the different districts of the island from a minimum of 29·9 per 1,000 in the district of Black River to a maximum of 42·0 per 1,000 in the district of Riviere du Rempart.

The proportion of illegitimate births was 64 per cent. of the whole number of births. This high rate is due to the existing laws, which provide that, unless the Indian population marry legally, their children are declared as illegitimate.

In the general population 36·1 per cent. and in the Indian population 75·7 per cent. were illegitimate; 22·8 per cent. of the illegitimate births in the general population were not acknowledged by the father, and only 4·5 per cent. in the Indian population.

The proportion of still births to live births in 1899 was 75·8 per 1000.

Deaths.—There were 13,222 deaths in 1899, or an increase of 1,158 on the previous year.

This gives a death rate of 34·8 per 1,000, as against 31·9 in 1898. The difference being due to plague.

The death rate was lower in the Indian population (34·2) than in the general (36·0) population, and the death rate of the male population (35·8) was slightly higher than that of the female (33·6).

The death rate of Port Louis in 1899 (65·7) was below that of Bombay (68·6), but above that of Madras (38·3).

There is considerable variation in the death rates of the Colony with reference to the localities. The mortality in Port Louis is always the highest, and far above that of the whole island, and, in this year, the plague has much increased its average rate.

The death rates of the different districts for 1899 and for the preceding year were as follows:—

Districts.	1898.	1899.
Port Louis	48·5	65·7
Pamplemousses ...	34·1	36·9
Riviere du Rempart ...	25·1	26·7
Flacq	31·1	27·9
Grand Port	29·9	29·5
Savanne	20·7	27·9
Plaines Wilhems ...	30·9	31·0
Moka	26·8	25·8
Black River	29·9	33·3

The only districts in which an improvement is noticeable are Flacq and Moka.

Forty-seven per cent. of the total number of deaths in 1899 were due to zymotic diseases, a reduction of 21 per cent. as compared with the preceding year.

Fifty-five deaths were registered as having occurred amongst the troops stationed here.

In 1898 there were only 18 deaths, but during the year under review the strength of the garrison was increased from 1,710 to 2,550.

Estimated population on the 1st January, 1900, compared with figures of last census:—

Districts.	Census of 1891.	Population on 1st January, 1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
Port Louis	62,169	52,517	—	9,652
Pamplemousses ...	38,547	37,559	—	988
Riviere du Rempart ...	24,151	27,648	3,497	—
Flacq	56,734	60,154	3,420	—
Grand Port	48,169	51,042	2,873	—
Savanne...	34,977	37,154	2,177	—
Plaines Wilhems ...	57,591	62,195	4,604	—
Moka	32,552	36,138	3,586	—
Black River	15,698	15,252	—	446
Total	370,588	379,659	20,157	11,086

Net increase, 9,071.

Showing a migration from Port Louis, Black River, and Pamplemousses, the unhealthy districts, to the more healthy districts.

GENERAL STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

As the plague epidemic is a matter of very general interest and was the most important event of the year, it will be dealt with under a separate heading of this Report, and the space usually devoted to "General Observations" will be assigned to an account of the plague in Mauritius.

But apart from plague the Colony was free from any epidemic disease during 1899. Influenza, formerly epidemic, is now endemic to the Colony, and showed a slight increase, the figures being 783 for 1899, as against 726 for 1898. Malaria and dysentery showed a slight decline. Tuberculosis is gradually increasing. Poverty, which is, unfortunately, widespread, and the insanitary conditions incidental to poverty, favour the spread of this disease.

Were it not for the poverty prevailing among the lower classes, congregating in certain quarters of Port Louis and in large villages, the sanitary conditions of these places would not, by themselves, cause half the recorded mortality.

The drainage of our principal towns remains exceedingly defective. In Port Louis, a great improvement has been effected in the eastern suburb by the completion of the canalization of a filth-carrying open sewer, called the Ruisseau La Paix.

Sanitary measures, having in view improved surface drainage, have also been carried out in different sections of the town of Port Louis, concurrently with other measures of sanitation, undertaken to check the spread of plague, but a great deal yet remains to be done in that direction.

In the western suburb the underground drainage works have been continued, and several large establishments, such as the new Civil Hospital, Central Railway Station, and some private premises, have already been connected with the underground pipes, which carry the sewage out to sea.

The drainage of the other chief townships (Curepipe, Beau Bassin, Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes) and other populous places is still very far from satisfactory, in spite of the yearly sums expended for that object. The solution of this sanitary question, which has long engaged the attention of the Sanitary Department, is becoming more and more pressing.

The water supply of all chief towns and populous localities, with the exception of those provided for by the Mare aux Vacoas, cannot be described as satisfactory. Indeed, in certain places, it is harmful, as being one of the chief factors in the propagation of all water-borne diseases.

In the dry season it is frequently deficient in many localities, while in the rainy season dilute sewage is supplied to some, among which may be included the principal town, Port Louis.

River waters of the description available in this Colony are specially polluted. Even the palliative—in the shape of sewage pollution being got rid of by the length of flow, by oxidation and

MAURITIUS, 1899.

other combined agencies—is but freely present, inasmuch as points of contamination may be said to exist all along their course.

Two filters of the Magnien type have lately been provided for by the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis. They are erected in public squares, but the water yielded is, in the first place, of far too limited quantity to serve the needs of a population of 54,000 souls, while, in the second place, the filtered water is but sparingly made use of by the population in whose immediate vicinity the filters exist.

This is not to be wondered at, having in view the mode of life of Orientals, and of a population which has still to be educated in sanitary matters.

The public mind in this Colony has yet to grasp the fact that disease is largely preventable.

Poverty and debility tend to produce a state of mind which may be described as one of resignation, but may also be described as apathetic.

Enteric fever is extending its area, and attacks the better class, especially newly-arrived Europeans.

The following is the Meteorological Return for the year 1899:—

Meteorological Return for the year 1899.

Months.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.
	Solar Maximum.	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	Degrees of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	
	° Deg.	° Deg.	° Deg.	° Deg.	Deg.	† Deg.		†P.C. Deg.		Miles per hour.	
January ...	163·0	63·8	91·6	67·7	23·9	79·6	2·18	74·6	E.S.E. & E.b.S.	13·0	Rainfall 69 per cent. below average.
February ...	162·3	63·2	92·4	65·8	26·6	78·3	7·24	81·9	E.E.b.N. & var.	9·7	
March ...	163·8	65·3	89·3	68·6	20·7	78·4	12·13	81·3	E.S.E. to E.b.N. & var.	10·3	Rainfall 47 per cent. above average.
April ...	153·1	56·9	88·3	59·8	28·5	77·2	4·61	77·8	E.S.E. to E.b.S.	9·9	
May... ...	153·6	52·1	86·8	56·1	30·7	73·0	1·73	77·3	S.E.b.S., S.E.b.E., E.S.E. & var.	9·8	
June ...	149·8	48·2	82·7	51·7	31·0	69·0	1·63	74·6	S.E.b.E. & E.S.E.	10·2	Thunder on June 6th, distant but distinct.

° *Absolute* not *mean* values.

† Mean of 6 + 15 h.

MAURITIUS, 1899.

Meteorological Return for the year 1899—continued.

Months.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.
	Solar Maximum.	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	Degrees of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	
	° Deg.	° Deg.	° Deg.	* Deg.	Deg.	† Deg.		†P.C. Deg.		Miles per hour.	
July ...	144·7	52·0	80·6	56·6	24·0	68·9	2·93	72·8	E.S.E.	13·9	Velocity of wind 2·1 miles above average. Rainfall 39 per cent. above average.
August ...	145·8	51·9	80·4	55·7	24·7	69·0	3·40	74·6	E.S.E.	13·8	
September ...	153·0	51·5	84·4	56·6	27·8	70·9	1·68	73·9	E.S.E.	11·8	
October ...	155·0	53·5	86·5	56·7	29·8	71·3	2·25	78·4	S.E.b.E. to E.b.N.	9·3	
November ...	157·2	55·8	88·9	60·2	28·7	76·6	1·73	73·8	N.E.b.N. to S.E.& N.W.	8·6	Velocity of wind 2·1 miles below average.
December ...	156·2	58·6	92·8	63·8	29·0	79·0	1·31	71·0	S.E.b.E. to E.b.N.	11·2	Rainfall 73 per cent. below average.

* *Absolute* not *mean* values.

† Mean of 6 + 15 h.

Cyclones occurred on January 4 to 9, March 3 to 9, and December 9 to 22.

CLIMATE.

(1.) *Rainfall.*

The rainfall at Mauritius varies from about 150 inches at Midlands in the district of Plaines Wilhems to 35 inches at some coast stations in the Black River district. It is much greater on the eastern side of the central watershed than at stations of the same altitude on the western side.

At the Observatory (181 feet above sea level) the total rainfall in 1899 was 42·82 inches, or 3·54 inches below the average for the last 25 years, while at Curepipe (1,840 feet above sea level) it was 124·94 inches, or 4·20 inches below the average for the last 16 years. The mean rainfall, from observations at 68 stations, was 76·80 inches, against an average of 79·23 inches.

(2.) *Temperature.*

The mean annual temperature varies from 67° on the high grounds of Plaines Wilhems to 76° at sea level. The following table gives the means and extremes at the Observatory and Curepipe for 1899:—

—	Observatory.	Curepipe.
Temperature in shade:—		
Mean	73·7	67·4
Mean maximum...	79·3	73·4
Mean minimum...	68·8	61·4
Absolute maximum	92·0	83·0
Absolute minimum	54·7	44·3
Temperature in sun's rays:—		
Mean maximum...	139·2	135·4
Absolute maximum	158·2	155·2
Relative humidity:—		
Mean	75·0 °/₀	89·0 °/₀
Maximum	96·2 °/₀	100·0 °/₀

(3.) *Wind.*

The prevailing direction of the wind at the Observatory is from east by south, with an annual variation of nearly 29°; it is most southerly in June—south-east by east, nearly—and most northerly in December, blowing in this month from due east.

There is also a diurnal variation of 19°.

The mean velocity of the wind is 11·2 miles per hour, with an annual variation of 2·4 miles; the greatest mean hourly velocity occurs in August—12·4 miles—and the least in March—10·0 miles. The mean diurnal variation is 7·7 miles.

In 1899 the mean direction of the wind was east by south; the mean hourly velocity 11·0 miles; the greatest hourly velocity 43·5 miles, on March 6th.

VII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL SERVICE.

The postal service is carried on at the General Post Office in Port Louis, and at 59 offices in the districts.

The mails are conveyed from town, and between the district offices, chiefly by rail.

At seven of the offices foot-messengers and conveyance carry the mails between the district office and the nearest railway station.

Inland money orders are issued at all district offices.

The delivery of letters to their addresses is made by letter carriers in all the sections of the town, and at all the principal district offices, viz., Curepipe, Curepipe Road, Forest Side, Vacoas, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, Beau Bassin, Mahebourg, Souillac, Pamplemousses, Argy, Moka, and St. Pierre. In these localities the correspondence is delivered within a radius of one mile from the office.

TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The telephone service is in the hands of a private company.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

The telegraph system of the Colony covers 102 miles of ground and consists of 314 miles of wire.

There are 52 telegraph offices, worked by post office telegraphists, and two offices by military operators on their own ground, but in communication with the post office wires.

The central telegraph office is in Port Louis. Besides the ordinary postal telegrams for Government, the military, and the public, the post office transmits all railway telegrams.

The cost of wiring a message from any station to another is 25 cents for 20 words, exclusive of the addresses of the sender and receiver, which are free up to 10 words.

The delivery of telegrams is either by foot-messenger and costs 25 cents for one mile and under for distances up to two miles, or at 38 cents per mile by conveyance if beyond two miles.

The number of telegrams transmitted in 1899 was as follows:—

For the public	22,317
For the Government, including military ...	10,779
For the railway	24,524
For the telegraph service	4,932
Total	62,552

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The Imperial military garrison of Mauritius numbered 2,547 of all ranks on the 31st December, 1899.

The European regiment, the 2nd King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, was despatched to South Africa in H.M.S. "Powerful" on the 6th October, 1899.

The total cost of the garrison was £132,168, to which the Colony contributed £20,855.

X.—MISCELLANEOUS.

PLAGUE.

In view of the universal importance of the plague question, it has been thought well to devote the space usually allotted to miscellaneous subjects to a brief account of the plague epidemic in Mauritius. A full and scientific account of the plague epidemic will be found in the Annual Report of the Acting Medical Director, Dr. Lorans, and persons desirous of acquiring complete information on the subject are referred to that Report. The space available does not permit of more than the briefest possible summary from the popular and unscientific point of view.

The first suspected case of plague in Mauritius—a case which was not diagnosed as such at the time—occurred on the 26th December, 1898.

The first recognised case of plague was detected on the 27th January, 1899, and there were altogether 1,416 cases of plague diagnosed as such during the year. A considerable number of cases, probably about 300 altogether, must have escaped diagnosis, but it is impossible to give more than a very rough estimate of the unrecognised cases. It may be, however, observed that, from the point of view of preventive measures, the unrecognised cases are of the highest importance, and that from the first the necessity of accurate diagnosis in the case of all suspected cases of illness or death was present to the mind of the officers who were conducting the plague campaign.

The first question that suggests itself is, "How was the plague introduced into Mauritius?" Very careful enquiries have been made with a view to supplying an answer to this question, but without any satisfactory result. All that can be said is that it was probably introduced from Madagascar, where it had existed for several weeks in 1898 before it was recognised.

The plague began in Mauritius, in a part of the town of Port Louis, known as Camp Yoloff, and amongst people who were known to have dealings with Madagascar. From there it spread gradually over the town—the progress resembling an irregular wave of disease spreading slowly but steadily outwards, and leaving as it passed a healthy space behind it.

It also invaded the country districts following the main lines of trade and communication. That is to say, the ports that were infected were probably infected by coasters, whilst the sugar estates and townships probably received the infection either from goods received from the ports by road or from the town of Port Louis by rail.

Rats were, as is usual, the principal plague carriers, but the disease was also carried by dirty clothing, dirty linen, &c. There were not, so far as is known, any cases of direct infection from the persons of plague patients, and no case of plague occurred amongst the nurses or doctors who were in constant attendance on the plague patients.

A remarkable illustration of the non-contagious character of the disease is afforded by the fact that one of the sisters of mercy employed in nursing the plague patients was actually bitten in the hand by a delirious plague patient, receiving a wound about an inch long, but she did not contract plague.

The measures taken to combat the disease were:—

1. Evacuation of infected houses, at first accompanied by segregation, but segregation, except in the case of contacts, was subsequently abandoned as useless.

2. Complete disinfection of all infected houses with their contents, and incineration of houses that were incapable of proper disinfection.

3. Destruction of rats—a rat fence was tried, but was useless. It was probably tried too late, *i.e.*, after the disease had already crossed the line chosen for the fence.

4. Inoculation with Haffkine's liquid. Captain Stevenson, I.M.S., reports that the results of inoculation with Haffkine's liquid gave a case incidence protection of over 70 per cent., and a mortality incidence protection of over 20 per cent.

These figures must be regarded as approximate only, for the conditions were not favourable for the collection of exact data.

5. General sanitation and a cleaning up of all towns, villages, and houses. Over 1,500 houses were cleaned in one way or another in Port Louis alone.

6. The enactment of special laws to guard against the dangers of mistaken diagnosis and to secure a verification of the cause of death. The disinfecting staff and the medical officers, as well as all other officers who visited the infected localities, were disinfected either on the spot or immediately on their return from the duty on which they had been engaged, and special constables were employed to guard infected localities and to prevent the entrance of any person not on plague duty.

The plague hospitals were kept clean and well ventilated. All possible precautions were observed, and the plague hospitals were never at any time sources of infection.

The treatment consisted in complete rest, with stimulants and tonics, including alcohol, digitalis, cafeine, &c. Yersin's serum was tried with doubtful results as a curative, though it seems to have given admirable results as a prophylactic.

The epidemic was at its height during the months of July, August, September, and October, and began to die down in November and December.

Sporadic cases have occurred in 1900, but the disease has not as yet (July, 1900) assumed an epidemic form. In any case, the island is better prepared to deal with an epidemic than in 1899, for the experience already gained by the medical profession and the public has been most valuable.

An incidental result of the measures adopted to combat plague has been an improvement in the general health of the population. This improvement is very marked, especially in Port Louis.

GRAHAM BOWER,
Colonial Secretary.

9th July, 1900.

RODRIGUES, 1899.

RODRIGUES.

The island of Rodrigues is a dependency of Mauritius, administered by a magistrate. In 1899 the Revenue amounted to Rs.18,658 and the Expenditure amounted to Rs.25,357.

The Revenue is mainly derived from direct taxation, such as licences, lease of Crown lands, &c.

The island is policed by two non-commissioned officers and six constables, at a cost of Rs.4,040. In 1899 27 persons were committed to prison. There are two Government schools on the island, which cost Rs.2,701. The average attendance was 80 boys and 78 girls.

Eighteen men and seven women received Poor Law relief.

The total population consisted of 1,595 males and 1,275 females, giving a total of 2,870 souls.

The births were 81 males and 88 females.

The deaths were 19 males and 12 females.

Sixty-two marriages were celebrated.

Nearly all the population are of African descent, though there are a few Indians and Chinamen on the island. Tobacco is a growing industry, but the tobacco cannot be said to be well cured.

The place is healthy, and were it not for its distance and isolation, would furnish attraction to sportsmen. At present the deer and Guinea fowl are left to the poachers, on account of the want of superintendence.

Rodrigues will shortly become important as a telegraph station.

GRAHAM BOWER,
Colonial Secretary.

9th July, 1900.

The Revenue of 1900, compared with 1899, shows an increase of	Rs. 113,661

The principal increases in 1900 being on Railways and Excise duties, and the principal decreases on Customs, Post Office, Telegraphs, Interest, and Miscellaneous Receipts.

The Expenditure of the year 1900 was in excess of that of 1899 by Rs. 161,710. The principal items of ordinary Expenditure affected by the increase being item 32, Military Contribution, and item 33, Railways.

The plague expenditure of the year showed a decrease of Rs. 223,373.65 as compared with that of the previous year.

In 1899 it was	Rs. 562,413.53
In 1900 it was	339,039.88
Decrease	223,373.65

From the above return, for the five years preceding 1900, it will be seen that the Revenue realized in 1900 is the largest, it is also the largest since 1882, when it was Rs. 9,551,635; this is due to the large crops realized in 1898 to 1899, and 1899 to 1900, and 1900 to 1901; the crop of 1900 to 1901 being one of the largest ever reaped in the island.

The prospects of the coming year 1901 to 1902 are favourable, owing to abundant rains having fallen in the beginning of the year. Though not so good as last crop, it is expected that, owing to the larger extent of land brought under cultivation by small peasant proprietors, which will be harvested this year, the crop will yield at least 170,000 tons, and the estimates for 1901-1902 have been based on that expectation.

TAXATION.

The principal changes introduced in the laws relating to taxation in 1900 were as follows:—

1. The Branch Roads Ordinance No. 9 of 1900, by which Ordinance a fund was created in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and townships, and placed under the administration of a District Board of Commissioners for the making, altering and repairing of branch roads.

This Ordinance provides for a local tax in each district of 10 per cent. to be levied in each year in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and townships, as an addition to the direct taxes on vehicles and animals.

This tax may, on the recommendation of the Branch Roads Boards, and with the approval of the Governor in Executive Council, be raised by additional percentages up to 25 per cent. of such direct taxes.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

Heads of Service.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward ...	5,751,535.30	5,254,094.96	172,287.23	669,727.57
Dependencies	41,225.54	41,279.71	54.17	—
Crown Agents	4,680.74	8,764.24	4,083.50	—
Writers and copyists ...	5,253.89	5,057.63	—	196.26
Transport	3,190.01	4,849.69	1,659.68	—
Miscellaneous	331,704.28	350,213.91	18,509.63	—
Charitable allowances ...	15,969.36	15,296.13	—	673.23
Interest and exchange...	185,198.07	198,712.92	13,514.85	—
Military contribution ...	388,606.91	476,298.91	87,692.00	—
Railways	1,254,133.69	1,385,080.27	130,946.58	—
Surveyor-General ...	57,978.22	58,707.29	729.07	—
Public works (recurrent)	249,105.48	274,335.14	25,229.66	—
ditto (extraordinary)	26,342.00	58,375.78	32,033.78	—
Loan Commission ...	14,337.71	15,022.68	684.97	—
Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.	47,936.21	44,907.10	—	3,029.11
Drainage works ...	30,029.69	28,257.67	—	1,772.02
Secret Service	—	10,650.00	10,650.00	—
Plague Services ...	—	339,039.88	339,039.88	—
Total ...	8,407,227.10	8,568,943.91	837,115.00	675,398.19

The main increases are due to the purchase of a new steam tug, and to the expenditure on railway material and maintenance.

The railways of the Colony, which have necessarily been starved during the years of financial distress, claimed the first attention as soon as the finances permitted the disbursement of the necessary expenditure. They cannot yet be said to be in a completely satisfactory condition, but when all outstanding indents have been executed they will be in an efficient condition and able to deal with the increasing traffic.

EXPENDITURE.

The following is a Comparative Statement of the Expenditure for the years 1899–1900:—

Heads of Service.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Public debt	837,232.30	836,879.02	—	353.28
Pensions	463,872.45	459,486.47	—	4,385.98
Governor and Legislature.	70,043.45	69,327.52	—	715.93
Colonial Secretary ...	65,652.75	61,382.34	—	4,270.41
Receiver-General ...	140,325.05	135,802.88	—	4,522.17
Auditor-General ...	54,769.90	54,948.16	178.26	—
Customs	213,325.04	217,300.62	3,975.58	—
Port and marine ...	177,060.53	256,272.25	79,211.72	—
Observatory	19,450.58	19,422.07	—	28.51
Museum...	4,874.12	4,664.55	—	209.57
Registrar-General ...	19,291.61	19,054.57	—	237.04
Receiver of Registration Dues.	55,281.54	56,315.22	1,033.68	—
Post Office	174,413.37	134,208.67	—	40,204.70
Woods and forests ...	116,273.81	117,873.86	1,600.05	—
Judicial Departments...	469,870.64	479,463.67	9,593.03	—
Ecclesiastical	143,460.91	150,567.65	7,106.74	—
Education	478,496.26	481,653.72	3,157.46	—
Medical and Health Department.	608,969.01	652,892.46	43,923.45	—
Quarantine	615,672.09	23,517.98	—	592,154.11
Poor Law Commission	190,343.52	167,697.65	—	22,645.87
Police	544,278.67	547,919.97	3,641.30	—
Prisons	136,871.34	145,634.15	8,762.81	—
Storekeeper-General ...	32,641.00	33,901.33	1,260.33	—
Immigration	119,065.36	127,908.18	8,842.82	—
Carried forward ...	5,751,535.30	5,254,094.96	172,287.23	669,727.57

MAURITIUS
AND
RODRIGUES,
1900.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1900.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The following is a Comparative Statement of the heads of Revenue for the years 1899-1900:—

Heads of Revenue.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Customs	3,465,082.58	3,399,514.96	—	65,567.62
Port, harbour, wharf, and lighthouse dues.	193,026.90	191,145.52	—	1,881.38
Licenses, excise, and internal revenue not otherwise classified.	2,505,974.39	2,672,059.43	166,085.04	—
Fees of court or office, payments for specific services, and reimbursements in aid.	202,705.32	215,276.64	12,571.32	—
Post Office and telegraphs.	134,403.25	114,660.85	—	19,742.40
Government railways...	1,876,302.95	1,995,015.87	118,712.92	—
Rent of Government property.	56,895.46	54,769.75	—	2,125.71
Interest...	539,429.46	484,875.75	—	54,553.71
Miscellaneous receipts	90,165.64	51,054.77	—	39,110.87
Land sales	2,327.44	1,601.76	—	725.68
Total ...	9,066,313.39	9,179,975.30	297,369.28	183,707.37

Deduct decrease 183,707.37

The receipts of 1900 show an increase on 1899 of Rs. 113,661.91

The increases in the foregoing table are mainly due to increased prosperity due to a good sugar crop. The decreases are, in respect to the largest item, Customs, due to reduced taxation on imports.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

POPULATION.

7. The summary results of the recent census show the population to be as follows:—

Population.	1891.	1901.
General	114,668	118,904
Indo-Mauritian ...	156,591	190,027
Other Indians ...	99,329	71,109
Total	370,588	380,040

The transition of property into the hands of the Indian population, to which I have often invited attention, is steadily progressing. During the year 1900 they acquired real property to the value of Rs. 1,980,413, including property to the value of Rs. 358,222 in the town of Port Louis and Rs. 1,622,191 in the country districts. During the quinquennial period 1896 to 1900 inclusive they acquired real property to the value of Rs. 9,084,490, including property to the value of Rs. 1,705,369 in Port Louis and Rs. 7,379,121 in the country districts. The Protector of Immigrants estimates the value of the real property acquired by Indians since the year 1864 at Rs. 24,159,945, of which amount sales to the value of Rs. 8,519,676 were registered during the period 1888 to 1894 and Rs. 10,297,509 during the period 1895 to 1900. In addition to their large investments in real property, the Indian population held deposits in the Savings Bank, at the end of the year 1900, to the amount of Rs. 1,363,708, an increase of Rs. 65,740 over the deposits held by them on the 31st of December, 1899.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. BRUCE,

Governor.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

The decreased value of imports under the head of Live Animals, Food, Drink, and Narcotics is chiefly due to a decrease of 20,895,222 kilos. of rice, of the declared value of Rs. 1,872,104, as compared with 1899. This was the consequence of the rice supply having been allowed to run very short during the last months of the year; and the imports of the current year will show a corresponding increase. The importation of live animals has been seriously affected by the diminished imports of cattle from Madagascar, hitherto our main source of supply. Arrangements for the establishment of cold storage to insure the regular supply of meat have been for some time under consideration, and will, it is hoped, be very shortly completed. The trade relations between this Colony and Madagascar and Réunion have of late been seriously disturbed. To the difficulties opposed to the trade of Mauritius by the protective policy of the Government of Madagascar, the epidemic of plague has added a fresh obstruction, and Madagascar ports are practically closed to our local produce. An outbreak of cattle plague in Réunion has reduced our imports from that Colony.

PRISON POPULATION.

6. In the year 1898 I had occasion to inform you of the grave anxiety I entertained respecting the enormous prison population of the Colony, and especially the prisoners convicted by the Stipendiary Courts under the provisions of the labour laws. It is, therefore, with satisfaction that I extract the following figures from the prison statistics for the year:—

CONVICTED PRISONERS RECEIVED from the DIFFERENT COURTS.

Year.	Supreme Court.	District and Police Courts.	Stipendiary Courts.	Other Courts.	Total.
1896	26	4,131	2,282	64	6,503
1897	42	4,872	2,805	35	7,754
1898	50	4,843	3,069	24	7,986
1899	24	3,247	2,202	13	5,486
1900	20	3,011	1,816	48	4,895

I regret, however, to have to add that the prisons have supplied a new source of anxiety in a large increase of sickness and mortality. This is forming the subject of an exhaustive enquiry.

SANITATION.

4. Following on the series of adverse circumstances which a few years ago affected the Colony, and culminated, in 1898, in an acute financial crisis, from the consequences of which the Colony had hardly recovered, came a visitation of plague, which broke out early in 1899, and having attained its maximum energy in the month of October, 1899, remained nearly dormant during the months of February to July, 1900. In August, however, a fresh outbreak occurred, and continued to the end of the year. The pressure of immediate financial difficulties having been happily overcome, the visitation of plague, followed, unfortunately, by a recrudescence of malarial fever, has made the question of sanitation the first concern of the Government. During the year 1899 various tentative measures of legislation to meet emergencies provoked by the plague were enacted, and in 1900 these measures were consolidated and amended in accordance with the knowledge acquired by practical experience. The Sanitation Consolidating Ordinance, 1900, was the principal act of legislation of the year, and it is mainly to purposes of sanitation that the Government is devoting all the resources made available by the improved financial position of the Colony, so far as they can prudently be disposed of. In accordance with the recent discoveries of scientific enquiry into the agencies of the propagation of disease, particular attention is now being devoted to the measures best adapted to combat the propagation of plague by rats, and of malaria by mosquitoes.

TRADE.

5. The natural consequence of the abundant sugar crops of the last two years has been that the trade returns for 1900 show an increase in the aggregate, as compared with 1899, both in the value of exports and imports. The declared value of the produce and manufactures of the Colony exported in 1900 was Rs. 30,982,673, against a declared value of Rs. 24,440,609 in 1899. The value of imports for 1900, compared with 1899, is shown in the following table:—

Items.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	11,919,260	10,186,061	—	1,733,199
Raw material	1,011,947	787,508	—	224,439
Manufacture and miscellaneous articles.	6,165,006	7,302,791	1,137,785	—
Coin, bullion, and specie...	1,092,898	4,534,418	3,441,520	..
Total	20,189,111	22,810,778	4,579,305	1,957,638

MAURITIUS
AND
RODRIGUES,
1900.

No. 335.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 302.)

GOVERNOR SIR CHAS. BRUCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Mauritius,
August 19th, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1900, together with the usual Report of the Colonial Secretary, Sir Graham Bower, K.C.M.G.

2. That which is of principal local or general interest in the record of the year may be briefly summarised.

FINANCIAL.

3. The Revenue of the year amounted to Rs. 9,179,975, and the Expenditure to Rs. 8,568,943. The Revenue exceeded the Expenditure by Rs. 611,032, and exceeded the Revenue of the year 1899 by Rs. 113,661, *notwithstanding that* an emergency tax, in the shape of a surcharge of 10 per cent. imposed on all duties on Customs during the year 1899, ceased to be collected from the 1st January, 1900. The surplus funds of the Colony amounted on the 31st December, 1900, to Rs. 1,704,424, as compared with Rs. 1,077,715 at the close of the year 1899, and Rs. 438,866 at the close of the year 1898. This satisfactory position of the Colonial finances, administered since 1897 with rigid economy, reflected the fortunes of the sugar industry. In 1897 the export of sugar amounted to 138,080 tons, of the declared value of Rs. 22,310,483; in 1898 to 154,549 tons, of the declared value of Rs. 24,727,688; in 1899 to 164,912 tons, of the declared value of Rs. 23,044,656; and in 1900 to 174,766 tons, of the declared value of Rs. 28,836,354.

The surplus funds of the Colony are liable for a contingent charge for renewal of railway plant and rolling stock, and it has been decided to appropriate a part of the balances to harbour improvements.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria...	1899–1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899–1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ..	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Report on Operations in New Territory during 1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 335.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 302.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1901.

LONDON:
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1901

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EXPORTS (exclusive of shipping charges).

Sugar.

In 1900 sugar was kilos. 174,765,785, of the declared value of Rs. 28,836,355, as against kilos. 164,911,833, of the value of Rs. 23,044,657, in 1899, or an increase of kilos. 9,853,952, and value of Rs. 5,791,698.

Rum.

The exports of rum in 1900 amounted to litres 1,970,226, of the value of Rs. 224,087, as against litres 1,468,104, and value Rs. 154,812. Increase in quantity 502,122, and in value Rs. 69,275, in 1900.

Oil—Cocoa-nut.

In 1900 the exports of cocoa-nut oil amounted to hectolitres 2,644, of the value of Rs. 46,480, as against hectolitres 1,265, and value Rs. 28,360, in 1899, or an increase of hectolitres 1,379, and value Rs. 18,120.

Hides.

53,410 kilos. of hides, of the value of Rs. 21,938, were exported in 1900, as compared with 73,369, and value Rs. 32,821, in 1899; the discontinuance of the bullock trade with Madagascar being the principal cause of the difference.

Fish—Dried or Salted.

The exports of fish (dried or salted) in 1900 were kilos. 68,816, valued at Rs. 21,078, and, in 1899, kilos. 28,013, valued at Rs. 10,806, or an increase of 40,803 kilos., and value Rs. 10,272.

Machinery.

The exports of machinery amounted to the value of Rs. 293,655 in 1900, as against Rs. 6,305 in 1899, the increase being chiefly due to machinery being supplied to Reunion.

Amongst the minor products of the Colony, vacoa bags, cows and oxen, cocoa-nuts, onions and garlic, and shell (tortoise) show a decided increase, while there is a large decrease in tea, skins, and soap in 1900 as compared with 1899.

The prevalence of plague has continued to interfere with exports to Reunion and Madagascar ports.

salted (Rs. 45,842); fish, pickled (Rs. 9,200); lard (Rs. 53,005); preserved provisions (Rs. 20,733); sago (Rs. 4,956); salt (Rs. 19,585); vermicelli and macaroni (Rs. 1,573); while the following items have declined: Butter; margarine; cheese; coffee; ghee (Rs. 53,365); onions and garlic (Rs. 14,890); pork (Rs. 2,356); tea (Rs. 27,683).

Beer and Ale.

The imports in 1900 show a decrease of 23,109 litres over 1899. Brandy increased from litres 46,240, of the value of Rs. 54,212 in 1899, to litres 52,400, of the value of Rs. 61,461. Whisky slightly decreased and champagne increased. Claret was 2,346,138, of the value of Rs. 483,585, as against 1,891,400 litres, of the value of Rs. 389,069, in 1899. Vermouth shows an increase of litres 39,128, and value Rs. 10,663.

Gandia.

Gandia decreased by kilos. 130 in weight and Rs. 600 in value in 1900 as compared with 1899.

Opium—Crude.

Opium (crude) decreased by kilos. 237 in weight, and Rs. 9,100 in value.

Coals.

Coals increased from kilos. 48,148,727 in weight, and value of Rs. 273,352, in 1899, to kilos. 56,370,045, and value Rs. 405,757.

Sulphate of Ammonia.

Sulphate of ammonia increased from kilos. 3,536,368 in weight, and value of Rs. 351,103, in 1899, to kilos. 5,152,668, and value Rs. 612,151, in 1900.

Guano and Manure of all sorts.

The value of guano and manure of all sorts in 1900 was Rs. 291,865, as compared with Rs. 221,730 in 1899

Iron and Steel.

Iron and steel show, in 1900, a substantial increase as compared with 1899, as well as hardware and cutlery, painters' and dyers' colours, fireworks, leather (wrought and unwrought), stationery and paper wares.

These values are exclusive of charges.

GENERAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The Trade Returns for 1900 show an increase in the aggregate as compared with 1899, both in the value of the imports and exports.

Excluding exchange and charges, specie and bullion, the returns for 1900 show a decrease as compared with 1899 in the total value of the imports, and an increase in the value of exports.

Imports.

The imports from the United Kingdom in 1900, exclusive of charges and exchange, were valued at Rs. 4,959,943, as against Rs. 4,390,308 in 1899, or an increase of Rs. 569,635, about 13 per cent.

Imports from British Possessions increased in value from Rs. 12,830,168 in 1899 to Rs. 14,334,129 in 1900, and from Foreign Countries from Rs. 2,968,634 in 1899 to Rs. 3,516,709 in 1900.

Live Animals.

The total imports of live animals in 1900 show a decrease in value of Rs. 2,693 as compared with 1899. Cows and oxen have decreased by 1,992 in number and Rs. 18,600 in value; sheep have fallen off; swine have slightly increased, also dogs; horses have augmented by 589, of the value of Rs. 50,960; and mules are 25 less in number, and Rs. 29,520 in value declared.

Articles of Food and Drink and Narcotics.

The imports of rice in 1900 show a decrease of kilos. 20,895,822 in quantity, and Rs. 1,872,104 in value, as compared with 1899; wheat flour was also less by kilos. 1,132,193, and value Rs. 120,271; wheat increased to kilos. 503,250, of the value of Rs. 59,136, as against kilos. 323,958, of the value of Rs. 31,685 in 1899; Bran shows a small increase of kilos. 75,106, and value Rs. 13,361; Barley exhibits a large increase, amounting to kilos. 355,054, and value Rs. 36,673. Oats decreased by kilos. 1,432,528 in weight, and Rs. 126,560 in value; gram decreased by kilos. 2,686,527 in weight, and Rs. 170,284 in value; maize, oatmeal, pollard, and peas show a substantial increase.

Provisions—Preserved.

The declared total value in 1900 was Rs. 1,074,406, as against Rs. 1,043,445 in 1899, or an increase of Rs. 30,961. The following items show increases: Bacon and hams (Rs. 3,941); beef,

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

Fibre aloe	—	—	566,030	—	940,432	—
Haberdashery	395,423	438,050	—	3,128	32	3,674
Hardware and cutlery	300,111	368,085	96,577	9,958	8,165	22,915
Jewellery	18,125	40,285	—	2,700	—	1,160
Leather (wrought and unwrought) ...	126,495	199,475	37,304	207	23,218	999
Machinery	271,096	154,681	6,305	4,302	293,655	600
Malt liquors, wines, and spirits ...	693,317	808,792	160,221	6,621	224,087	11,424
Manures and fertilisers	1,020,786	1,504,153	—	3,690	—	61
Matches	54,404	37,406	—	715	—	771
Molasses	—	—	275,535	—	380,635	—
Oils of all kinds	663,107	704,093	28,360	24,816	46,480	47,037
Painters' colours, &c.	35,686	68,648	—	819	—	500
Provisions	1,043,445	1,074,406	24,728	12,513	30,101	29,987
Seeds of all sorts	56,736	41,043	162	194	36	704
Silver (specie)	1,086,898	4,502,161	—	40,314	—	171,990
Soap	115,842	90,646	6,062	97	1,217	197
Carried forward	16,561,400	18,375,358	1,201,469	236,744	1,953,466	376,930

MAURITIUS
AND
RODRIGUES,
1900.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the VALUE of the CHIEF ARTICLES of IMPORTS and EXPORTS for the YEARS 1899-1900.

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1899.		1900.	
	1899.	1900.	Home Produce.	Foreign.	Home Produce.	Foreign.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	245,127	248,120	110	1,200	4,325	6,550
Apothecary wares	127,615	106,452	—	3,905	—	2,411
Brass and copper wares	66,359	64,895	—	29,772	—	28,426
Corn, grain, flour, &c.	8,935,396	6,719,194	75	91,416	1,028	34,425
Cotton manufactures	1,267,495	1,138,780	—	—	—	12,358
Earthen and china wares	37,936	70,393	—	377	55	741

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

Debenture Debt—*continued.*

—	Original Debt.	Amount repaid.	Remarks.
Provision for the payment of Annuities is made in Ord. 20 of 1892 and Ord. 26 of 1893.	Rs. 150,000	Rs. 33,188	Government Hurricane Loan payable within the term of 25 years from 1st November, 1893, by Annuities of Rs. 9,601.80.
Provision for the payment of Instalments is made in Ord. 31 of 1896.	50,000	16,667	Government Overflood Loan payable by 12 instalments of Rs. 4,166.66 each, the first being due on 31st December, 1897.
Provision for the payment of Principal and Interest is made in Ord. 35 of 1897.	26,000	4,000	Grand River Bridge Loan payable within 13 years by yearly drawings by lot of 20 Debentures.
	382,000	139,655	

The Government has under consideration an Ordinance for amending the present constitution of the Municipality and increasing its usefulness as well as its efficiency.

It is probable that both will be attained by a reduction in the number of Councillors and a more stringent definition of responsibilities.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

MUNICIPALITIES AND BOARDS.

The only elective Municipality in Mauritius is that of Port Louis. The following is a statement of their Revenue and Expenditure for the five years 1896-1900:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1896	460,242	459,290
1897*	508,079	510,666
1898†	483,397	482,134
1899	432,998	424,442
1900	436,299	433,660
Total	2,321,015	2,310,292

The following is a statement of the debt of the Municipality at the close of the year 1900:—

Debenture Debt of the Municipal Corporation on 31st December, 1900.

—	Original Debt.	Amount repaid.	Remarks.
Provision for the payment of Interest and Sinking Fund is made in Ord. 33 of 1881, amended by Ord. 16 of 1884-85.	£ 140,000	£ 11,100	Conversion Loan payable within the term of 49 years and 6 months from the 31st December, 1889.
Provision for the payment of Interest and Principal is made in Ord. 42 of 1888.	Rs. 156,000	Rs. 85,800	Colonial Loan payable within the term of 20 years from the year 1890 by yearly drawings by lot of 78 Debentures.

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* Including Rs. 50,000 raised by a loan on account of overflood expenses.

† Including Rs. 26,000 raised by a loan for general repairs to Grand River Suspension Bridge.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

	£	s.	d.
Mauritius Inscribed Stock, 4 per cent., under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887 (including the Loan for the Mare-aux-Vacoas, £3,600)	£482,390	16	0
Hurricane Loan, 1892, 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock, under Ordinance 4 of 1892	600,000	0	0
	£1,189,284	6	0

For the redemption of Debentures and Inscribed Stock the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the Trustees amounted to £125,827 18*s.* 8*d.*

This is exclusive of the balance due by the Loan Office amounting to £346,336.

The sum to the credit of the sinking funds on the 31st December, 1900, showed an increase of £14,301 on the previous year.

CURRENCY.

Amount of currency notes on 31st December, 1900:—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents)	£483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,639	0	0
	4,122	16	5

Rupee notes under Ordinance 28 of 1876:—

1. In the Financial Officer's vault ... Rs.	78,950
2. In the hands of the public (including the banks)	4,756,250
	4,835,200

It is desirable to point out that the foregoing statements are not presented in the form that would be used by a commercial company. The words Assets and Liabilities must be taken in their official and not their commercial sense. For the Colony possesses valuable assets such as railways, forests, public buildings, Crown lands, &c., which would properly appear as marketable Assets in the report of a commercial company but find no place in an official report of a Colony.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1896 ...	79	147,874	22	40,683	101	188,587	67	85,813	4	6,757	71	92,570	146	233,687	26	47,440	172	281,127
1897 ...	63	127,705	19	32,354	82	160,059	64	85,693	5	3,964	69	89,657	127	213,398	24	36,318	151	249,716
1898 ...	57	125,132	17	29,276	74	154,408	47	76,573	14	14,869	61	91,442	104	201,705	31	44,145	135	245,850
1899 ...	62	137,167	15	32,044	77	169,211	29	50,405	27	40,403	56	90,808	91	187,572	42	72,447	133	260,019
1900 ...	68	131,116	20	38,652	88	169,768	35	53,040	25	41,148	60	94,188	103	184,156	45	79,800	148	263,956

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

Steamers—Entered.

1896	...	85	156,602	18	35,964	103	192,566	65	84,078	4	6,346	69	90,424	150	240,680	22	42,310	172	282,990
1897	...	73	144,063	7	11,617	80	155,680	69	89,657	—	—	69	89,657	142	233,720	7	11,617	149	245,337
1898	...	65	140.131	10	17,312	75	157,648	57	84,626	4	6,817	61	91,462	122	224,756	14	24,129	136	248,885
1899	...	59	132,913	19	37,801	78	170,714	54	87,094	4	5,781	58	92,875	113	220,007	23	43,582	136	263,589
1900	...	72	140,718	18	34,105	90	174,823	52	82,842	7	9,697	59	92,539	124	223,560	25	43,802	149	267,362

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

1896	...	114	37,486	28	41,786	142	79,272	67	24,290	6	3,797	73	28,087	181	61,776	34	45,583	215	107,359
1897	...	91	36,276	30	28,490	121	64,766	55	16,686	15	7,515	70	24,201	146	52,962	45	36,005	191	88,967
1898	...	88	30,870	27	25,568	115	56,438	38	12,582	5	3,428	43	16,010	126	43,452	32	28,996	158	72,448
1899	...	65	20,902	33	36,387	98	57,289	32	15,228	12	6,651	44	21,879	97	36,130	45	43,038	142	79,168
1900	...	66	23,366	30	30,562	96	53,928	12	4,331	12	10,891	24	15,222	78	27,697	42	41,453	120	69,150

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

SHIPPING INWARDS and OUTWARDS for the YEARS 1896–1900.

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British. With Cargoes. Vessels.	British. With Cargoes. Tons.	British. In Ballast. Vessels.	British. In Ballast. Tons.	British. Total. Vessels.	British. Total. Tons.	Foreign. With Cargoes. Vessels.	Foreign. With Cargoes. Tons.	Foreign. In Ballast. Vessels.	Foreign. In Ballast. Tons.	Foreign. Total. Vessels.	Foreign. Total. Tons.	Total. With Cargoes. Vessels.	Total. With Cargoes. Tons.	Total. In Ballast. Vessels.	Total. In Ballast. Tons.	Total. Vessels.	Total. Tons.
1896 ...	134	77,094	12	6,863	146	83,957	52	19,862	21	7,562	73	27,424	186	96,956	33	14,425	219	111,381
1897 ...	106	56,676	7	2,653	113	59,329	55	16,995	15	7,047	70	24,042	161	73,671	22	9,700	183	83,371
1898 ...	118	58,856	4	1,151	122	60,007	31	12,872	13	4,852	44	17,724	149	71,728	17	6,633	166	78,361
1899 ...	90	52,874	4	1,195	94	54,069	35	17,688	7	2,023	44	19,711	125	70,562	11	3,218	136	73,780
1900 ...	76	53,379	6	1,649	82	55,028	34	13,849	1	1,595	35	15,444	110	67,228	7	3,244	117	70,472

Reduit Gardens.

These form part of the Reduit Domain, His Excellency the Governor's residence.

Part of the ground is under forest. Extensive plantations of timber trees have lately been made there; these produce every year a large quantity of seeds which are used for re-afforestation purposes.

Curepipe Gardens.

This garden is chiefly used as a nursery for economic plants and timber trees that cannot be successfully grown at Pamplemousses owing to the climate.

Large numbers of seedling exotic plants are raised yearly—juniperus, pinus sinensis, eucalyptus—which are either sold to the public or used for planting up the Government lands all over the Colony.

LAND GRANTS.

There are no Crown lands in Mauritius available for settlement. The Pas Geometriques, that is to say, a strip of land round the coast, is inalienable, and can only be leased by public auction.

The forests, though a valuable asset, are strictly preserved, and legislation will be introduced during the current session (1901) for increasing their area by a general scheme of land purchase and reafforestation.

The remaining Crown lands are of small area or value; 4·65 English acres, of an aggregate value of Rs. 3,052, were sold during the year 1900.

SHIPPING.

The following returns give a comparative statement of the shipping that entered and cleared during the last five years, as well as statements of the shipping entered and cleared, showing the numbers and tonnage as well as the nationalities of the shipping that entered and left.

It will be noticed that the tendency is towards an increase of British shipping.

Jewellery.

The quantity of Indian jewellery manufactured in the Colony appears to be on the increase. The imports of bullion in 1899 and 1900 were respectively valued at Rs. 6,240 and Rs. 33,427, showing an increase of Rs. 27,187 in 1900, in spite of an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. imposed on bullion on 28th July, 1900, by Ordinance 17 of 1900 (*see* Taxation).

The Indian jewellery imported in 1900 was valued at Rs. 9,826, and in 1899 it was valued at Rs. 1,574, showing an increase in 1900 of Rs. 8,252.

The manufacturing jewellers' license is Rs. 40 per half year, and the number of six months' licenses issued in 1899 was 177, against 216 in 1900, showing an increase of 39 in 1900.

INFLUENCE OF BOTANICAL STATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT OF MINOR INDUSTRIES.

No alterations were made during the year to the Botanic Gardens sections—Pamplemousses, Curepipe, and Reduit.

As usual, large numbers of economic and ornamental plants, forest trees, and fruit trees have been propagated and sent all over the island. The most important ones are the following:—

Coffee, litchis, nutmegs, cloves, different varieties of citrus, kola, coca, aegle marmelos, pine-apple, bananas, cacao, cocoanut, manihot, &c.

Sansevieras, different varieties of agave, China grass, New Zealand flax, &c.

Ceara, para, cryptostegia, vahea.

Teosinte, desmodium tortuosum, lucerne.

A collection of 97 varieties of canes.

Three new varieties of sugar canes received from the Commissioner of Agriculture, East Indies, were added to the collection and are being propagated for distribution amongst the planters.

A certain number of School Board apprentices, selected by the Schools' Committee, are sent yearly to the gardens to be trained. After a certain time, those that have given satisfaction are promoted in the Department or recommended for employment in private gardens.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

Tea.

In 1900 the number of acres under cultivation for tea was about 225, against 200 in 1899. The quantity of tea manufactured in 1900 was about 31,000 kilos., against 27,000 in 1899. The exports in 1900 amounted to 281 kilos., against 2,685 kilos. in 1899, showing a decrease of 2,404 kilos., and the average selling price of tea manufactured was R. 1.20; almost the whole crop was consumed in the Colony.

Soap.

The produce of soap of the Colony in 1900 was kilos. 263,100, compared with in 1899 416,712 kilos., it showed a decrease of kilos. 153,612.

The exports in 1900 (3,911 kilos.), against 26,532 kilos. in 1899, showed a decrease of 22,621 kilos.

The export of soap was, as in 1899, chiefly to Madagascar, and the continued decrease is due to the protective duties imposed in Madagascar on British goods.

The general imports of soap were, in 1900, kilos. 678,184, against kilos. 826,841 in 1899, showing a decrease of kilos. 148,657.

Vinegar.

In 1900 the production of vinegar was 32,732 litres, showing a decrease of 18,873 litres compared with 1899. The excise duty, however, amounted in 1900 to Rs. 52,849, showing an increase of Rs. 5,349 on 1899. The export was merely nominal, the vinegar being consumed in the Colony.

Wine.

The wine is made from raisins. The production was 10,041 litres, against 6,467 in 1899, and the amount of duty received was Rs. 530 on 6,305 litres only, issued for home consumption during 1900, against Rs. 593 for duty in 1899, showing a decrease of Rs. 63 in the amount of excise duty received.

Vanilla.

The whole production of vanilla was exported.

In 1900 it amounted to kilos. 4,552, valued at Rs. 169,821, against kilos. 3,709, valued at Rs. 133,946 in 1899, an increase in production and in value over 1899 of 743 kilos. and Rs. 25,875 respectively.

The exports of fish and fishing products are restricted to the "Bambara," or sea slugs, which are not consumed in the Colony but sent to Hong Kong and Singapore (this industry is chiefly in the hands of the Chinamen), and to tortoise and pearl shells. The exports for 1900, compared with 1899, are as follows:—

—	1899.		1900.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bambara, or sea slugs, dried fish ...	28,013	10,086	68,816	21,078
Tortoise shells and pearl shells ...	251	6,178	423	8,088

The legislation in regard to fisheries will be found in the report for 1898, and it is only necessary to remark that it is doubtful whether the policy of creating reserves or protected waters does not result in creating preserves for the benefit of carnivorous fish. Fish are naturally prolific, and if the ova and the young could be protected against their enemies the increase of fish would be enormous. But it is a question whether the breeding grounds and the young can be so protected. The question is one calling for careful study.

The principal manufactures show the following results in 1900 as compared with 1899:—

Rum.

Year.	Consumption	Exported.*	Rate Duty.	Excise Duty.
	Litres.	Litres.	Rs.	Rs.
1899	978,128	1,468,004	1.32 & 1.45†	1,359,677
1900	1,004,902	1,917,081	—	1,462,485
Increase ...	26,774	449,077	—	102,808

Aloe Fibre.

Year.	Exports.	Value.
	Ks.	Rs.
1899	2,249,809	566,030
1900	3,105,341	940,432
Increase ...	846,532	374,402

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* The export of rum is free.

† R. 1.32 c. per litre to 11th July and 1.45 per litre to the close of the year.

In addition to the foregoing remarks it is necessary to notice a change in the character and tendency of trade. Importers have shown a tendency to trade on small stocks. This has been attributed to two causes:—

1. The general rise in prices, which has been assigned to the demands caused by the South African war. Importers have anticipated that there will be a fall in prices at the close of the war and have therefore kept small stocks. It is not necessary to criticise the justice of this expectation, but it may be noted that the increase in prices may be equally attributed to the world's increased output of gold and the consequent cheapening of gold.

2. There is also a tendency to a quick turn-over. This tendency is caused by the natural desire to avoid keeping capital locked up in reserve stocks.

The policy of importers is outside the limits of criticism permissible in an official report, and it has the justification that deficiencies can speedily be supplied by the use of the submarine cable. But it is, perhaps, permissible to remark that while small stocks of ironmongery or manufactures need cause no anxiety, as a purchaser of such articles is not exposed to any great hardship by having to wait a few weeks whilst the order which may be given by cable is being executed, the same cannot be said of foodstuffs; an accident to a steamer bringing food would cause a serious scarcity so long as stocks are kept as low as they have been kept of late years.

MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

The fisheries of the Colony, in so far as the food supply is concerned, have in no wise improved during the year. The island is still tributary to the islands, dependencies of the Colony, and to British and Foreign Countries and Colonies for the supply of salted fish, and the supply by importation in 1900, compared with 1899, shows a considerable decrease. The figures are as follows:—

—	1899.		1900.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Dried and salted from exterior ...	935,236	243,502	513,169	156,367
Pickled " " ...	51,505	11,424	90,728	26,307
From Islands Dependencies of Mauritius.	548,761	61,620	366,779	60,262
Total	1,535,502	316,546	970,666	242,936

Aloe Fibre.

The United Kingdom took of aloe fibre in 1900 kilos. 2,456,205, as against kilos. 1,970,779 in 1899. France is credited with kilos. 273,356 in 1900 and kilos. 42,250 in 1899, Holland with kilos. 166,650, as compared with kilos. 60,000 in 1899.

Oil—Cocoa-nut.

Our exports of cocoa-nut oil to Natal in 1900 are 2,400 litres, as against nil in 1899. To the United Kingdom there was an increase of 141,768 litres.

Vanilla.

The export of vanilla to the United Kingdom has increased from kilos. 3,237 in 1899 to kilos. 4,417 in 1900; while to France there is a falling off of kilos. 353 in 1900.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The amount of duty collected in 1900 on imports was Rs. 2,836,155, and on exports Rs. 563,360, total Rs. 3,339,515, as compared with Rs. 2,934,574 and Rs. 530,508, total Rs. 3,465,082, in 1899. The surcharge of 20 per cent. levied in 1899, and not continued in 1900, is accountable, to some extent, for the shrinkage.

The rate of imports and exports per head of population was as follows:—

—	1899.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	74.12	82.01
Exports	72.27	87.58

The continued prevalence of bubonic plague has again interfered with the shipping trade of the Colony during the past year. Madagascar has remained practically closed against our local produce, and our meat supply has diminished owing to the quarantine regulations and the enhanced prices of cattle.

The cattle plague in Reunion has caused a reduction in the value of our imports from that Colony in 1900 to the extent of Rs. 16,892 as compared with 1899. Exports, however, are of a value of Rs. 292,495 in 1900, as against Rs. 100,744 in 1899, consisting almost exclusively of machinery and mill work supplied by the engineering establishments of this Colony for use in Reunion.

Whisky.

There is a slight increase in whisky from the United Kingdom in 1900. France decreased from 1,211 litres in 1899 to 139 litres in 1900, while none was received from the United States, as against 137 litres in 1899. The whisky imported from France is supposed to have been manufactured in Germany.

Stationery.

There is a large increase in stationery from the United Kingdom, and a small increase from France and Germany, while Continental India and Belgium have supplied less.

Tobacco—Manufactured.

Increases occur under this head from China, France, Reunion, and the United States, and small decreases from the United Kingdom and Continental India.

Woollen Goods.

There is an increase in woollen goods from the United Kingdom from 161,576 metres in 1899 to metres 249,174 in 1900, and from France the increase was 27,038 metres. From Germany there was a decrease of 6,540 metres.

EXPORTS.

Sugar.

Of the total quantity of sugar (kilos. 174,765,785) exported during 1900, the United Kingdom took kilos. 9,300,962, as against kilos. 6,415,260 in 1899. To the Cape Colonies, Continental India, and Seychelles the increase is marked. To France the exports increased to kilos. 1,964,796 in 1900 from kilos. 986,813 in 1899. Exports to the United States of America decreased to kilos. 16,289,215 in 1900 from kilos. 33,928,421 in 1899.

Rum.

During the past year our rum shows an increase to the United Kingdom and Aden as compared with 1899. There is a slight decrease to Seychelles.

Soap.

This article represents kilos. 25,935 exported to Madagascar in 1899, as against kilos. 3,710 in 1900.

Molasses.

The total exports of molasses in 1900 were to Continental India, except 507 kilos. to the United Kingdom. The increase to India amounts to 2,247,570 kilos. in 1900.

Coals.

The imports of coals, both from the United Kingdom and India, have largely increased in 1900, to meet the requirements of passing steamers.

Machinery.

Germany supplied machinery in value Rs. 10,000 in 1900, as against nil in 1899. There was a large reduction both from the United Kingdom and France in 1900.

Guano.

Of guano Seychelles furnished kilos. 1,421,608 in 1900, as compared with kilos. 875,000 in 1899.

Margarine.

Margarine from the United Kingdom has diminished from kilos. 5,565 in 1899 to kilos. 212. There has been an increase of over kgs. 3,000 from Holland.

Packing Paper.

This article shows an increase in value from the United Kingdom and a decrease from France.

Salt.

The imports of salt from the United Kingdom decreased over kgs. 200,000. From India we received kilos. 762,972 in 1900 against nil in 1899.

Provisions—Preserved.

Increases are observed in preserved provisions from France, Germany, and the United States, and decreases from the United Kingdom, China, and Portugal.

Silk Manufactures.

The quantities of silk manufactures from Continental India and Germany have increased. From the United Kingdom, China, and France there are decreases in 1900.

Brandy.

Brandy from the United Kingdom increased in 1900 to 1,215 litres from 71 litres in 1899. From France there was an increase of about 5,447 litres. From Germany the imports were nil in 1900, as against 432 litres in 1899.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

GENERAL STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

There was no improvement in the sanitary condition of the island in 1900, as the following figures will show:—

Death-rate.

Year.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1897 ...	29·5
1898 ...	31·9
1899 ...	34·8
1900 ...	35·7

The diseases which gave rise to the highest mortality were:—

Disease.	Percentage on Total Deaths.
Malarial fever	34·5
Debility (sic)	8·9
Phthisis (including consumption and tuberculosis)	6·1
Pneumonia	5·7
Bronchitis	5·2
Dysentery	5·0
Plague	4·4
Whooping cough	3·2
Diarrhoea and enteritis	2·7
Influenza	1·7
Child-birth and sequelae	1·24

PREVAILING DISEASES.

The plague outbreak of 1899 abated about the middle of April, and assumed an epidemic form again in July, which ex-

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The estimated total population, on the 31st December, 1900, was 383,084, as against 370,588 at the census of 1891. The males were estimated to number 208,677, as against 206,038 at the last census; and the females 174,407, as against 164,550, showing that the males have increased by 2,639 and the females by 9,819. Dividing the population into general population and Indian population, the former are estimated at 117,921, as against 114,668 at the last census; the latter are estimated at 265,163, as against 255,920, showing a steady proportional increase of the Indian population as compared with the Creole population.

The following table gives a detailed statement of the changes in the various classes of the population during the year 1900:—

Return of the Statistics of Population for 1900.

—	General Population: Europeans, Whites, Africans, Mixed and Coloured.	Indians.	Chinese.
No. of inhabitants on the 31st December, 1899.	114,841	261,739	3,079
No. of births during 1900 ...	3,915	10,517	58
No. of deaths during 1900 ...	4,100	9,424	167
No. of immigrants during 1900	1,646	4,397	826
No. of emigrants during 1900	1,605	2,067	570
No. of inhabitants on 31st December, 1900.	114,697	265,162	3,226
Increase...	—	3,423	147
Decrease	144	—	—

Informations in the Supreme, District, and Stipendiary Courts of Mauritius.

How case tried ended. (Each prisoner tried is counted as a separate case, but where any large batch of prisoners* have been convicted together, the fact is mentioned below.)	Total.	Murder other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter.	Attempt at murder.	The numbers below include attempts to commit the several offences.												
					Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Child murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injuries to property.	Robbery with violence.	Praedial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Vaccination.	Miscellaneous offences.
Judgment for the Crown ...	17,537	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	830	25	41	250	1,322	—	15,062
Judgment for the prisoner ...	1,675	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	409	22	23	39	327	—	841
Prisoners found insane ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1
Cases which fell through for want of prosecution, including cases which the Procureur General declined to take to the Assizes	2,742	—	1	14	—	—	—	—	4	—	233	11	10	9	704	—	1,756

* *i.e.*, Five or more than five in number.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

cells of the prisons, and that the chills predispose to malaria and dysentery whilst they promote tuberculosis.

Practically, at least three-fourths of the population of Mauritius have malaria in their system, and it is well known that chills have a great influence in developing malaria.

Measures are being taken to guard against chills. Mattresses are supplied and a large supply of blankets, but it is probable that other measures will have to be taken, and the question is receiving the attention of the Government.

The neighbourhood of the prison will require to be more thoroughly drained, and arrangements may have to be made for fitting gauze mosquito windows to the cells and for admitting more sunlight to the central corridors of the prisons, as well as for guarding the prisoners from draughts whilst at work.

Prison Returns.

The admissions show a decrease of 561 males and 28 females.

The discharges a decrease of 476 males and 32 females (convicted prisoners).

A decrease of 1·54 males is reckoned in the daily average number of admissions.

The average number of convicted and unconvicted prisoners unlocked each day decreased by 123 males and three females.

Twenty-one escapes of prisoners took place in 1899 and 25 in 1900, but of these one recapture was effected in 1899 and three in 1900.

The admissions to hospital *increased* by 111 males, and decreased by 42 females in 1900.

Thirty-nine deaths took place in 1899 and 70 in 1900.

The percentage on the average number of prisoners was 4·38 for Port Louis and 4·64 for Beau Bassin in 1899, and 4·63 for Port Louis and 11·83 for Beau Bassin in 1900.

The total cost of housing, guarding, and maintaining the prisoners was Rs. 127,992.72 in 1889, against Rs. 126,653.84 in 1900.

The total cost per head was Rs. 145.28 in 1899, against Rs. 167.95 in 1900.

The earnings amounted to Rs. 120,158.66 in 1899, against Rs. 100,236.05 in 1900.

The total earnings per head was Rs. 168.28 in 1899, against Rs. 158.10 in 1900.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the judicial statistics for the year 1900. The only remark that it is necessary to make, in respect of this table, is that the decrease of serious crime, which has been so marked a feature of the judicial statistics since 1897, was continued during 1900:—

The cases and persons are classified in the following return:—

Nature of Offences.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons Charged.
Serious offences reported to, or detected by the Police, in which persons were charged.	2,038	2,582
Serious offences reported to, or detected by the Police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged.	7,622	*217
Minor offences reported to, or detected by the Police, in which persons were charged.	6,336	8,668
Minor offences reported to, or detected by the Police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged.	4,311	—
Other offences against the Labour Law ...	595	597
Vagrancy	922	922
Total	21,824	12,986

The total number of fires which formed the subject of police investigation in 1900 was 277. The total estimated value of property destroyed was Rs. 182,461. There were three lives lost at these fires, all Indians.

Incendiarism still exists, but it has been reduced, and every detected and convicted case tends to discourage this form of personal revenge or commercial gain.

PRISONS.

There are two prisons in Mauritius, the central prison at Beau Bassin, and the Port Louis prison, which is used for untried prisoners as well as for certain prisoners whom it is considered desirable to retain in town either for sanitary or other reasons.

The central prison at Beau Bassin, which is a fine large prison built on the best English model, has proved to be unhealthy, and every effort is being made to trace the cause of the unhealthiness. The latest explanation, and one that seems probable, is that the prisoners, who are accustomed to live crowded together in small huts, experience a chill in entering the cool

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* Arrested on suspicion.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

The total sum standing to the credit of depositors at the end of 1900, including the interest due, was Rs. 2,940,811. Of this sum Rs. 1,363,708 belonged to the Indian population, showing an increase of Rs. 65,740 on the preceding year.

The number of depositors increased from 24,784 in 1899 to 25,060 in 1900, showing an increase of 276 over 1899.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The total effective strength of the Police Force, as authorised by Government, was 709 on the 31st December, 1900; the actual strength was 702.

This force contained no less than 21 nationalities, composed of:—

- 42 Europeans of various nationalities.
- 479 Natives of Mauritius.
- 168 Indians.
- 1 Arab.
- 1 American.
- 1 Australian.
- 1 New Zealander.
- 1 Native of Trinidad.
- 4 Natives of Reunion.
- 1 Native of Madagascar.
- 2 Natives of the Cape of Good Hope.
- 1 Native of British West Indies.

The force has necessarily the defects of its qualities.

It is not a homogeneous body, and its military value is, therefore, nil. At the same time it must be stated that it is probably a fairly representative force, as the population of Mauritius is of a very mixed character.

Considerable improvements have been made in the organisation and training of the force. Drill has been introduced. A khaki uniform has been issued, and the bearing and appearance of the men have been improved.

Two hundred and sixteen sub-officers and constables were in possession of the silver and bronze medals for good conduct.

The total number of offences of every description reported to the police in 1900 was 21,824, in connection with which 12,986 persons were apprehended or summoned.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES. 1900.

shown in the nosological returns, there were 8,352 out-door patients who received care and advice at the public dispensaries.

The year 1900 was on the whole a good year, and poverty was less felt than at ordinary times, but there can be no doubt that pauperism is on the increase in Mauritius, especially amongst the creole population.

Government Reformatory.

The Reformatory cannot be described as a success. About 50 per cent. of the boys become criminals, and the Reformatory cannot therefore be said to attain its main object, namely, the reformation of the character of the boys.

Under the new Education Ordinance, the Reformatory has been placed under the control of one of the Committees of Education, and it is to be hoped that such amendments may be introduced into the system as to make the Reformatory what it ought to be—an institution for the reformation and education of boys who have unfortunately acquired criminal habits or instincts.

The following are the returns for the Reformatory:—

The admissions show a decrease of 56, and the discharges a decrease of 76 compared to the year 1899.

Thirteen escapes took place, against six in 1899, showing an increase of seven. They were all recaptured.

The total number of admissions to hospital shows an increase of 25, and, therefore, an increase of ·07 in the daily average number of admissions.

No death took place in 1899 or 1900.

The total cost of maintaining and guarding the boys was Rs. 15,256.11, against Rs. 15,967.61 in 1899, showing, therefore, a decrease of Rs. 711.50 compared to 1899.

The total cost per head on average number of boys was Rs. 228.93, against Rs. 196.11 in 1899, showing, therefore, an increase of Rs. 32.82 per head for 1900.

The earnings amounted to Rs. 2,700.72, against Rs. 4,418.84 in 1899. The decrease is, therefore, of Rs. 1,718.12.

Savings Bank.

The amount deposited in 1900 was Rs. 1,048,813. This amount, compared with the deposits of 1899, shows an increase of Rs. 48,671

The amount withdrawn in 1900 was Rs. 1,076,694, showing an increase on the preceding year of Rs. 88,066.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

There exists in the Colony no industrial, technical, or agricultural schools. The only approach to technical education consists:—

For girls, of four needlework apprenticeships, each tenable for three years, and of the annual value of Rs. 100, which are given every year, by competitive examination, to girls in the primary schools between 14 and 17 years of age.

For boys, (1) of five apprenticeships, each tenable for five years, at the Government Plaine Lauzun Railway workshops, awarded every year, by competitive examinations, to lads under 16 years of age. (2) Of two apprenticeships, each tenable for four years, at the Botanical Gardens, and awarded every year, by competitive examinations, to boys between 14 and 17.

The number of apprentices last year was 11 girls and 20 boys, at a total cost of Rs. 5,012.77.

The weak points of the educational system of Mauritius are probably:—

1. The Royal College is a mere day school, resembling a French lycée rather than an English public school.

There is a total absence of school life and of all the moral and physical training which school life affords.

2. There is a great deficiency in technical or specialised training. The schools turn out annually a large supply of youths with a certain amount of literary education but without special aptitudes or special qualifications.

3. In the aided schools the teachers are not in all cases competent to teach or to train the children. It is assumed that persons who are acquainted with the elementary subjects are competent to teach them and to train children. It is needless to say that the manner and method of imparting knowledge are perhaps the most important part of any educational system.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

There has been no change in the number of institutions in Mauritius during the year.

The work of the Port Louis civil hospital compares favourably with that of the previous year. A small laboratory has been fitted up whereby microscopical and bacteriological examinations are facilitated.

The work done at the other public hospitals has also been on a par with those of previous years. In addition to 16,272 cases

Royal College School, Curepipe.

—	Number.
On roll	131
In average attendance	116

The sum expended by Government in 1900 on the Royal College and its two schools was Rs. 151,639.67; the total sum expended on secondary education being Rs. 163,639.67, in which are included Rs. 7,000 for grants to associated schools, and Rs. 5,000 for grants to girls' schools.

The cost per pupil at the Royal College in 1900 was:—

—	Rupees.
On roll	379.09
In average attendance	447.31

With regard to the staff employed, there were 16 teachers at the College proper, 11 at the Curepipe school, and eight at the Port Louis school. In addition to these, there were the rector, the secretary, four teachers of religious instruction, teachers of drawing, gymnastics, Hindustani, and book-keeping, four ushers, and 16 servants, making a total of 65 individuals.

Associated Schools.

In 1900 there were 27 schools in association with the Royal College, 25 in Mauritius and two at Seychelles. These presented 489 candidates to be examined on the Curriculum of Studies at the Royal College school. Of these, 200 passed the examinations creditably. The sum of Rs. 7,000 was distributed as result grants among the Managers of these schools.

HIGHER EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

This is effected by grants being paid to Managers of girls' schools who submit their pupils every year to be examined on a graduated Curriculum of Studies approved by Government. Last year 28 girls' schools applied for examination. 251 candidates were presented, of whom 101 passed the examinations with credit. The sum expended last year on this item was Rs. 4,796.75.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

The Royal College.

The Royal College is a public school affiliated to the London University. It comprises (1) the Royal College proper, temporarily situated at Curepipe, preparing its pupils for the London University Intermediate in Arts and Matriculation Examinations, and for the Senior and Junior Cambridge Local Examinations. (3) Two schools, one at Curepipe and the other in Port Louis.

The Royal College has a classical and a modern side, in the highest form of each of which there is a competition for a scholarship of £200, tenable for four years, enabling the holder to complete his education in the United Kingdom. For these scholarships there were, in 1900, ten candidates on the classical and eight on the modern side. The reports of the Examiners appointed by the Cambridge Syndicate were of a commendatory character.

The College presented no candidate last year for the London University Intermediate in Arts Examination.

For the London University Examination 14 students were presented, nine of whom passed.

For the Senior Cambridge Local Examinations 58 candidates were presented, of these 23 passed.

For the Junior Cambridge Local Examinations 17 candidates were sent up, four of whom passed.

In the lower forms of the College proper, and in the school classes, the results were satisfactory.

The number of pupils at the Royal College and its two schools was as follows:—

Royal College proper.

—	Number.
On roll	202
In average attendance	169

Royal College School, Port Louis.

—	Number.
On roll	67
In average attendance	54

With regard to their creed they stood as follows:—

—	Government Schools.	Aided Schools.
Roman Catholics	6,620	7,037
Church of England	274	300
Other Christian Denominations ...	101	92
Mahomedans	878	661
Hindoos	1,732	1,795

Including the cost of administration, Government expended on primary education in 1900 the sum of Rs. 298,870.

The cost per pupil on roll was:—

In Government schools ... ... Rs. 17.58

In aided schools 12.00

The cost per pupil in average attendance was:—

In Government schools ... ... Rs. 29.07

In aided schools 18.06

The teaching staff in the primary schools in 1900 comprised:—

In Government Schools.

Sixty-two masters, 14 mistresses, 77 assistants, and 117 monitors and monitresses.

In Aided Schools.

Ninety-six head teachers and 98 assistants.

These 194 represent the teachers whose salaries were paid by Government in accordance with the Code, the monitorial staff in aided schools being paid by the Managers.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The work of secondary education in the Colony is carried out:—

1. By the Royal College and its two schools.
2. By private schools for boys in association with the Royal College.
3. By private schools for girls presenting their pupils for examination under a scheme approved by Government.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

In 1900 the attendance and examination results in these four classes of schools were as follows:—

School.	Number of Schools.	Number on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number Examined.	Number Passed.	Percentage of Passes.
1st Grade, 1st Division	12	2,595	1,524	1,559	960	61·56
1st Grade, 2nd Division ...	35	5,066	3,151	3,072	2,166	70·5
2nd Grade, Full time	23	1,759	1,046	856	575	67·17
2nd Grade, Half time	6	427	234	191	106	55·49

The denominational aided schools stood as follows:—

—	Number of Schools.	Number on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number Examined.	Number Passed.	Percentage of Passes.
Roman Catholic	64	7,146	4,658	3,713	2,572	69·
Church of England	31	2,105	1,350	1,130	747	66·
Presbyterian Mission	2	175	133	131	70	53·74
Mahomedan	1	209	139	118	74	62·71

With regard to their race the children attending the primary schools last year are to be classified as follows:—

Government Schools.

Children of European, African, or Chinese descent	6,697
Indians and Indo-Mauritians	2,908

Aided Schools.

Creoles of European, African, or Chinese descent	6,736
Indians or Indo-Mauritians	3,150

MAURITIUS
AND
RODRIGUES,
1900.

RODRIGUES.

Rodrigues is a dependency of Mauritius with a population of 3,163 souls, composed of 1,746 males and 1,417 females.

The climate is, on the whole, healthy, and the causes of death are registered as rheumatism, dysentery, bronchitis, influenza, old age, cramps, dropsy, and diarrhœa.

Almost the whole population is of African descent.

The highest temperature was 88°, on 31st January, at 3 p.m.

The lowest temperature was 68·6°, on 27th August, at 9 a.m.

The heaviest rainfall was in February.

The Revenue was	Rs. 19,601.80
The Expenditure was	25,357.53
Showing a deficit of	5,755.73

Rodrigues is likely to become more important in the future as it has been chosen as a station for the telegraph cable connecting South Africa and Mauritius with Australia. It is expected that this cable will be laid before the close of the current year, 1901, and, apart from its commercial and strategical importance, it will afford valuable meteorological information to Mauritius, especially during the hurricane months.

GRAHAM BOWER,
Colonial Secretary.

19th July, 1901.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.

Towards the maintenance of that force, the total cost of which was £176,117, the Colony contributed £31,753, as under:—

—	Amount.
	£
Colonial contribution	24,750
Adjusting balance for 1899	4,062
Payment in lieu of exemption from Customs Duty ...	2,941
Total	£31,753

X.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The general condition of the Colony from the financial point of view may be described as sounder than it has been for several years. The banks are overstocked with coin, and have more money than they can invest safely and profitably. They have reduced their rate of interest on fixed deposits, and money may be said to be "easy." The planters and estate owners have reduced their mortgages and invested considerable sums in the improvement of their machinery.

In view of the foregoing statement it may seem like a contradiction to say that the chronic disease of the Mauritian community is poverty. Nevertheless, the statement is true. For although the planters are prosperous as compared with their condition in recent years, it must be remembered that the planters form only a small section of the population, and that the poverty of the general population does not affect them, except in so far as it tends to keep down the price of labour. The creole population, who form a third of the whole population, are poor, and are becoming poorer.

They are disinclined to undertake field work, and the market for writers or clerks is overstocked. In the labour market they have to face Indian and Chinese competition, and they lack the enterprise and energy of the purely Asiatic races. It can hardly be doubted that the competition of the Asiatics must be keener as time goes on, and that the creole population, especially those of mixed blood, must find the struggle for existence press more heavily on them. Even amongst the families of pure European blood there are many in very humble employments, and were it not for the strong family affection, and abundant family charity, it is to be feared that many women of pure European blood, and of European culture, would be put to great straits to secure the barest necessaries of life.

following. In these months the warm, damp sea air of the trades is carried into the higher regions of the island. The dew point is reached, and the rain is deposited in what may be called a Scotch mist.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

There are 60 post offices, 60 money order offices, and 51 telegraph offices in Mauritius.

An annual subsidy of £8,000 is paid to the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company in respect of their submarine cable from Mauritius to Seychelles, and Seychelles to Zanzibar. Of this sum £7,000 is borne by Mauritius and £1,000 by Seychelles.

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The following was the strength of the garrison of Mauritius at the close of the year 1900:—

Return showing the strength of the Troops serving in Mauritius on the 31st December, 1900.

—	No.
Staff	3
No. 8 Company W.D. Royal Garrison Artillery	150
No. 26 " " "	147
No. 4 Company Ceylon-Mauritius Battalion R.G.A.	101
Mauritius Submarine Mining Company R.E.	46
43rd Company Royal Engineers	43
2nd Battalion K.O. Yorkshire Light Infantry...	34
Army Service Corps	4
Royal Army Medical Corps	16
Army Ordnance Corps	12
Army Pay Corps	1
1st Bengal Infantry	776
27th Madras Infantry	786
Total	2,139*

* Exclusive of 172 native followers.

(2) *Temperature*—continued.

At Curepipe (in a large Stevenson screen) 1886–1900.

In the Thermograph Screen.

Temperature of the Air.	1900.	1875–1900.
Mean	68·1	67·9
Mean maximum	75·1	74·2
Mean minimum	61·2	61·5
Absolute maximum	84·5	87·2
Absolute minimum	46·5	44·0

(3) *Direction and Force of Wind.*

At the Observatory (as deduced from the records of a self-registering Beckly anemometer).

Wind.	1900.	1876–1900.	Mean daily range.
Mean direction	S. 7° E.	S. 74° E.	19°
Mean velocity, miles per hour ...	9·6	11·1	7·7
Maximum velocity, miles per hour	26·0	103·3	—

When the velocity of the wind is small its direction varies considerably in different parts of the island, but no systematic observations are made except at the Royal Alfred Observatory.

(4) *Special Features.*

The hottest season in Mauritius is between December and April, the remainder of the year being comparatively cool. The temperature on the highlands is always lower by several degrees than in Port Louis and the coast districts. The climate at Curepipe (from 1,700 to 1,900 feet above the sea) resembles that of the south of France or Italy. The hurricane season extends from December to April, and cyclones range from about 8° to 30° south latitude. During the hurricane months the greater part of the rain falls, although the remaining months are by no means dry; July and August, during which the S.E. trade winds reach their maximum velocity, showing a marked increase on the months immediately preceding and

Meanwhile, steps are being taken to drain pools and other breeding places of the anopheles mosquito.

Enteric fever is, unfortunately, making slow but sure progress in the higher and healthier localities of the island.

Dysentery occurred in a sporadic form, and at one time assumed an epidemic character. The saline treatment continues to give satisfactory results in the acute form of the disease. Tuberculosis is on the increase. Poverty, and overcrowding consequent upon poverty, seem to be the predisposing causes.

The inhabitants may be said to be tolerably well protected by vaccination.

CLIMATE.

The following is the meteorological report for 1900:—

(1) *Rainfall.*

In the year 1900 the rainfall was considerably below the average in all parts of the island; the mean rainfall at ten stations being 53·04 inches, or 30 per cent. below the average for the last 30 years, the least on record, except in 1886, when it was 44·89, or 41 per cent. below the average. The greatest fall was 115·63 inches at Mare-aux-Vacoas, and the least 17·14 inches at Port Louis.

The wettest month was March and the driest September.

On the average, March is the wettest and October the driest month.

(2) *Temperature.*

At the Observatory.

In the Thermograph Screen.		
Temperature of the Air.	1900.	1875–1900.
Mean	73·6	73·5
Mean maximum...	81·8	81·2
Mean minimum...	66·9	67·2
Absolute maximum	94·8	94·8
Absolute minimum	50·8	50·8

tended till the month of January, 1900. A fresh outbreak occurred in August, 1900, and continued during the rest of the year.

There were 796 cases in the Colony in 1900 with 593 deaths.

As a suggestion has been made in Hong Kong that there is some connection between the rainfall and the period of dormancy, a diagram showing the curves of rainfall, temperature, and plague cases has been kindly prepared by the Director of the Observatory and Dr. Bolton of the Medical Department.

In so far as the curves suggest anything, they appear to suggest a connection between the period of abatement or dormancy and temperature rather than rainfall.

At the same time, it is probable that the heavy tropical rains drown many rats, and it is reasonable to suppose that sick rats would be the first to be drowned. The suggestion, therefore, deserves consideration, and the comparison will be made in future years.

A brief account of the measures taken to prevent the spread of plague, as well as the treatment adopted in plague cases, will be found in the report for 1899.

There is little to add to that report, except that confidence in Yersin's serum as a prophylactic for contacts has been strengthened by experience.

Malaria.

There are two species of anopheles mosquito in Mauritius. The smaller, the anopheles costalis, inhabits the coast districts, the larger species, the anopheles mauritianus, inhabits the higher inland districts.

During the year 1900, malarial fever, which has hitherto spared the inland districts, appeared in an epidemic form at Moka, a district hitherto free from fever, and soon spread to Curepipe and districts hitherto immune.

The question arises, therefore, whether this spread of malaria was due to a migration of the smaller species of mosquito, or whether the larger species, or rather the female of the larger species, has become a poison carrier. A committee has been appointed to investigate this question, and careful microscopical and possibly physiological experiments will be made. It is, of course, to be hoped that the epidemic was due to a migration of the smaller species caused by an exceptionally hot season, for in that case the higher districts may hope to recover their immunity during the normal and cooler years; but, up to the present time (July, 1901), nothing definite has been determined.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 379.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 335.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1903.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year
356	Falkland Islands	1901
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"
362	British Honduras	"
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
364	Seychelles	"
365	Bahamas	1901-1902
366	Fiji	1901
367	Ceylon	"
368	Barbados	1901-1902
369	Hong Kong	1901
370	Cocos Islands	1902
371	St. Helena	1901
372	British Solomon Islands	1901-1902
373	Jamaica	"
374	Leeward Islands	"
375	Gold Coast	1901
376	Grenada	"
377	Northern Nigeria	"
378	British Guiana	1901-1902

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 379.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1900 see No. 335.)

Governor Sir Chas. Bruce to Mr. Chamberlain.

Government House,
Mauritius,
15th November, 1902.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit, herewith, the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1901 together with the usual Report of the Colonial Secretary.

2. The statistics of the year which form the staple of Colonial Blue Books present nothing of exceptional importance in the records of the year 1901. In the peaceful annals of local history, three events overshadowed all other interests: the passing away of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, the accession of His Majesty King Edward VII., and the visit paid to the Colony by Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. All minor and personal interests, all partialities of race and language in the heterogeneous community of the Colony were during the year absorbed in a common sentiment of attachment to the Throne and Person of the Sovereign, and it may well be doubted whether, during the period, approaching a century, of British dominion in Mauritius, the fortunes of the Empire have ever been so intimately associated in the hearts of the people of every race and creed, with the human sympathies that give a colour to patriotism and to loyalty an animating personal incentive. For years to come, however excited may be men's minds by the accident of discordant local interests, it is certain that their hearts will beat in unison when touched by the names of Queen Victoria, of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

3. The delay in the publication of the Blue Book, for reasons pointed out by the Colonial Secretary, have brought us so far into the year 1902 that I cannot conclude this despatch without

mentioning that the current year has been marked by events likely to exercise a large influence on the fortunes of the Colony. The signature of the Brussels Convention having for its aim to secure the abolition of sugar bounties was of the happiest omen for the future, but it was inevitable that some time should elapse between the signature of the Convention and the date of its coming into operation. The fear of a probable rush into the Indian market of bounty and cartel-fed sugar paralysed for a time the local market until the prompt action of the Government of India in passing measures to countervail the cartel as well as the bounty system restored confidence to our commercial community. Unfortunately a new source of danger began early in the year to threaten our fortunes, the disease known as Surra having broken out among cattle, horses, and mules. Although prompt and energetic action was taken to combat this disease it continues to rage, especially among mules, with results affecting most disastrously the sugar interest by the want of means of transport. In order to meet the emergency, steps were at once taken to substitute mechanical for animal transport on the estates and roads of the Colony; and it may be hoped that in the long run the interests of the planters may derive permanent advantages by the introduction of cheaper methods of transport free from the risk of diseases that have more than once imperilled their fortunes.

4. In the meantime, however, the staple industry of Mauritius is passing through a period of crisis which cannot fail to jeopardise enterprises that do not rest on the stable foundation of adequate capital, but which does not, in my opinion, justify a despondent or gloomy view of the future of the Island.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. BRUCE,

Governor.

REPORT ON MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1901.

INTRODUCTORY.

During the year 1901 a change was introduced in the system of dating the Financial Year. Previously to 1901, the Financial Year had synchronised with the Calendar Year. But as the harvest begins in August and the sugar crop is not wholly realised before February or March the system had the effect of introducing the partial realisation of two harvests into one Financial Year. As the realisation of the crop depends on the state of the market and the expectations of the sugar planters respecting an early rise or fall in the market, the system did not give a fair or accurate account of the financial results of the year. In other words, the Financial Year of the industrial and commercial classes did not coincide with the Financial Year of the Government.

The defect has now been remedied. The first six months of the year 1901 was treated as the first financial period, and the period from the 1st July, 1901, to the 30th June, 1902, was treated as the second financial period. For the future, the Financial Year in Mauritius will, therefore, commence on the 1st July of one year and will end on the 30th June of the following year.

It was originally intended to make the period covered by the Blue Book and by this Report coincide with the first period, *i.e.*, with the first six months of 1901, but owing to delays in printing caused by the sequestration of the estate of the Government printer, the preparation of the Returns has been delayed until the Returns for the second period have in some cases been received.

It has been thought best, therefore, to include in this Report the later returns where practicable, though this involves the sacrifice of symmetry.

In the following table the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure is given for the period from the 1st January, 1901, to the 30th June, 1901, and from the 1st July, 1901, to the 30th June, 1902.

The latter period being a whole Financial Year under the new system is compared with the year 1900 a Financial Year under the old system, *i.e.*, a Calendar Year.

STATEMENT of REVENUE for FIRST HALF YEAR, 1901, and COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE for 1901–1902 and 1900.

No.	Heads of Revenue.	January to June, 1901.	1901–1902.	1900.	Increase of 1901–1902 over 1900.	Decrease of 1901–1902 on 1900.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Customs	1,651,709.95	3,309,996.77	3,399,514.96	—	89,518.19
2	Port, harbour	102,126.05	229,598.33	191,145.52	38,452.81	—
3	Licenses, &c.	1,324,876.68	2,637,929.40	2,672,059.43	—	34,130.03
4	Fees of court, &c.	111,618.98	209,133.43	215,276.64	—	6,143.21
5	Post Office	52,598.60	120,066.66	114,660.85	5,405.81	—
6	Railways	1,124,243.40	1,927,273.08	1,995,015.87	—	67,742.79
7	Rent of Government properties	28,365.08	57,857.58	54,769.75	3,087.83	—
8	Interest	248,724.76	523,276.74	484,875.75	38,400.99	—
9	Miscellaneous...	38,874.75	123,966.35	51,054.77	72,911.58	—
	Total	4,683,138.25	9,139,098.34	9,178,373.54	158,259.02	197,534.22
10	Land sales	159.00	1,655.29	1,601.76	53.53	—
	Total	4,683,297.25	9,140,753.63	9,179,975.30	158,312.55	197,534.22

Result—Net decrease of 1901-1902 on 1900 : Rs. 39,221.67c.

STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE for the FIRST HALF YEAR, 1901, and COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE for 1901–1902 and 1900.

Number.	Heads of Expenditure.	January to June, 1901.	1901–1902.	1900.	Increase of 1901–1902 over 1900.	Decrease of 1901–1902 on 1900.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Public debt	417,982.41	836,703.74	836,879.02	—	175.28
2	Pensions	243,740.10	520,233.50	459,486.47	60,747.03	—
3	Governor and Legislature	50,330.01	96,840.52	69,327.52	27,513.00	—
4	Colonial Secretary	32,724.05	62,071.90	61,382.34	689.56	—
5	Receiver-General	63,925.24	126,694.41	135,802.88	—	9,108.47
6	Audit	26,842.80	55,792.63	54,948.16	844.47	—
7	Customs	108,923.73	262,849.28	217,300.62	45,548.66	—
8	Port and Marine	104,329.06	204,050.82	256,272.25	—	52,221.43
9	Observatory	10,650.42	19,504.04	19,422.07	81.97	—
10	Museum	2,595.75	7,946.54	4,664.55	3,281.99	—
11	Registrar-General	11,941.64	25,267.81	19,054.57	6,213.24	—
12	Registration, Mortgage and Archives	27,185.33	54,104.01	56,315.22	—	2,211.21
13	Post and Telegraph	119,999.25	154,007.79	134,208.67	19,799.12	—
14	Forests and Gardens	57,944.67	130,031.77	117,873.86	12,157.91	—
15	Judicial	231,757.05	480,500.06	479,463.67	1,036.39	—
16	Ecclesiastical	71,818.00	144,560.03	150,567.65	—	6,007.62
17	Education	226,016.24	487,658.62	481,653.72	6,004.90	—
18	Medical and Health	340,318.62	701,572.80	652,892.46	48,680.34	—
19	Quarantine	14,707.90	36,975.41	23,517.98	13,457.43	—
20	Poor Law	90,373.27	181,067.25	167,697.65	13,369.60	—
21	Police	274,012.67	531,418.70	547,919.97	—	16,501.27
	Carried forward	2,528,118.21	5,119,851.63	4,946,651.30	259,425.61	86,225.28

Statement of Expenditure—continued.

Number.	Heads of Expenditure.	January to June, 1901.	1901–1902.	1900.	Increase of 1901–1902 over 1900.	Decrease of 1901–1902 on 1900.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
	Brought forward	2,528,118.21	5,119,851.63	4,946,651.30	259,425.61	86,225.28
22	Prisons	67,000.97	155,166.51	145,634.15	9,532.36	—
23	Storekeeper General	16,830.27	34,223.82	33,901.33	322.49	—
24	Immigration	61,856.49	125,290.71	127,908.18	—	2,617.47
25	Dependencies...	8,115.65	54,276.75	41,279.71	12,997.04	—
26	Crown Agents	7,974.63	11,649.89	8,764.24	2,885.65	—
27	Writers and Copyists	2,710.84	6,266.85	5,057.63	1,209.22	—
28	Transport	4,138.05	3,657.95	4,849.69	—	1,191.74
29	Miscellaneous	167,181.25	397,967.71	350,213.91	47,753.80	—
30	Charitable Allowance	9,421.97	17,460.36	15,296.13	2,164.23	—
31	Interest and Exchange	160,071.74	150,615.93	198,712.92	—	48,096.99
32	Military Expenditure	210,036.96	419,477.54	476,298.91	—	56,821.37
33	Railways	921,088.00	1,588,117.94	1,385,080.27	203,037.67	—
34	Surveyor General	29,360.69	62,376.27	58,707.29	3,668.98	—
35	Public Works (recurrent)	159,938.14	371,975.89	274,335.14	97,640.75	—
36	Public Works (extraordinary)	41,289.06	137,471.32	58,375.78	79,095.54	—
37	Loan Office	7,411.00	14,631.42	15,022.68	—	391.26
38	Mare-aux-Vacoas	26,452.08	53,748.88	44,907.10	8,841.78	—
39	Drainage	9,630.31	20,015.65	28,257.67	—	8,242.02
40	Secret Service Fund	5,200.00	10,500.00	10,650.00	—	150.00
41	Plague services	116,476.85	288,323.34	339,039.88	—	50,716.54
	Total	4,560,303.16	9,043,066.36	8,568,943.91	728,575.12	254,452.67

Result—Net Increase of 1901–1902 over 1900. **Rs.** 474,122.45.

The Revenue for 1901-1902, compared with that of 1900. shows a decrease of Rs. 39,000, chiefly due to a reduction in the price of sugar and to a smaller crop.

The Expenditure of 1901-1902, compared with that of 1900, shows an excess of Rs. 474,000, in which the renewal of railway rolling stock enters for Rs. 200,000. The other items of expenditure affected by the surplus are:—

Item 7.—Customs refund to merchants of Customs dues paid by them on timber supplied to the War Department for the construction of new barracks.

Item 13.—Post Office. Payment of arrears due for sea and territorial transit of letters and parcels.

Item 18.—Medical Department. Special sanitary works for the prevention of malaria.

Item 20.—Extra provisions and outdoor relief to paupers.

Item 29.—Miscellaneous. Expenditure in connection with the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. Coronation Festivities. Rodrigues Enquiry Commission. The Census and special grants to the relief funds of Martinique and St. Vincent.

Items 35 and 36.—Public Works. Excesses caused by repairs of damages caused by a hurricane, by the improvement of the Customs Shed, by the expenditure on a new hospital at Long Mountain, and by improvements on the Government houses which formed part of the preparation for the Royal visit.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years was as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1897	7,996,705	8,626,798	899,336
1898	7,629,318	8,131,465	438,866
1899	9,066,314	8,406,227	1,077,715
1900	8,568,943	9,179,975	1,704,424
1901–02	9,043,066	8,568,943	1,834,669

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON 30TH JUNE, 1902.

1. Commissioners of Currency:—

	Rs.
Assets	5,715,322.25
Liabilities	5,663,270.00
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...	**52,052.25**

2. **Government Savings Bank:—**

	Rs.
Assets	3,070,455.60
Liabilities	2,833,243.05
Balance in favour of the Bank	237,212.55

3. Curatelle:—

Assets	468,103.85
Liabilities	468,103.85

4. Treasury proper:—

Assets	3,074,448.79
Liabilities	1,239,779.47
Balance in favour of Treasury	1,834,669.32

5. Public Debt:—

	£	s.	d.
The Public Debts stood as follows on the 30th June, 1902—			
(1) Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. Debentures payable by annual drawings	42,193	10	0
(2) Moka Railway 4 per cent. Debentures payable by annual drawings...	600	0	0
(3) Consolidated 4 per cent. Debentures payable by annual drawings...	57,800	0	0
(4) Mauritius Inscribed Stock under Ordinance 1 & 22 of 1887—including loan made for Mare-aux-Vacoas, £36,000	482,390	16	0
(5) Hurricane Loan, 1892, 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock, under Ordinance 4 of 1892	600,000	0	0
	£1,182,984	6	0

For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock, the several Sinking Funds and Cash Balances in the hands of the Trustees on the 30th June, 1902, amounted to £146,492 9*s.* 9*d.*, the amount duly provided as required by law. This is exclusive of the balance due by the Loan Office amounting to £331,673 5*s.*

The sum at the credit of the Sinking Funds on 30th June, 1902, showed an increase of £14,659 0*s.* 7*d.* on the previous year.

CURRENCY.

Amount of Currency Notes in circulation on 30th June, 1902:—

	£	s	d.
Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents)	483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,639	0	0
	£4,122	16	5

Rupee notes issued under Ordinance No. 28 of 1876—Rs. 3,990,250.00—in the hands of the Public, including the banks.

CURATELLE.

(Administration of Vacant Estates.)

The Deposits amounted to Rs. 468,103.85. The Assets consisted of the following sums:—

	Rs.
a. Cash in Bank	207,443.72
b. Investments in England ...	173,773.42
c. Exchange at 50 per cent. ...	86,886.71
	Rs. 468,103.85

SAVINGS BANK.

The amount deposited in 1901-1902 was Rs. 984,492.

This amounts compared with the deposits in 1900 shows a decrease of Rs. 64,321. The amount deposited during the period being Rs. 1,048,813.

The total sum standing to the credit of depositors on the 30th June, 1902, including the interest due to them was Rs. 2,797,256.72. Of this sum, Rs. 1,184,380.00 belonged to the Indian population.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The Municipality of the town of Port Louis is the only elective Municipality in the Island.

A Bill is now before the Council of Government to amend the constitution of the Municipality. The principal provisions of this Bill contain proposals for substituting the election of the Councillors by the *scrutin d'arrondissement* instead of the *scrutin de liste.*

There are also provisions for a more searching audit in the accounts.

The following statement shows the financial condition of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis at the end of the year 1901:—

	Rs.
Balance on hand on 1st January, 1901	21,331.40
Revenue, Loan and Receipts on Account for year 1901	592,781.42
	Rs. 614,112.82
Expenditure, Payments and Payments on Account for 1901	568,816.63
Balance on hand on 31st December, 1901	Rs. 45,296.19

Debenture Debt of the Municipal Corporation on 31st December, 1901:—

	Principal.
Conversion Loan, 1884	£127,600

	Rs.
Colonial Loan, 1889	62,400
Hurricane Government Loan, 1892	111,883
Government Overflood Loan, 1896	29,166
Grand River Bridge Loan, 1898	20,000
Manure Factory and Night Soil Service Loan (16th September, 1901)	30,000
	Rs. 253,449

Debenture Debt of the Municipal Corporation.

Debts.	To whom due.	Rate of Interest.	When incurred and for what cause.	State Provisions for Payment of Interest or Sinking Fund, and refer to Enactments by which it is made.	Amount of Original Debt.	Amount repaid.	Remarks.
Municipal Corporation.	Debenture Bonds Holders.	5 per cent.	On 28th July, 1884. To repay the public debts contracted on Debentures by the Mayor and Corporation of Port Louis.	Provision for payment of interest and Sinking Fund made in Ordinance 33 of 1881 as amended by Ordinance 16 of 1884-85.	£ 140,000	£ 12,400	Conversion loan payable within the term of 49 years and 6 months from 31st December, 1889.
Do.	Do.	5 per cent.	On the 15th January, 1889. To adjust the accounts of 1885 and 1886 for the balances of expenses incurred for the Rectification Canal for the supply of water to the Eastern Suburb. To complete the Conversion Loan.	Provision for payment of interest and principal made in Ordinance No. 42 of 1888.	Rs. 156,000	Rs. 93,600	Colonial Loan payable within the term of 20 years from 1890, by yearly drawings by lot of 78 Debentures
Do.	Mauritius Government.	By annuities.	On the 22nd October, 1892. To pay the interest and Sinking Fund of the Conversion Loan for the year 1892, and the expenses relative to the hurricane of the 29th April, 1892.	Provision for the payment of annuities made in Ordinances Nos. 20 of 1892 and 26 of 1893.	150,000	38,117	Government Hurricane Loan payable within the term of 25 years from 1st November, 1893, by annuities of Rs. 9,601.80.
Do.	Do.	5 per cent.	On the 28th December, 1896. To pay the expenses caused by the hurricane and flood of the 20th February, 1896.	Provision for payment of instalments is made in Ordinance No. 31 of 1896.	50,000	20,884	Government Overflood Loan payable by 12 instalments of Rs. 4,166.66 each, the first being due on 31st December, 1897.
Do.	Denbenture Bonds Holders.	6 per cent.	On 21st February, 1898. To pay the expenses relative to the repairs made to the Grand River Suspension bridge.	Provision for the payment of principal and interest is made in Ordinance No. 35 of 1897.	26,000	6,000	Grand River Bridge Loan payable within the term of 13 years by yearly drawings by lot of 20 Debentures.
					382,000	158,551	

Recapitulation:—

One loan contracted in sterling money, £140,000, of which £12,400 repaid.

Four loans in Rupee Currency amounting to Rs. 382,000, out of which Rs. 158,551 repaid.

The following is a statement of the Revenue proper and Expenditure of the Municipality of Port Louis for the last five years:—

PORT LOUIS.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1897 ...	458,079	510,666
1898 ...	457,397	482,134
1899 ...	432,998	424,442
1900 ..	436,299	433,660
1901 ...	444,087	448,492

The following statements relate to the townships of Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, of Quatre Bornes and Curepipe, which are governed by nominee Boards of Commissioners.

BOARD OF BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from 1st June, 1896, to 31st December, 1901.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1896 ...	6,540	22,410.26
1897 ...	22,489.13	24,584.76
1898 ...	22,709.87	20,439.04
1899 ...	23,298.56	23,626.60
1900 ...	22,905.09	25,377.09
1901 ...	28,252.08	27,520.54

BOARD OF QUATRE BORNES.

Comparative Statement of Total Revenue and Expenditure from 1st June, 1896, to 31st December, 1901.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Debt.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1896	3,927.50	2,937.28	—
1897	9,175.07	9,700.76	—
1898	9,073.26	8,724.85	—
1899	10,054.90	9,189.68	—
1900	10,060.70	11,418.02	—
1901	12,827.14	10,148.34	950.00
Total ...	55,118.57	52,118.93	950.00

	Rs.
Balance at the Commercial Bank on 31st December, 1901... ...	2,984.64
In Treasurer's hands	15.00
	2,999.64

BOARD OF CUREPIPE.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Debt.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1897	59,024.04	55,531.87	—
1898	59,863.74	57,550.88	—
1899	61,568.61	59,085.14	—
1900	59,759.18	57,108.48	—
1901	(*a*) 115,590.13	(*b*) 88,426.58	—

(*a*) Including Rs. 50,250 proceeds of Debentures issued in 1901.

(*b*) Including purchase price of "La Malmaison" country residence (Rs. 25,000), and advance to contractors (Rs. 8,000).

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

The trade of Mauritius is dependent on its agriculture, and the agricultural industry of Mauritius is the sugar industry.

Practically this is the main if not quite the sole industry of the Island, and it depends for its prosperity on the price of sugar. As the price of sugar during the present transitional period is a matter of general interest, it has been thought well to introduce the section on Trade Agriculture and Industries by giving the monthly prices of sugar in Mauritius for two years. This Return does not form a part of the Blue Book, but from the point of view of trade and agriculture it is probably more important than any in the Blue Book.

Hereunder, therefore, is shown, for the period 1st October, 1900, to 30th September, 1902, the market quotations (mean sale prices) of sugar in Mauritius.

The prices given are for the quality of sugar called "medium" being similar to the standard quality of sugar on the Bombay market, for which weekly quotations are cabled to Mauritius.

Year.	Amount.		
1900.	Rs.		Rs.
October	9.50		
November...	10.00		
December	11.00		
1901.			
January	11.00		
February	10.00	to	11.00
March	10.00	to	11.00
April	10.40	to	10.50
May	10.10	to	10.20
June	10.10	to	10.20
July	9.60	to	10.00
August	10.00		
September	9.60		
October	9.10	to	9.25
November	8.80	to	9.00
December	9.00		
1902.			
January	8·65		
February	8.65		
March	8.65		
April	8.50		
May	8 50		
June	9.00		
July	9.00		
August	8.90	to	9.00
September	8.05	to	8.10

In connection with the above return it is well to explain that the Indian countervailing duties came into force on the 24th May, 1902.

But the return clearly shows a diminishing profit which cannot fail to influence imports. It is to be hoped for the sake of the sugar industry that prices have reached low water-mark and that the tide has at last turned.

The following returns give the total imports and exports classified under the headings, live animals and food, raw materials, manufactured articles, coin, bullion and specie, and the distinction has been drawn between home and foreign produce.

These returns are prepared for the Calendar year as, indeed, are all the returns relating to imports, exports, and shipping. This arrangement, though it destroys the symmetrical character of the present Report, has been necessitated by the extensive nature of the calculations which have to be made. But it may perhaps be excused, as the arrangement in Calendar years is not without convenience for the purpose of comparison with other countries.

VALUE of IMPORTS (exclusive of Charges and Exchange) and EXPORTS (exclusive of Shipping Charges) classified according to CIRCULAR of DECEMBER, 1901, of the SECRETARY of STATE.

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	11,379,576.34	10,186,061.44	26,880,669.07	29,681,854.93	283,383.78	139,772.45	27,164,052.85	29,821,627.38
2. Raw Material.—								
1. Textile ...	—	8,601.69	904.00	—	—	298.00	904.00	298.00
2. Metal... ...	—	—	—	—	3,728.00	20,801.00	3,728.00	20,801.00
3. Other... ...	1,156,887.79	778,906.63	21,158.55	10,514.80	8,267.43	5,197.00	29,425.98	15,711.80
3. Manufactured Articles.—								
1. Textile ...	2,317,456.92	2,471,078.07	339,849.98	959,495.28	8,374.33	186,872.97	427,224.31	1,146,368.25
2. Metal... ...	1,384,269.01	1,089,097.10	64,746.00	301,074.84	46,000.14	47,074.84	110,746.14	348,149.68
3. Other... ...	4,103,159.91	3,742,615.95	7,668.00	29,734.00	116,180.02	20,596.30	123,848.02	50,330.02
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	58,889.39	4,534,418.33	—	—	1,133,138.00	171,990.00	1,133,138.00	171,990.00
Total ...	20,400,239.36	22,810,779.21	27,314,995.55	30,982,673.85	1,678,071.75	592,602.56	28,993,067.30	31,575,276.41

VALUE of IMPORTS (exclusive of Charges and Exchange) and EXPORTS (exclusive of Shipping Charges) classified according to CIRCULAR of DECEMBER, 1901, of the SECRETARY of STATE.

Coastwise.

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	144,577.62	526,021.32	16,496.48	17,742.31	169,443.79	188,948.25	185,940.27	206,690.56
2. Raw Material.—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	—	—	—	10.00	—	10.00
2. Metal... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Other... ...	41,638.53	40,428.00	19.00	27.00	2,017.50	2,416.00	2,036.50	2,443.00
3. Manufactured Articles.—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	18.00	55.00	61,718.37	56,850.44	61,736.37	56,905.44
2. Metal ...	—	—	1,157.05	290.50	18,047.42	16,607.76	19,204.47	16,898.26
3. Other... ...	288,534.00	1,737.00	5,835.03	813.62	48,235.46	58,712.03	54,070.49	59,525.65
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	474,750.15	568,186.32	23,525.56	18,928.45	299,462.54	323,544.48	322,988.16	342,472.91

The total value of imports into and exports from the Colony (exclusive of duty-free goods to and from the Dependencies) for the year ending 31st December, 1901, compared with 1900, is as follows:—

—	1901.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	31,146,760.22	31,427,401.7
Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	28,993.067.30	31,575,276.4
Total	60,139,827.52	63,002,678.13

accounted as under:—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	8,801,808.95	8,427,556.64	3,233,632.95	2,906,402.68
British Possessions.	15,644,512.20	17,059,450.50	24,460,538.40	24,780,337.24
Foreign Countries.	6,700,439.07	5,940,394.58	1,298,895.95	3,888,536.49
Total ...	31,146,760.22	31,427,401.72	28,993,067.30	31,575,276.41

The total value of imports and exports from and to the Dependencies per coast sufferances is recorded thus:—

—	1901.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	474,750.15	568,186.32
Exports	322 988.10	342,472.91
Total	797,738.25	910,659.23

The aggregate value of trade is therefore as follows:—

—	1901.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	31,621,510.37	31,995,588.04
Exports	29,316,055.40	31,917,749.32
Grand Total ...	60,937,565.77	63,913,337.36

Excluding the value of imports and exports from the Dependencies, the rate per head of population was as follows:—

—	1901.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	83.49	84.25
Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local manufactures).	75.68	82.42

Deducting specie and bullion, the values of the imports and exports mentioned in paragraph 1 were as follows:—

—	1901.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	31,087,870.83	26,892,983.39
Exports	27,859,929.30	31,403,286.41
Total...	58,947,800.13	58,296,269.80

The amount of duty collected was as follows:—

—	1901.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	2,850,884.22	2,836,155.06
Exports	504,583.29	563,359.90
Total...	3,355,467.51	3,399,514.96

The following return is a comparative statement of the value of the chief articles of import and export for the years 1901 and 1900.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (Exclusive of Charges and Exchange).

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1900.		1901.	
	1900.	1901.	Home produce.	Foreign.	Home produce.	Foreign.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	248,120	294,913	4,325	6,550	465	8,740
Apothecary wares	106,452	144,970	—	2,411	—	7,737
Brass and copper wares	64,895	145,701	—	28,426	—	21,624
Corn, grain, flour, &c.	6,719,194	8,609,762	1,028	34,425	36	74,155
Cotton manufactures	1,138,780	866,383	—	12,358	—	22,790
Earthen and china wares	70,393	35,258	55	741	—	3,058
Aloe fibre	—	—	940,432	—	339,841	—
Haberdashery	433,050	393,349	32	3,674	—	9,905
Hardware and cutlery	368,085	497,585	8,165	22,915	—	1,374
Jewellery	40,285	45,436	—	1,160	—	1.310
Leather (wrought and unwrought)	199,475	152,335	23,218	999	16,434	7,343
Machinery and millwork	154,681	226,930	293,655	600	61,422	500
Malt liquors, wines, &c.	808,792	681,283	224,087	11,424	88,423	17,714
Manures and fertilizers	1,504,153	1,064,727	—	61	10	853
Matches	37,406	38,636	—	771	—	3,001
Molasses	—	380	380,635	—	240,720	—
Oils of all kinds	704,693	984,380	46,480	47,037	15,077	39,643
Carried forward	12,598,454	14,182,028	1,922,112	173,552	762,428	219,747

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—*continued.*

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1900.		1901.	
	1900.	1901.	Home produce.	Foreign.	Home produce.	Foreign.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward	12,598,454	14,182,028	1,922,112	173,552	762,428	219,747
Painters' colours, &c.	68,648	81,954	—	500	—	1,001
Provisions	1,074,406	1,157,798	30,101	29,987	19,459	43,786
Seeds of all sorts	41,043	56,946	36	704	2,416	1,809
Soap	90,646	101,517	1,217	197	135	282
Stationery	122,488	122,273	—	441	—	2,666
Sugar	—	2,130	28,836,355	—	26,378,852	—
Timber and wooden ware	689,264	654,392	2,897	21.974	1,823	28,174
Tobacco	199,352	196,893	—	669	—	2,972
Toys	31,159	31,831	5	228	—	552
Umbrellas and parasols	36,865	23,447	—	46	—	1,773
Vanilla	—	19,136	169,821	192,315	119,201	77,889
Miscellaneous	3,356,302	3,739,649	20,131	—	30,951	164,782
Total	18,308,627	20,369,994	30,982,675	420,613	27,315,265	545,423
Silver, specie...	4,502,161	32,830	—	171.990	—	1,133,138
Grand total	22,810,788	20,402,824	30,982,675	592,603	27,315,265	1,678,571

This return includes postal parcels imported, but does not include the value of the parcels despatched by the Post Office, which should be shown as part of the trade of the Colony, and arrangements will be made in future to so include it.

From a return received from the Colonial Postmaster, the declared value of the postal parcels despatched during the past five years is as under:—

Postal Parcels.

1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Rs. 12,417.48	Rs 13,178.92	Rs. 14,584.42	Rs. 18,940.26	Rs. 19,388.42

Dealing with the articles and their value, as shown in the foregoing table, according to the entries (where the differences are over Rs. 5,000) the following results are arrived at:—

Acids. (Phosphoric.)

Which was exclusively imported from the United Kingdom shows a shrinkage of 32,092 kilos., and in value Rs. 7,698 in 1901 over the imports of the preceding year.

Sulphate of Ammonia.

The imports decreased from kilos. 5,152,668, of the value of Rs. 1,007,341 in 1900, to kilos. 4,754,695, of the value of Rs. 949,485 in 1901; the imports from the United Kingdom in the last year, however, showing a substantial increase.

Animals. (Cows and Oxen.)

In 1900, our imports, 3,590 in number, valued at Rs. 342,493, were exclusively from Madagascar. In 1901, Madagascar only provided 758 of the value of Rs. 65,827; India supplied 364 of the value of Rs. 47,775.

Horses.

Show a large diminution in 1901, both in number (327) and value (Rs. 16,647) over 1900.

Mules.

Increase in number from 536 and value Rs. 107,200, to 1,030 in number and Rs. 459,907 in value in 1901.

Apothecary Wares.

The increase under this head in 1901 amounts to Rs. 62,958. French produce exhibits an increase of Rs. 76,029, while British and German produce show a decrease of Rs. 7,719 and Rs. 3,306, respectively, as compared with 1900.

Wearing Apparel.

Compared with the imports of 1900 there was a decrease of Rs. 35,274 in the imports of 1901. The United Kingdom shows a diminution of Rs. 20,015; Continental India of Rs. 14,324; Pondicherry of Rs. 3,638, while the following increases are noticed—France, Rs. 2,895; Germany, Rs. 908.

Areca Nuts.

Have decreased from kilos. 61,936, of the value of Rs. 20,187 in 1900, to kilos. 27,356, valued at Rs. 7,473 in 1901.

Automobiles.

Two were imported from France in 1901 of the declared value of Rs. 7,016, as a trial for the transport of sugar, canes, &c., on sugar estates.

Bags. (Gunny.)

There has been an increase of 554,133 bags and value Rs. 11,471 over the imports of 1900. These bags are principally used for the shipment of sugar as a cover for the vacoa bags.

Bags. (Straw.)

Show the large decrease of 402,180 in number and Rs. 10,543 in value in 1901 over the imports in 1900.

Bags. (Vacoa.)

There was a substantial decrease of this article in 1901 as compared with 1900.

Beef. (Salted.)

The quantity imported in 1901 is less than in 1900, a decrease in value of Rs. 19,421. Increases both in weight and value from the United Kingdom and Australia while the imports from the United States show a substantial decrease.

Beer and Ale. (In cask.)

This item shows a shrinkage of 466 hectolitres in quantity and Rs. 26,619 in value in 1901, as compared with the imports in the previous years.

Beer and Ale. (In bottles.)

Under this head, in 1901, the importations were likewise less than in the previous year, the United Kingdom exhibiting a decrease in value to the extent of Rs. 18,712.

Blacking.

The value of this article decreased in 1901 by Rs. 7,582, as compared with 1900. There is a large decrease on imports from the United Kingdom and a slight one in the imports from France.

Books. (Printed.)

The value of books shows an increase in 1901 of Rs. 6,035 over the imports of 1900.

Bran.

Compared with 1900, the imports of 1901 show a total decrease in value of Rs. 7,978. There is an increase in quantity and value from Australia and Argentine Republic, while the imports from India show a large decrease. Urugay, which provided kilos. 17,325, of the value of Rs. 2,495, in 1900, sent none to the Colony in 1901.

Brassware.

Shows a large increase in 1901 over 1900 both in quantity and value. The increase in value of imports from the United Kingdom amounts to Rs. 105,170. There is also a slight increase in the imports from France. The imports from India have fallen off to the extent of Rs. 4,315 in value, while the quantity shows an increase.

Brick and Tiles.

Under this head there is a decrease in value of Rs. 5,094 in 1901, as compared with 1900.

Bullion.

Decrease of Rs. 6,062 in 1901 as compared with 1900. The decrease arises from less imports from India.

Butter.

There is a slight increase in quantity and Rs. 4,881 in value in imports in 1901 as compared with 1900. Increases are noted under the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Belgium, Holland, Italy, and Switerland; while, Denmark, France, and the United States show distinct decreases.

Bicycles.

The value of imported bicycles in 1901 is less by Rs. 26,298 than in 1900; the decrease applying to each exporting country.

Cabinet and Upholstery Wares.

Increases in 1901 over 1900 amount to Rs. 5,583. Austrian, French, and American goods showing increases, while the value of imports from the United Kingdom is Rs. 2,293 less.

Camphor. (*Crude.*)

The increase in value under this head in 1901 is Rs. 5,051, principally from India.

Candles. (*Composition.*)

Exhibit a large decrease both in quantity and value in 1901 as compared with 1900. The value of imports from Belgium has increased by Rs. 1,549, while the value of imports from France is Rs. 41,472; from Germany, Rs. 446; and from Holland, Rs. 1,850 less. Imports from the United Kingdom are kilos. 460 less in weight and Rs. 132 in value.

Caoutchouc and India Rubber Manufacturers.

The increase in 1901 under this head in weight is kilos. 1,739, and in value Rs. 9,202. The United Kingdom provides the increase.

Cement.

This article shows an increase both in quantity and value over 1900. The increase in the United Kingdom amounts to Rs. 68,216. From France there is a decrease of Rs. 1,063, and Belgium, which supplied 25,890 kilos. in 1900, sent none in 1901.

Cheese.

There is a large increase both in quantity and value in 1901. The increase from Holland amounts to Rs. 12,099. From the United Kingdom, 4,756. From France, Rs. 3,582. Italy supplied 2,270 kilos. of the value of Rs. 3,908 in 1901 against nil in 1900.

Coals.

The quantity imported in 1901 was kilos. 79,165,606, of the value of Rs. 2,224,833, as against 56,370,045 kilos. of the value of Rs. 1,024,889 in 1900. The increases refer to the imports from the United Kingdom, Australia, and India. France and Natal, from which a small quantity was imported in 1900, sent none in 1901. The increased imports are ascribable to steamers calling at this port for coals, owing to troubles in South Africa.

Coffee.

Increased from kilos. 213,805 and value Rs. 89,791 in 1900 to kilos. 375,420 of the value of Rs. 207,639 in 1901, the principal increase being from Aden, India and Java.

Confectionery.

Under this head there is a total decrease of Rs. 10,431 in 1901 as compared in 1900. United Kingdom shows a decrease of Rs. 12,285, while France shows an increase of Rs. 1,865, and Belgium, Rs. 825.

Copper. (Sheets and Nails.)

As compared with 1900, the imports show an increase in value to the extent of Rs. 16,236 in 1901. There is a large increase from the United States, while the French goods have decreased in value to the extent of Rs. 6,581.

Cordage. (Hemp.)

Increase in 1901 over 1900 of Rs. 19,229 in value, principally from the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

Corks and Bungs.

Show a decrease of Rs. 11,389 in 1901 from France and Spain, and a slight increase both in quantity and value from the United Kingdom.

Corn, Grain, Meal. (Barley.)

The total *decrease* in 1901 in weight is 386,441 kilos., and in value Rs. 45,974, as compared with 1900. Imports from Continental India and the Argentine Republic have largely decreased. From Australia the value of imports is Rs. 4,708 against nil in the previous year.

Beans.

This article has also largely decreased in 1901 both in quantity and value Rs. 18,406; the decreases being from every country except the United Kingdom, which shows a small increase.

Lentils.

Increased from kilos. 776,769, of the value of Rs. 87,684, in 1900, to kilos. 1,171,263, of the value of Rs. 143,344 in 1901, The entire quantity was imported from India in 1901.

Oats.

Show a total increase in value of Rs. 14,697 in 1901, the principal increase coming from Australia, Continental India, and the United States. From the Argentine Republic there is a *decrease* in value amounting to Rs. 16,384.

Wheat.

Decrease in value of Rs. 23,955. Australia shows imports kilos. 83,696, of the value of Rs. 7,210, against nil in 1900. India shows a decrease in value of Rs. 31,165.

Wheat Flour.

This article shows a total increase in value of Rs. 463,034 in 1901. Rs. 447,666 from Australia, Rs. 65,575 from India, and Rs. 4,290 from the United Kingdom.

Cotton Manufactures. (Coloured.)

As compared with 1900 the value of imports in 1901 shows decreases under this item of Rs. 215,101. Decreases are, from the United Kingdom, Rs. 192,844; from India, Rs. 18,507; France Rs. 13,069; Germany, Rs. 3,541; Pondicherry, Rs. 11,609; Belgium shows an increase of Rs. 5,664; Holland Rs. 14,472; and Switzerland, Rs. 3,646.

Hosiery.

This article also shows a large increase amounting to Rs. 18,302 in 1901. German goods show a shortage in value of Rs. 15,307, and the United Kingdom a shrinkage of Rs. 3,105. The value of the French goods increased by Rs. 273.

Plain Hosiery.

There is a decrease in value of Rs. 270,884 in 1901, of which Rs. 218,441 is from the United Kingdom, Rs. 52,589 from India, and Rs. 1,552 from Germany. The value of the imports from Austria, France, Italy and Switzerland have slightly increased.

Thread for Sewing.

Total decrease in 1901 in value is Rs. 14,525, of which Rs. 14,511 from the United Kingdom and Rs. 493 from France. Switzerland shows a slight increase.

Wick.

The United Kingdom shows in 1901 a decrease of 5,527 kilos. in quantity and Rs. 6,433 in value as compared with the previous year. The imports from France and India show slight increases.

Earthenware and Chinawares.

Show a decrease in 1901 over 1900 amounting to Rs. 18,232, of which Rs. 15,189 is due to less imports from the United Kingdom and, to a small extent, from China, France, and Germany.

Fish, Pickled.

Increase in 1901 of Rs. 26,891; from the United Kingdom, Rs. 22,422 and from the United States Rs. 5,364; there being small decreases from Seychelles, Madagascar and France.

Flowers, Artificial.

The value of this article decreased from Rs. 5,614 in 1900 to Rs. 381 in 1901. The difference being under the United Kingdom, Rs. 2,049; France, Rs. 1,726; and China Rs. 1,107.

Fruits, Dried. (Cocoanuts.)

Total decrease in 1901, Rs. 8,347, less imports from Seychelles.

Gandia.

There is an increase of 321 kilos. in the imports, but a decrease of Rs. 9,839 in the declared value as compared with the preceding year.

Ghee.

Shows a decrease of 16,359 kilos. under imports of 1901, but an increase of Rs. 7,224 as against 1900.

Groceries.

Show a decrease of Rs. 5,115 in 1901; of this decrease Rs. 4,400 come under the United Kingdom.

Haberdashery.

The value of the imports declared in 1901 is Rs. 79,413 less than in 1900. Decreases are shown under the following countries:—United Kingdom, Rs. 16,048; France, Rs. 61,195; Germany, Rs. 16,678; Holland, Rs. 9,042. Increases are shown—India, Rs. 12,085; Austria Rs. 2,104; Switzerland, Rs. 7,116.

Hardware and Cutlery.

Increase of Rs. 235,699 in 1901 over 1900. The United Kingdom yielded Rs. 218,700; France, Rs. 10,590; Belgium, Rs. 2,638; and the United States, Rs. 2,232.

Hats. (*Straw.*)

Increase amounting to Rs. 19,196 in 1901 and 6,542 in number. France produced an increase of Rs. 10,789; the United Kingdom, Rs. 7,610.

Hides. (*Tanned.*)

Increase of Rs. 8,042 in 1901, principally in goods from India, Rs. 9,018; France, Rs. 5,850. From Pondicherry the value shows a decrease of Rs. 6,975.

Hulls of Vessels Abandoned.

Valued at Rs. 9,230, as against nil in 1900.

Iron Bars.

Total decrease in value in 1901 as compared with 1900, Rs. 113,566, of which Rs. 118,288 is ascribed to the United Kingdom. Belgian goods show an increased value of Rs. 4,794.

Sheets.

Declared value decreased by Rs. 28,153 in the imports. From the United Kingdom Rs. 27,719 and from India Rs. 1,295. Belgian goods show a slight increase of Rs. 1,295.

Wrought of other sorts.

Increase in imports in 1901 of Rs. 11,112, of which Rs. 10,453 are goods from the United Kingdom.

Jewellery.

The declared value in 1901, Rs. 12,487, is more than in the previous year; the United Kingdom showing an increase of Rs. 9,231, and France Rs. 9,287. The imports from India have diminished in value by Rs. 2,863; from Pondicherry by Rs. 1,155; from Switzerland by Rs. 1,382.

Lard.

As compared with 1900 there is a decrease of kilos. 208,562, and in value of Rs. 102,049. The United Kingdom shows a decrease of Rs. 1,502; India, Rs. 5,208; France, Rs. 30,147; the United States, Rs. 71,345; Hong Kong and China show increases of Rs. 2,100 and Rs. 4,504, respectively.

Leather. (*Boots and Shoes.*)

32,208 pairs less were imported in 1901 than in 1900, and the decrease in value amounted in Rs. 24,973; the decreases are under the United Kingdom, Rs. 8,548; India, Rs. 9,673; France, Rs. 17,105. There are small increases from Austria, Germany, and Pondicherry.

Sole.

Imports in 1901 show a decrease in value of Rs. 7,164, and in weight of kilos. 3,216 as compared with 1900. The decrease is due to less imports from Australia.

Wrought of other sorts.

The imports of 1901 are Rs. 58,217 less than in 1900. From the United Kingdom the shrinkage is Rs. 6,147; from France, Rs. 53,032; from Germany, Rs. 1,041. Indian imports have increased by Rs. 1,293. There are also slight increases from Australia, Pondicherry, China, and Switzerland.

Phosphate of Lime.

The quantity imported in 1901 has increased by kilos. 1,046,805; but the value has decreased by Rs. 29,716, as compared with the previous year. The value of imports from the United Kingdom increased by Rs. 6,731; from Belgium by Rs. 6,565; while France shows a falling off to the extent of Rs. 43,012.

Superphosphate of Lime.

As compared with 1900, there is an increase in quantity of kilos. 537,277, and a decrease in value of Rs. 47,804. Imports from the United Kingdom and from Germany are Rs. 55,295 and Rs. 3,008, respectively, less. From France and Belgium the value has increased by Rs. 6,094 and Rs. 4,405, respectively.

Linen Manufactures. (Canvas.)

Increase in value of Rs. 5,196, as compared with 1900. From the United Kingdom Rs. 10,393. France shows a decrease of Rs. 4,603, and Norway Rs. 773.

Machinery and Millwork.

This item shows a substantial increase in value of Rs. 134,905 over 1900. The United Kingdom is credited with Rs. 99,000; Continental India with Rs. 71,998. The value of imports from France shows a diminution of Rs. 18,092, and Germany of Rs. 18,000.

Manure of other sorts.

Total decrease in quantity, kilos. 363,005, and in value Rs. 69,099 in 1901. The United Kingdom shows in increase in value of Rs. 55,270; Argentine Confederation, Rs. 16,835;

Belgium, Rs. 5,296; and Seychelles Rs. 29,364. Imports from Australia are Rs. 161,169; from France Rs. 3,610, and from Singapore Rs. 4,320 less in value.

Margarine.

The quantity imported in 1901 is kilos. 66,431, and in value Rs. 65,185 in excess of imports in 1900. The principal increase Rs. 44,973 comes from Holland; from the United States, Rs. 18,234; from Germany, Rs. 3,754; from the United Kingdom, Rs. 1,025.

Danish margarine shows a decrease of Rs. 3,893.

Military Articles.

Show an increase in value of Rs. 326,705 as compared with 1900, from the United Kingdom and Continental India.

Castor Oil.

Imports have increased in 1901 by 128,294 kilos., and in declared value by Rs. 33,919. From the United Kingdom 478 kilos. against Nil in 1900; and from Continental India 410,257 kilos. as compared with 282,441 kilos. in the previous year.

Cocoanut.

An increase of hectolitres, 1,199, and value of Rs. 8,337 in 1901 over 1900 from Seychelles.

Gingelee.

This article shows a decrease in quantity of 35,432 kilos., and in value of Rs. 11,573 in 1901 as compared with 1900, the decrease being in the imports from Continental India.

Linseed.

The increase under this head is 460 hectolitres in quantity and Rs. 24,463 in value over 1900. The increase being the produce of the United Kingdom.

Petroleum.

The imports in 1901 show an increase of hento. 13,885 and in value of Rs. 156,887 over 1900 from the United States and the produce of Russia.

Pistachio.

The quantity imported in 1901 is 290,491 kilos., of the value of Rs. 113,959, as against 347,277 kilos. of the value of Rs. 117,851 in 1900.

Other Sorts.

This item shows a large increase in quantity and in declared value, Rs. 290,247, as compared with 1900. The produce of the United States shows an increase in value of Rs. 287,576, and the United Kingdom, Rs. 4,958. The produce of France has diminished in value by Rs. 2,821.

Opium. (Crude.)

As compared with the imports and value of 1900 there is an increase in 1901 of 324 kilos., and value Rs. 15,262.

As Drugs.

Increase in quantity by 480 kilos. and in value by Rs. 11,720 as compared with the imports of 1900. The value of the produce of Turkey is Rs. 11,481, as against nil in the previous year. The produce of the United Kingdom and India have slightly increased in value while the imports from France are nil against 86 kilos. of the value of Rs. 1,217 in 1900.

Paper Manufactures.

Shows an increase in value of Rs. 6,673 in 1901 over 1900. The produce of the United Kingdom increased by Rs. 4,527; of France, Rs. 3,803; of the United States, Rs. 1,585. There is a decrease in German goods of Rs. 2,237.

Paper Packing.

Increase in value in 1901 Rs. 10,105; from France, Rs. 11,995; from the United Kingdom, Rs. 471; and a decrease of Rs. 2,361 in German goods.

Plague Serum.

Increase in value by Rs. 6,854 in 1901.

Pockets. (Empty.)

The number imported in 1901 increased by 154,514 and the value by Rs. 38,067, as compared with the previous year, principally from Continental India.

Nitrate of Potash.

There is a decrease in quantity in 1901, but an increase in value of Rs. 114,052 as compared with 1900. The value of the imports from India are Rs. 115,984 higher, while the United Kingdom shows a decrease of Rs. 1,932.

Sulphate of Potash.

The total increase in value in 1901 amounts to Rs. 32,867; Rs. 39,673 from the United Kingdom; and Rs. 3,119 from France. Germany shows a decrease of Rs. 9,925.

Provisions. (Preserved.)

Value increased by Rs. 95,797. The increase comes from the United Kingdom, Rs. 35,010; France, Rs. 37,148; Portugal, Rs. 23,437; Spain, Rs. 2,777; Switzerland, Rs. 9,315; Germany shows a decrease of Rs. 5,439; Belgium, Rs. 7,102.

Rattans.

The imports of 1901 over 1900 show an increase in weight of 85,347 kilos., and in value Rs. 20,629. Increases from Continental India, China, and Singapore.

Saddlery and Harness.

An increase in the value of imports in 1901 of Rs. 11,708, as compared with 1900, of which Rs. 10,134 from the United Kingdom.

Salt.

The imports in 1901 show an increase in quantity of 563,736 kilos., and a decrease in value of Rs. 41,161, as compared with 1900; the increased quantity coming from France, Aden, and Muscat.

Seeds. (Aniseed.)

The quantity imported in 1901 is only 5,898 kilos., as against 37,250 kilos. in 1900. There is, however, an increase of value of Rs. 8,018, chiefly on Indian goods.

Mustard.

Increase in 1901 of 29,968 kilos., and of value Rs. 5,845 over 1900 from Continental India.

Soap. (Ordinary.)

The imports in 1901 show an increase in weight of 71,272 kilos., and in value of Rs. 20,029. Imports from the United Kingdom show an increase in value of Rs. 12,985, and the United States, Rs. 9,561. From France, the value has decreased by Rs. 1,266; and from Seychelles by Rs. 1,226.

Soda. (Caustic.)

Shows a decrease in quantity of 56,160 kilos., and in value of Rs. 9,654 in 1901 over 1900. The United Kingdom shows a shortage in value of Rs. 11,260, and France an increase of Rs. 1,606.

Nitrate of Soda.

The imports in 1901 are 2,424,642 kilos., of the declared value of Rs. 251,492, as against 2,396,423 kilos. of the value of Rs. 229,458. Chili shows a large increase in value, and the United Kingdom a slight augmentation.

Specie. (Gold.)

Shows a decrease in value of Rs. 29,739 in 1901.

Silver.

The value of imports under this head is Rs. 4,670,523 less in 1901 than the imports of the previous year.

Spices. (Black Pepper.)

Increased in value by Rs. 8,327 in 1901, as compared with 1900 from India. The imports from Singapore show an increase in value of Rs. 2,241.

Spirits. (Brandy.)

Decrease in quantity of only 261 litres, but the value is decreased by Rs. 13,603, of which Rs. 12,494 is under France.

Whisky.

Has increased in quantity by 12,587 litres, and in value by Rs. 19,234 in 1901 from the United Kingdom.

Stationery.

Imports in 1901 show a decrease in value of Rs. 8,368, principally from France Rs. 6,427; Germany, Rs. 2,835; Austria and Belgium. There is an increase in the value of imports from the United Kingdom of Rs. 2,413.

Steel. (Unwrought.)

Increase in weight of 4,155 kilos., and in value of Rs. 6,977 in 1901 from the United Kingdom, and, to a small extent, from the United States.

Sulphur. (Common.)

Imports increased in quantity by 66,543 kilos., and in value by Rs. 37,749 in 1901, as compared with 1900; the principal increase being in imports from France.

Tin. (Plates.)

Show a decline in 1901 in weight of 57,789 kilos., and in value of Rs. 21,540 from the United Kingdom and Continental India.

Tobacco. (Manufactured.)

The imports in 1901 amount to 114,646 kilos., of the declared value of Rs. 224,172, as against 129,604 kilos., of the declared value of Rs. 232,714 in 1900.

Reunion exhibits a large increase and the United States a decrease.

Cigars.

The imports in 1901 are 9,225 kilos., of the value of Rs. 33,410, as compared with 6,627 kilos., of the declared value of Rs. 19,958 in 1900. The principal increases are under the following heads — United Kingdom, Rs. 2,126; India, Rs. 11,126.

Unmanufactured.

The imports in 1901, as compared with 1900, declined in weight by 3,568 kilos., and in value by Rs. 12,065.

Umbrellas and Parasols. (Cotton.)

In 1901 the number has diminished by 17,169, and the value by Rs. 20,971. The smaller imports from the United Kingdom and from France account for the decrease.

Wax. (Bees.)

Increased in 1901 in quantity, 3,077 kilos., of the declared value of Rs. 6,317, as compared with 1900.

Wine. (Claret in casks.)

Measured by the imports of 1900 the year 1901 shows a decrease of 5,577 hectolitres, and in value of Rs. 143,793.

Vermouth in casks.

As compared with the imports of 1900, there is a reduction in 1901 in quantity of 132 hectolitres, and in value of Rs. 5,102.

Vermouth in bottles.

Shows a decrease of 18 hectolitres in measurement, and Rs. 16,266 in declared value in 1901.

Wood, Boards and Planks

The item exhibits an increase of 1,498 cubic metres in quantity, and Rs. 52,346 in value, as compared with the imports of 1900. A large quantity of timber has been employed in the erection of the military camp at Phœnix.

Shooks.

The imports in 1901 show an increase over the imports of 1900 of 8,456 bundles, and in value of Rs. 22,171, as compared with the imports of 1900. Each bundle is to form a cask in which principally molasses are exported.

Timber.

This item also shows a substantial increase in 1901, both in quantity and in value, and is also attributable to construction of military quarters at Phœnix.

Woodenware.

The declared value of exports in 1901 has declined by Rs. 73,606, as compared with 1900; the imports from the United Kingdom having decreased by Rs. 80,276; the imports from other countries show a total increase of Rs. 8,625.

Woollen Manufactures (Mixed with Cotton and Silk).

The imports in 1901, as compared with 1900, show a decrease in quantity of 97,208 metres, and in declared value of Rs. 52,268. The imports from France have decreased in value by Rs. 61,148; from India by Rs. 4,327; from the United Kingdom by Rs. 1,162; and from Switzerland by Rs. 1,270. The imports from Germany show an increase of Rs. 10,647; from Italy, Rs. 2,090; from Holland, Rs. 1,802; and from Belgium, Rs. 1,181.

EXPORTS.

The principal articles exported from Mauritius are sugar, rum, molasses, cocoanut oil, aloe fibre, and vanilla, the produce of the Colony. The quantities and values exported in the last five years are shown in the following table:—

Articles.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Sugar—					
Kilos	138,079,700	154,548,657	164,911,833	174,765,785	157,016,976
Rupees	23,649,117	26,211,349	24,419,886	30,566,536	27,961,583
Rum—					
Litres	532,393	828,783	1,468,104	1,970,226	791,123
Rupees	62,732	82,607	160,221	231,930	91,494
Molasses—					
Kilos	13,636,272	12,967,400	12,681,205	14,927,157	19,613,200
Rupees	1,286,516	1,677,900	1,377,647	532,889	337,008
Cocoanut Oil—					
Hecto.	606	1,457	1,265	2,643	1,664
Rupees	19,305	35,353	31,622	51,825	17,096
Aloe Fibre—					
Kilos	1,181,303	1,494,928	2,249,809	3,105,341	1,242,998
Rupees	252,208	444,197	588,671	978,049	353,444
Vanilla—					
Kilos	3,886	4,043	3,709	4,553	3,353
Rupees	225,244	231,158	221,011	212,276	149,002

The quantity and value of the principal minor exports are shown below :—

Articles.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Vacoa bags—					
Number	104,725	171,302	14,575	256,056	268,950
Value	12,910	6,911	1,092	18,841	7,477
Salted Fish—					
Quantity	66,193	55,009	28,013	68,816	24,710
Value	35,285	30,995	10,807	21,078	10,331
Hides, Raw and salted—					
Kilos	110,430	123,891	73,369	53,410	25,167
Value	52,265	55,418	32,821	21,938	11,544
Horns—					
Number	25,983	19,700	1,300	5,145	4,000
Value	4,020	1,504	400	621	2,000
Soap—					
Kilos	266,455	292,356	26,532	3,911	467
Value	65,890	66,048	6,062	1,216	135
Tea (Madagascar)—					
Kilos	681	7,266	2,685	281	4
Value	750	10,876	3,900	451	6
Machinery and Millwork—					
Kilos	—	17,812	8,662	109,504	92,516
Value	—	10,015	6,305	293,655	61,422

The Countries to which the principal products have chiefly been exported with the quantities exported are shown below :—

Countries.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Sugar—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India	54,844,703	61,283,319	81,675,459	104,261,386	91,302,235
Cape Colonies	27,488,493	29,206,696	25,573,377	29,858,872	32,244,866
Ceylon	19,132,515	22,424,388	1,669,848	120,307	54,523
Australia	15,999,686	9,446.047	11,130,587	10,367,690	8,791,547
United States of America	10,946,212	22,338,811	33,928,421	16,289,215	6,517,851
Hong Kong	3,355,877	1,228,640	925,733	478,302	1,013,922
Delagoa Bay	2,263,455	1,724,553	1,168,670	—	—
Natal	1,999,403	35,353	130,153	774,831	1,415.926
United Kingdom	1,040,644	3,495,279	6,415,260	9,300,962	15,227,507
Madagascar	330,566	—	—	—	—
Aden	239,968	333,590	588,016	122,487	82,469
Seychelles	129,748	135,721	227,870	242,730	232,127
Zanzibar	88,430	629,935	345,342	678,708	73
Muscat	59,341	—	—	—	—
St. Helena	57,370	—	43,927	—	—
France	—	2,146,373	986,813	1,964,796	225
Rum—	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.
Madagascar	233,101	6,494	—	—	—
United Kingdom	146,343	366,262	1,336,818	1,892,877	724,389
Seychelles	62,735	26,558	77,515	59,425	57,337
Hong Kong	36,479	10,835	16,813	—	—
Las Palmas	24,325	—	—	—	—
Aden	15,257	14,971	6,320	16,965	6,489
Zanzibar	8,425	997	—	—	—
Continental India	1,313	1,646	24,516	—	—

Cape Colonies	1,469	—	—		2,882
France	416	400,008	—	—	26
Australia	—	—	2,421	—	—
Molasses—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India	13,185,800	12,967,400	12,681,080	14,928,650	19,611,200
Ceylon	330,400	—	—	—	—
Hong Kong	120,000	—	—	—	—
Cocoanut Oil—	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.
Reunion	473.63	50.66	—	—	88.16
Madagascar	81.	130.82	—	—	—
Natal	—	59.60	—	24.	—
Cape Colonies	51.25	15.50	63.25	—	—
United Kingdom	—	1,200.	1,201.66	2,619.34	1,576.
Aloe Fibre—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
United Kingdom	800,578	890,814	1,970,779	2,456,205	1,110,154
Singapore	156,450	—	—	—	—
France	113,400	316,921	42,250	273,356	11,922
Australia	—	—	—	—	112,547
Madagascar	44,875	—	—	—	—
Germany	23,800	129,243	146,180	209,130	7,500
Continental India	16,950	22,500	30,600	—	875
Ceylon	12,650	15,000	—	—	—
Holland	12,600	42,500	60,000	166,650	—
Cape Colonies	—	12,250	—	—	—
Vanilla—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
France	3,444	2,832	472	119	1,300
United Kingdom	322	1,053	3,237	4,417	2,052
Continental India	88	—	—	—	—
Ceylon	32	—	—	—	—
Australia	—	90	—	—	—
Natal	—	67	—	16	—

Statement showing the total value of Imports and Exports for the last five years, 1897–1901.

Imports.

1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
27,056,008.38	28,326,008.29	28,180,979	31,427,401	31,146,760

Exports.

1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
30,654,007.04	31,866,437.07	27,381,161	33,550,974	30,617,204

MINES, MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

There is practicaly nothing to add to the information given under this head in previous reports, and the space usually devoted to this heading will be appropriated to other subjects.

BOTANIC GARDENS.

The Botanical Gardens are divided into three sections, viz., The Pamplemousses, Le Réduit, and Curepipe Gardens.

The most important is the Pamplemousses Gardens, which is 65 acres in extent. Large numbers of useful plants, fruit, and timber trees are propagated there, namely:—

Forest trees.—Eucalyptus, teak, casuarina, mahogany, cedrela, grevillea, terminalia, guazama camphor, &c.

Economic plants and fruit trees.—Coffee, litchis, nutmegs, cloves, different varieties of citrus, kola, coca ægle marmelos, pine apple, bananas, cacao, cocoanut, &c.

Fibres.—Sanseviera, different varieties of agaves, China grass, New Zealand flax, musa textilis, &c.

Canes.—New varieties of sugar canes introduced from other countries are propagated and distributed to the planters.

Réduit Gardens.

These form part of the Réduit domain. Part of the ground is under forest plantation. The trees produce a good supply of fuel and large quantities of seeds.

Curepipe Gardens.

This garden is chiefly used for nursing plants that cannot be successfully grown at Pamplemousses owing to the climate. Large numbers of seedlings are raised yearly, viz., juniperus, pinus, sinensis, eucalyptus, and scattered all over the Island.

These three gardens are at different elevations, and have three distinct climates. They are well suited, therefore, to the purposes of experimental acclimatation.

But distinct from the Government Gardens, Mauritius possesses the station, Agronomique, a subsidised experimental and scientific sugar plantation, where agricultural, chemical, and other experiments likely to be of use to planters are made under skilled supervision.

LANDS GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

There are practically no land grants in Mauritius, as almost all the alienable Crown Land has already been alienated, and the remaining land which consists of forest land and Pas Geometriques, *i.e.*, the land adjoining the foreshore, will always be retained by the Government in the public interest.

SHIPPING.

The aggregate tonnage of vessels entered at Port Louis from the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and foreign countries during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1901, amounted to 401,406 tons, and the tonnage cleared, to 397,592 tons, as against 337,834 tons entered and 333,106 tons cleared in 1900.

STATEMENT A.

—	Entered.						Cleared.					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1900.												
Cargo ...	110	67,228	124	223,560	234	290,788	78	27,697	103	184,156	181	211,853
Ballast ...	7	3,244	25	43,802	32	47,046	42	41,453	45	79,800	87	121,253
Total ...	117	70,472	149	267,362	266	337,834	120	69,150	148	192,136	268	333,106
1901.												
Cargo ...	109	61,736	132	263,076	241	324,812	74	28,480	116	223,512	190	251,992
Ballast ...	12	3,690	39	72,904	51	76,594	38	34,341	54	111,259	92	145,600
Total ...	121	65,426	171	335,980	292	401,406	112	62,821	170	334,771	282	397,592

The above table shows a decided increase of both vessels and tonnage in 1901 over 1900.

CLASSIFICATION OF VESSELS.

Statements B and C exhibit the vessels classified according to their nationality and their tonnage, together with the difference between the past and previous year.

The figures show that the trade of the Colony has been carried to a larger extent during 1901 than in 1900 under the British flag.

Of French steamers there is a decrease of 14 in number and 6,904 in tonnage in 1901, which is accounted for by the withdrawal of the "Druentia" from the Madagascar bullock trade.

Other nationalities show, on the whole, slight increases.

Statement D is a summary of the British and foreign vessels entered and cleared during the five years ended 31st December, 1901.

With regard to the coasting trade (included in the previous figures) the following comparative statement is submitted:—

—	Entered.						Cleared.					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1900.												
Cargo ...	31	6,630	1	183	32	6,813	33	7,026	1	183	34	7,209
Ballast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	875	1	875
Total ...	31	6,630	1	183	32	6,813	33	7,026	2	1,058	35	8,084
1901.												
Cargo ...	30	6,524	—	—	30	6,524	29	6,357	1	4,055	30	10,412
Ballast ...	—	—	1	27	1	27	—	—	1	27	1	27
Total ...	30	6,524	1	27	31	6,551	29	6,357	2	4,082	31	10,439

These figures differ but in a small degree, except in the case of a steamer in 1901 with plant for the electric cable establishment at Rodrigues.

Exclusive of the shipping above mentioned, 13 transports and vessels of war with a tonnage of 47,862 tons entered the harbour during 1901, as compared with 8 in number and 33,225 tons in 1900.

Statement of number and tonnage of British and foreign sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for 1900-1901.

STATEMENT B.

Entered.

—	1900.		1901.		Difference.	
					+ Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	117	70,472	121	65,426	+ 4	− 5,046
Steamers ...	149	267,362	171	335,980	+22	+ 68,618
Total ...	266	337,834	292	401,406	+26	+ 63,572

Cleared.

—	1900.		1901.		Difference.	
					+ Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	120	69,150	112	62,821	— 8	— 6,329
Steamers ...	148	263,956	170	334,771	+22	+ 70,815
Total ...	268	333,106	282	397,592	+14	+ 64,486

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities:—

STATEMENT C.

Entered.

Nationality.	1900.		1901.		Difference.	
					+ Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamer...	90	174,823	120	238,714	+30	+ 63,891
Sailing ...	92	55,028	91	50,492	— 1	— 4,536
German—						
Steamer...	2	1,811	4	5,333	+ 2	+ 3,522
Sailing ...	7	3,598	4	764	— 3	— 2,834

Entered.—continued.

Nationality.	1900.		1901.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
French—						
Steamer...	56	90,668	42	83,764	−14	− 6,904
Sailing ...	4	4,089	5	2,031	+ 1	− 2,058
Norwegian—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	772	+ 1	+ 772
Sailing ...	7	2,609	15	8,236	+ 8	+ 5,627
Danish—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	1,668	+ 1	+ 1,668
Sailing ...	2	1,104	4	2,668	+ 2	+ 1,564
American—						
Steamer...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing ...	2	1,836	1	483	− 1	− 1,353
Italian—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,605	+ 1	+ 2,605
Sailing ...	3	2,208	1	752	− 2	− 1,456
Austrian—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,313	+ 1	+ 2,313
Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese—						
Steamer...	1	60	—	—	− 1	− 60
Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	811	+ 1	+ 811
Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities:—

Cleared.

Nationality.	1900.		1901.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamer...	88	169,768	119	237,512	+31	+ 67,744
Sailing ...	96	53,928	84	47,892	−12	− 6,036
French—						
Steamer...	57	92,317	42	83,756	−15	− 8,561
Sailing ...	4	4,089	4	1,938	—	− 2,151

Cleared—continued.

Nationality.	1900.		1901.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
German—						
Steamer...	2	1,811	4	5,333	+ 2	+ 3,522
Sailing ...	6	3,489	5	831	— 1	— 2,658
Norwegian—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	772	+ 1	+ 772
Sailing ...	8	2,870	13	7,231	+ 5	+ 4,361
Italian—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,606	+ 1	+ 2,606
Sailing ...	3	2,096	2	2,390	— 1	+ 294
Danish—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	1,668	+ 1	+ 1,668
Sailing ...	1	842	3	2,056	+ 2	+ 1,214
American—						
Steamer...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing ...	2	1,836	1	483	— 1	— 1,358
Austrian—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,313	+ 1	+ 2,313
Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese—						
Steamer...	1	60	—	—	— 1	— 60
Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	811	+ 1	+ 811
Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

STATEMENT D.

SHIPPING INWARDS and OUTWARDS for the FIVE YEARS 1897–1901.

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons	Vessels	Tons.
1897 ...	106	56,676	7	2,653	113	59,329	55	16,995	15	7,047	70	24,042	161	73,671	22	9,700	183	83,371
1898 ...	118	58,856	4	1,751	122	60,607	31	12,872	13	4,882	44	17,754	149	71,728	17	6,633	166	78,361
1899 ...	90	52,874	4	1,195	94	54,069	35	17,688	7	2,023	44	19,711	125	70,562	11	3,218	136	73,780
1900 ...	86	53,379	6	1,649	92	55,028	24	13,849	1	1,595	25	15,444	110	67,228	7	3,244	117	70,472
1901 ...	86	48,671	5	1,821	91	50,492	23	13,065	7	1,869	30	14,934	109	61,736	12	3,690	121	65,426

Steamers—Entered.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons	Vessels	Tons.
1897 ...	73	144,063	7	11,617	80	155,680	69	89,657	—	—	69	89,657	142	233,720	7	11,617	149	245,337
1898 ...	65	140,131	10	17,312	75	157,648	57	84,626	4	6,817	61	91,402	122	224,756	14	24,129	136	248,885
1899 ...	59	132,913	19	57,801	78	170,714	54	87,094	4	5,781	58	92,875	133	220,007	23	43,582	130	263,589
1900 ...	72	140,718	18	34,105	90	174,823	52	82,842	7	9,697	59	92,539	124	223,560	25	43,802	149	267,362
1901 ...	85	172,770	35	65,944	120	238,714	47	90,306	4	6,960	51	97,266	132	263,076	39	72,904	171	335,980

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1897 ...	91	36,276	30	28,490	121	64,766	55	16,686	95	7,515	70	24,201	146	52,962	45	36,005	191	88,967
1898 ...	88	30,870	27	25,568	115	56,438	38	12,582	5	3,428	43	16,010	126	43,452	32	28,996	158	72,448
1899 ...	65	20,902	33	36,387	98	57,289	32	15,228	12	6,651	44	21,879	97	36,130	45	43,038	142	79,168
1900 ...	66	23,366	30	30,562	96	53,928	12	4,331	12	10,891	24	15,222	78	27,697	42	41,453	120	69,150
1901 ...	64	25,472	20	22,420	84	47,892	10	3,008	18	11,921	28	14,929	74	28,480	38	34,341	112	62,821

Steamers—Cleared.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1897 ...	63	127,705	19	32,354	82	160,089	64	85,693	5	3,964	69	89,657	127	213,398	24	36,318	151	249,716
1898 ...	57	125,132	17	29,276	74	154,408	47	76,573	14	14,869	61	91,442	104	201,705	31	44,145	135	245,850
1899 ...	62	137,167	15	32,044	77	169,211	29	50,405	27	40,403	56	90,808	91	187,572	42	72,447	133	260,019
1900 ...	68	131,116	20	38,652	88	169,768	35	53,040	25	41,148	60	94,188	103	184,156	45	79,800	148	263,956
1901 ...	81	157,917	38	79,595	119	237,512	35	65,595	16	31,664	51	97,259	116	223,512	54	111,259	170	334,771

SUEZ CANAL.

The number and tonnage of steamers entered at this port passing through the Suez Canal during the year 1901 was 38, of 74,012 tons, respectively, as against 37 in number and 72,122 tons in 1900.

In 1901 the declared value of goods imported by these steamers was Rs. 3,868,349.66, and in 1900 the value amounted to Rs. 3,659,280.29.

The number cleared in 1901 was 24, representing a tonnage of 49,040 tons, while in 1900 the number was 28 and tonnage 51,780 with exported goods, valued in the former at Rs. 892,312.39 and in the latter year at Rs. 1,851,135.16.

The following summary exhibits the figures more fully:—

Entered.

Year.	No.	Tonnage.	Value of goods.
1900	36	68,863	3,659,280.29
1901	38	74,012	3,868,349.66

Cleared.

Year.	No.	Tonnage.	Value of goods.
1900	28	51,780	1,851,135.16
1901	24	49,040	892,319.39

In 1901, 3 steamers of 6,264 tons cleared for Réunion, although proceeding to Marseilles *viâ* the Suez Canal, and 2 steamers of 3,894 tons, without entering or clearing at this port, left for Marseilles *viâ* Réunion and the Suez Canal from the roadstead.

These steamers are not included in the above statement.

The number and tonnage of steamers which called at this port for the purpose of coaling are as follows for 1901:—

Number.	Tonnage.
20	36,937

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Ordinances were passed during the session of 1901, mostly of local interest. But the following Ordinances may be mentioned as having an interest outside the Island.

Ordinance No. 10 of 1901.—To amend the law relating to the survey and detention of unseaworthy ships. This law is based on the Merchant Shipping Act of 1897 (60 & 61 Vict. cap. 59), and extends the law relating to the survey and detention of unseaworthy ships to undermanning. The Ordinance applies both to British and foreign ships.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1901.—To facilitate the investment of trust and other funds in the United Kingdom in Mauritius Government securities. This Ordinance is intended to fulfil the conditions required by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the investment of Trust Funds, and the effect will be to include Mauritius Government securities in the application of the Colonial Stock Act of 1900.

Ordinance No. 17 of 1901.—To amend Ordinances No. 28 of 1892 and No. 29 of 1895 (Customs), and the Schedules to the Customs Ordinances. This Ordinance introduces some amendments in the Customs Tariff, chiefly in connection with machinery and apparatus imported for local manufactures, and manure fertilizers and other substances imported for the use of agriculturists. The item III. of Schedule II. of Ordinance No. 28 of 1892—Table of articles prohibited to be imported—was amended so as to include indecent, obscene, seditious, or inflammatory prints and books.

Ordinance No. 22 of 1901.—To amend the Penal Code. Recasts the whole of the articles of the Penal Code on offences against morality and religion by words or writing, and with regard to libel and defamation.

EDUCATION.

Primary education in Mauritius is carried on by means of Government and Aided Schools. The Aided Schools are maintained by—

1. Fixed salaries to teachers.
2. Result grants.
3. Maintenance grants.

The Government Schools are supposed to be undenominational schools, but clergymen have access to them to teach pupils of their own creed. The Aided Schools are supposed to be denominational schools. In actual practice, however, the denominational schools are not denominational, as the following figures which give the religious creeds of the children attending the denominational schools tend to show:—

The Roman Catholic Schools were attended by—
6,241 Roman Catholic pupils,
19 Church of England pupils,
30 pupils of other Christian denominations,
294 Mahommedans, and
724 Hindoos.

The Church of England Schools were attended by—
453 Roman Catholics,
325 Church of England pupils,
6 of other Christian denominations,
354 Mahommedans, and
871 Hindoos.

The Presbyterian School was attended by—
73 Roman Catholics,
7 Church of England pupils,
72 of other Christian denominations.
20 Mahommedans, and
7 Hindoos.

The Mahommedan Aided School was attended by—
72 Roman Catholics,
7 Church of England pupils,
54 Mahommedans, and
67 Hindoos.

There were 166 Primary Schools in Mauritius in 1901 of which 72 were Government Schools and 94 Aided Schools.

The number on roll was—

For Government Schools	9,352
For Aided Schools	9,668
Total	19,020

The average attendance was—

Government Schools	5,584
Aided Schools	6,374
Total	11,958

The cost to Government for each pupil was—

	Rs.
For Government Schools	**16.02**
For Aided Schools	**10.53**

Secondary education is provided by the Royal College and two schools.

The following was the attendance:—

—	1900.	1901.
Royal College	169	171
Port Louis School	54	68
Curepipe School	116	102
Total	339	341

Of these 150 were free scholars.

Technical or industrial education is provided by three sets of apprenticeships, namely, engineering, horticultural, and needle-work apprenticeships.

Five apprenticeships, each tenable for five years, at the Government workshops, are awarded every year by competitive examination to boys under 16 years of age.

Two apprenticeships, each tenable for four years at the Botanical Gardens, are awarded every year by competitive examination to boys between 14 and 17.

Four needle-work apprenticeships, each tenable for three years and of the annual value of Rs. 100, are given every year by competitive examination to girls between 14 and 17 years of age.

The holders must follow the trade approved by the Needlework Committee.

The question of education in Mauritius is at present engaging the attention of the Government, and special arrangements are being made for improving the training of teachers by Normal Schools, and for the development of technical and industrial training.

HOSPITALS.

The following is a return showing the number of patients admitted and discharged in the various hospitals of Mauritius during the year 1901. It should be explained that the year was an unhealthy one, and that the sharp fall in the sick returns, which is generally well marked in September, was not well defined in 1901.

HOSPITALS.

Hospitals.	Number remaining in hospital at the beginning of the year 1901.	Number admitted during the year 1901.	Daily average in hospital during the year 1901.	Attendants.					Patients discharged.			Number who died in 1901.	Average stay of those			The largest time for which any inmate has stayed.
				Nurses doing no other duty.		Servants partially or not at all employed as nurses.										
				Day nurses.	Night nurses.	Not nurses.	Partial day nurses.	Partial night nurses.	Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.		Dead in 1901.	Discharged.	Remaining at the end of 1901.	
Port Louis—				(b)												Days.
Civil hospital—																
Males	98	4,319	141·	—	—	—	—	—	2,507	748	810	373	12·	11·	18·	138
Females ...	32	1,235	51·	—	—	—	—	—	543	302	135	136	10·	15·	25·	138
Prison hospital—																
Males	15	1,266	29·26	2	1	—	—	—	715	452	111	5	15·	8·7	5·4	81
Females(a) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Riviere du Rempart																
Poudre d'Or—																
Males	9	897	28·	2	1	6	—	1	562	177	109	41	12·	12·	26·	145
Females ...	2	408	12·	1	—	1	—	—	271	52	53	26	6·	11·	16·	68
Flacq—																
Males	31	977	37·8	6	2	6	—	2	773	157	19	68	18·4	14·7	21·2	180
Females ...	12	431	26·1	3	(c)	—	—	—	297	94	7	16	9·4	17·9	8·4	180

Grand Port—																
Males	24	1,305	52·	2	1	4	—	—	709	449	60	79	19·	14·	32·	242
Females ...	10	636	20·	3	—	1	—	—	427	147	29	36	14·	12·	7·	117
Savanne—																
Males	19	707	28·	2	1	8	—	—	370	164	126	61	237·	15·	44·	102
Females ...	12	359	16·	1	—	1	—	—	217	81	39	28	13·	16·	18·	85
Plaines Wilhems—																
New Central Prisons, Beau Bassin—																
Males ...	15	803	19·43	2	2	1	2	2	640	81	45	41	17·21	9·02	11·	98
Barkly Asylum Beau Bassin—																
Males	108	2,856	150·67	3	2	9	11	11	2,273	322	64	232	20·82	17·34	32·67	267
Females ...	24	874	29·04	1	—	—	2	2	620	112	34	110	14·14	12·04	35·13	155
Government reformatory, Rose Hill.																
Males	4	109	3·05	1	—	—	—	—	501	—	—	1	16 hrs.	7·42	3 days.	42
Moka—																
Males	22	457	27·	2	1	1	—	—	354	50	9	33	9·	21·	40·	289
Females ...	4	150	8·	2	1	—	—	—	129	20	3	12	8·	20·	12·	249

(*a.*) Female prisoners are treated at the civil hospital.

(*b.*) There is no nurse in the civil hospital. There are only warders, Sisters of Charity, and male and female servants. Male servants 34, females eight.

(*c.*) Night duty is performed by day nurses, two working every second night.

The annual recrudescence of malaria occurred early in March, and the epidemic was more severe than is customary during the two following months. The number of patients admitted in the various hospitals for malaria in 1901 was over four thousand, which represents an excess of 1,334 over the number of the previous year. The distribution of malaria was also wider than in previous years, and some districts previously considered healthy were attacked.

Dysentery also showed a considerable increase, and the return shows 799 cases of dysentery, with 143 deaths. The case mortality, it is satisfactory to note, has been considerably reduced, and excellent results have been obtained from the saline treatment.

There were 1,093 detected cases of plague in the Island. With the exception of a doubtful case at the Lunatic Asylum, no patient contracted the disease in any of the hospitals or institutions of the Colony. No connection has been found to exist between the recurrence of plague and meteorological or other conditions.

Fourteen cases of enteric were admitted into hospital, and there is no doubt that the disease is spreading.

Tuberculosis is also on the increase, and is much favoured by the condition of extreme poverty to which a large section of the people are necessarily condemned.

The months of March, April, and May are the months of the greatest mortality in the Island, but the unhealthy season extends from January to May. These months are favourable to the breeding of mosquitoes, and the early months of the year being the hottest tend to produce a condition of general debility which renders the body favourable to the reception of disease germs.

The population of Mauritius is fairly well protected by vaccination.

On the whole it may be said that whilst the Government and the Medical Department have striven so far as their limited financial resources permitted to improve the condition of the Island, disease and the condition which produce diseases have been on the increase. This is especially the case with poverty, one of the main causes of insanitary life and disease.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The Lunatic Asylum is situated at Beau Bassin at a height of 750 feet above sea level. The following are the statistics for the year:—

General Statistical Table.

—	Number admitted during 1901.	Daily average number during 1901.	Number of Attendants.				Discharged.			Number of Patients who died in 1901.	Average stay of those		
			Residents.		Non-residents.								
			Employed in attendance on Patients	Employed as Servants or partially as Attendants.	Employed in attendance on Patients.	Employed as Servants or partially as Attendants.	Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.		Died in 1901.	Discharged.	Remaining at end of 1901.
Male	81	245·83	2	1	34	12	9	35	25	17	1,084·00	1416·85	2,528·88
Female	46	154·05	4	—	12	2	1	18	15	13	2,127·23	1394·63	2,615·08
Total	127	399·88	6	1	46	14	10	53	40	30	1,556·06	1409·08	2,744·06

By far the greater number of admissions are due to mania. In fact, the numbers given for mania exceed the whole number classified under the heads idiocy, melancholia, dementia, and delusional insanity taken together.

POOR LAW RELIEF.

The Poor Law relief in Mauritius consists of both indoor and outdoor relief.

The indoor relief is given at the various hospitals, at the Leper Asylum, at the Barkly Asylum for the aged and infirm poor, and at the various convents as well as at the various dispensaries.

The outdoor relief consists in grants of food, money, and clothes.

Altogether there were 78,013 persons who received Poor Law relief in 1901.

Poverty and pauperism are on the increase in Mauritius, especially amongst the creole population. The habits of dependency engendered by the family system, and by the paternal and socialistic system which has so largely crept into the Administration tend to weaken the habits of self-help and self-reliance of the creole population. The Indian population are slowly but surely pushing the creole population to the wall, and with their habits of industry and self-reliance they must ultimately prevail. Unfortunately, the creole population have learnt to look to the Government in all times of Colonial, family, or personal misfortune or distress. Individualism has been destroyed by State interference and State aid, with results that are likely to be calamitous to the race.

The only resource remaining is apparently emigration, and as there are many good workmen amongst the creole population who by their intelligence and ability are capable of earning a good livelihood in South Africa, it is to be hoped that they may avail themselves of openings in that country.

POLICE.

The total effective strength of the Police Force on the 31st December, 1901, was 709. This total comprised 20 different nationalities.

207 were in possession of the good conduct medal, and 25 were dismissed during the year.

The following table gives the result of Police work in 1901, in the repression and detection of crime:—

Nature of Offences.	No. of cases.	No. of persons charged.
Serious offences reported to or detected by the Police, in which persons were charged.	2,049	2,532
Serious offences reported to or detected by the Police which formed the subject of inquiries, and in which no persons were charged.	7,956	282
Minor offences reported to or detected by the Police in which persons were charged.	5,474	7,326
Minor offences reported to or detected by the Police which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged.	3,917	—
Other offences against the Labour Law ...	750	750
Vagrancy	1,008	1,008
	21,154	11,898

The amount of property declared to have been stolen was valued at Rs. 19,316.47, of which Rs. 13,098.75, or 67 per cent., was recovered by all agencies, and Rs. 11,748, or 61 per cent., by the Police only.

PRISONS.

The total number of persons admitted to prison after conviction was 4,555 males and 235 females.

The following table shows a decreasing number of admissions:—

Year.	Males.	Females.
1897	7,374	380
1898	7,541	455
1899	5,237	249
1900	4,677	221
1901	4,555	235

The diminution is due to the working of Ordinance No. 38 of 1898, an Act equivalent to the First Offenders Act.

The number of persons under detention was 704 on the 31st December. But there is a large increase in the number of released prisoners reconvicted.

There was an increase of 1,325 in the number of prisoners sentenced in 1901 who had previously been convicted.

This shows that prison has not acted as a sufficient deterrent, and the Prison Regulations and Prison discipline are now under consideration with a view to amendment.

Of the prisoners convicted, 1,517 were sentenced for serious crimes, and 3,288 for minor offences.

Comparative table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years:—

—	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
The number of offences known to the Police or the Magistrates.	19,259	19,753	21,585	33,803
The number of persons apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates.	20,233	22,529	24,244	28,945
The number of convictions in Inferior Courts :—				
1. For offences against the person	651	826	817	694
2. For prædial larceny	255	250	252	547
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	1,506	1,381	1,326	1,768
4. For other offences	13,465	15,062	15 421	18,842
The number of convictions in the Supreme Court :—				
1. For offences against the person	12	11	13	21
2. For prædial larceny	—	—	—	—
3. For offences against the property other than prædial larceny.	7	7	11	31
4. For other offences	2	1	—	—
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the Inferior Courts ...	1,581	1,641	1,665	1,998
2. In the Supreme Court ...	12	34	3	19

The death-rate in the prison was 6·27 per cent. These figures show an improvement, but are still far above the figures that could be held to be satisfactory.

The question of the improvement in the health of the prisoners is engaging the constant attention of the Government, and it is hoped that reforms now in course of execution will have a beneficial effect.

The cost of housing the prisoners averaged Rs. 7.68 per head in 1901. The cost of feeding averaged Rs. 45.95, and the hospital charges, Rs. 9.66 per head.

The average cost of each prisoner, including clothing, but excluding guarding, was Rs. 75.45 per head.

The average cost of each prisoner, including guarding, &c., and all charges, was Rs. 170.85 per head.

The delicate and difficult question of prison labour was considered, and the proposal to introduce the Indian carpet industry received careful attention, but had to be abandoned as impracticable. At present, prison labour is confined to stone-breaking, to certain trades, such as basket-making, carpentering, and to gardening, or road-making.

REFORMATORY.

There were 208 boys sent to the Reformatory in 1901, which still retains its character of a boys' prison rather than a Reformatory. Some progress has been made in the Industrial Branch of the training. This is due to an increased amount of Government work. That the Reformatory does not reform the boys is evidenced by the fact that during the year 1901 131 ex-Reformatory boys passed through the prisons.

The trades taught are carpentering, tinsmith, basket-making, shoemaking, and gardening.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The year 1902 was the Census year throughout the Empire, and the Census of Mauritius was taken on the morning of Monday, the 1st April. This date corresponded with that of the Census in the United Kingdom, and probably with that adopted throughout a greater part of the Empire.

The result of the Census shows that the population of Mauritius on the 1st April was 373,336, and of the dependencies, 4,859; making a total of 378,195.

The following table compares the present Census with previous Censuses, and divides the population into two great classes—General and Indian—distinguishing the males and females of each class, but excluding the military and the crews of the shipping in harbour.

Dates of Censuses.	Year.	General Population.			Indian Population.			Total.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
August	1846	55,663	46,554	102,217	48,935	7,310	56,245	104,598	53,864	158,462
20th November... ...	1851	55,059	47,768	102,827	64,282	13,714	77,996	119,341	61,482	180,823
8th April	1861	61,346	56,070	117,416	141,615	51,019	192,634	202,961	107,089	310,050
11th April	1871	51,771	48,013	99,784	141,804	74,454	216,258	193,575	122,467	316,042
3rd April	1881	57,303	53,578	110,881	151,352	97,641	248,993	208,655	151,219	359,874
5th April	1891	58,539	56,129	114,668	147,499	108,421	255,920	206,038	164,550	370,588
1st April...	1901	56,452	55,485	111,937	143,100	115,986	259,086	199,552	171,471	371,023

From the above figures it will be seen that the population has increased during the last ten years by 435 only. That the General population (exclusive of Indians) has decreased by 2,731 (the males by 2,087 and the females by 644); while in the Indian population there has been an increase of 3,166, the males having decreased by 4,399, whilst the females increased by 7,565.

The death-rate in Mauritius is generally speaking quite as high as the birth-rate, and, in some cases, surpasses it. This it did in the years 1900 and 1901.

The death-rate among the Europeans, whites, mixed and coloured population compares less favourably with the birth-rate than among the Indian population.

In the Indian population the Indo-Mauritians have a highest birth-rate and lower death-rate than the other Indians.

It will be clear, therefore, that the population of Mauritius as a whole is becoming more and more Indian.

The Chinese population of Mauritius numbers 3,515, of whom 3,457 are males and only 58 females.

In the class of Indo-Mauritians the males and females are nearly equal, though there is an excess of males.

In the class of other Indians there are two males to one female.

But the Indianisation of Mauritius must be greatly accelerated as the proportion of Indian females increases.

Taking the whole population of the Colony, including Dependencies, the population was divided as follows:—

Males	204,540
Females	173,655

But the excess of the males over the females which was due to the importation of coolies is steadily decreasing.

In the matter of distribution it may be said that the population are leaving the unhealthy coast districts, including the unhealthy town of Port Louis, and migrating to the higher districts of the interior.

The population may be broadly divided into those employed on sugar estates and those not so employed. Of the total population, 144,505 were employed on sugar estates, and 215,369 not on sugar estates. The number living on estates is returned as being 23,811 less than at the previous Census; but this does not mean that fewer persons are engaged in sugar production, which has, as a matter of fact, largely increased. The explanation is that large portions of sugar estates and, in some cases, whole estates, have been sold to the Indians, who are cultivating sugar as peasant proprietors.

This tendency to "morcellement," or towards an Indian peasant proprietorship is further illustrated by the fact that whilst in 1881 there were 171 estates, in 1891 the number had been reduced to 131, and in 1901 it was further reduced to 115.

The average number per house of the whole population was 4·2. But it must be understood that the word house must, in this connection, be held to include such buildings as a shelter made of paraffin tins.

The density was 204 to the square kilometre, or 527 to the square mile.

There were 1,235 marriages performed by the Civil Status in 1901, and it is necessary to explain that with the exception of marriages "*in articulo mortis,*" the Civil Status marriage is the only legal marriage. But large numbers of Indians are married in accordance with Indian customs and by means of the ceremonial and religious rites traditional to their caste. These marriages, though recognised morally as such by the Indians, are not recognised by the law. It is well to keep this point in mind when criticising the percentage of illegitimate births in Mauritius.

The marriage rate per thousand gives 6·6 for 1901, as against 7·6 for 1900. To illustrate this figure it is as well to mention that the marriage rate for the United Kingdom for 1899 was 15·7.

But Jamaica for 1899 had a rate of only 5·0 per thousand.

There were 12,910 births in Mauritius in 1901. Of these, 6,614 were males and 6,296 females. The birth-rate for the General population was 34·0 and for the Indian population 35·1 per thousand.

Of these there were 8,187 illegitimate births, as against 9,553 in 1900. This gives a percentage of 63·4 as against 66 for 1900. But, as already explained, the statistics of illegitimacy must not be taken as any index of the morality of the people, at all events so far as the Indian population is concerned.

The mortality for the last five years is given below:—

Year.	Mortality.	Rate per 1,000.
1897	11,066	29.5
1898	12,064	31.9
1899	13,222	34.8
1900	13,691	34.8
1901	14,971	40.3

showing a steadily increasing death-rate.

To understand these figures, it is as well to compare them with the figures for the United Kingdom for 1899, which were 18·3 per 1,000, or those for Jamaica which were for the year 1900, 22·8.

The following is the death-rate of three towns during the last quarter of the year:—

Calcutta	33·6
Cairo	35·4
Port Louis (Mauritius)	85·7

It would be difficult to find a more eloquent argument in favour of sanitary reform in Port Louis than is given in the above figures.

During the year 1901 a disease appeared in Mauritius which has since been identified as Surra. It is still ravaging the estates on the southern side of the Island, but it has during the time that it has been on the Island devastated the stables and the herds of the planters. It is estimated that about one-third of the draught cattle have died and that nearly two-thirds of the mules have died. Attempts are being made to introduce mechanical instead of animal traction, but it is impossible to doubt that the sugar industry of Mauritius has received a fresh blow at a time when there were many other troubles to contend against.

CLIMATE.

The climate of Mauritius varies greatly in different localities. Broadly speaking, it is damper and cooler on the windward side of the Island than on the leeward, and it is most damp in the higher districts of the interior.

The Trade wind which is saturated with moisture is, when it reaches the higher levels, cooled down to the dew point, thus producing rain and mist.

The Royal Alfred Observatory is situated on the north-west or dry side of the Island, and the mean humidity for the year was observed to be 75 per cent. at the Observatory.

Two cyclones visited the Island in 1901, on January 12 and 13, and on February 25 and 26. The highest velocity of the wind recorded at the Observatory was 72·2 miles an hour, but from the damage done in other parts of the Island it is apparent that the velocity was not as high as that reached in the Moka District.

So far as is known there were four cyclones in the Indian Ocean in 1901.

The Island was visited by Mr. Maunder of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, who took fifty-three photographs of the total solar eclipse. The staff of the Observatory, aided by a volunteer staff from the Colony, co-operated to the best of their ability in their effort to make Mr. Maunder's observations a success.

POSTAL.

The contract entered into, for one year, with the British India Steam Navigation Company in 1900, and which ceased in April, 1901, for a regular four-weekly mail service between Mauritius and Colombo direct, and Colombo to Seychelles and thence to Mauritius and from here to Europe *viâ* Seychelles and Aden has not been renewed, but the British India continues performing the usual four-weekly service between Mauritius and Colombo, and back. In the interval other steamers of that Company arrive here from India with mails.

The Messageries Maritimes Mail Packets continued as heretofore, running between Marseilles and Mauritius and back twice a month. Since October, 1901, they call at Seychelles, once a month, to and fro.

The mails from South Africa were brought for the most part by the Clan Line steamers, not by the Castle Line. The service between the Cape, Natal, and Mauritius was very irregular on account of the war.

Postal parcels from England for Mauritius are now sent both by the British and French Packets, since October, 1901, but no parcel posts from Mauritius, prior to that date, were sent by the French Packets, either for England or France; this is now done. In 1901, a Postal Commission was appointed by His Excellency the Governor to suggest improvements in the working of the Post Office and Telegraph Department. The report of the Commission has been sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whose sanction is necessary before the suggestions made are carried out.

Since the latter end of 1901 we received, every day, weather telegrams from Rodrigues, through the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, Limited. These cablegrams are retransmitted, daily, by the Telegraph Department here to the Director of the Observatory at Pamplemousses.

TELEGRAPH.

There was no interruption in the telegraph service during the year 1901, notwithstanding the numerous cases of illness which prevailed amongst the staff.

The cyclones did not interfere with the wires.

The telegraph wires on the Midland, North, Savanne, Moka, and Moka-Flacq lines continued to work properly.

The leading in wires at several stations had to be renewed, especially in the wet districts.

The number and length of the telegraph wires were the same as in 1900, and are given in the following tables:—

TELEGRAPH WIRES.

The following are the telegraph wires in Mauritius:—

	miles.
Two wires start from Port Louis northwards, pass through all the stations on the north line, and terminate at Grand River, S.E.	31
Making the length of the two wires	62
A third wire, the Observatory wire, from the Signal Mountain, Port Louis, to the Observatory, Pamplemousses	12
At Mapou, on the North line, ten miles from Port Louis, two wires leave the station, one of them runs to Cannoniers' Point ...	7
And the other to Butte-aux-Sables	9
These two wires communicate direct with Port Louis by means of a switch.	
On the Midland line two wires extend from Port Louis to Mahebourg (36 miles) ...	72
A third wire to Savanne terminates at Chemin Grenier	41
Two Moka line wires from Port Louis through Rose Hill to Riviere Seche ...	72
Direct communication from the Moka line and Moka-Flacq line is established through Rose Hill.	
At Petite Riviere, 5 miles from Port Louis, a wire goes to Bambous	5
This also communicates direct with Port Louis and all the stations on the Midland Line.	
Total ...	280

The telegraph office at the Central Railway Station was removed by the railway authorities from the main building of the Central Station to a separate outhouse.

There is a telephonic service in Port Louis which is the property of a private company.

RAILWAYS.

Exclusive of sidings, there are 105 miles of railway of 4 feet 8½ inches gauge. The steepest gradient is 1 in 27. The sharpest curve is 720 feet radius. The railway, exclusive of the Government traffic, earned Rs. 2,116,047. The working expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,340,617, being a decrease of Rs. 44,463 on the previous year.

One new locomotive, 50 12-ton waggons and 12 30-ton bogie waggons were received from England during the year.

6,300 yards of line were relaid with new rails and sleepers.

Nine bridges were repaired. The bridges are calculated for a weight of 275 tons, and the heaviest engine was 54 tons weight.

Seven new sidings were constructed, whilst the stations and buildings and platforms received additions and repairs in nearly all cases.

MILITARY.

The troops in the Colony at the end of 1901 numbered 2,314, and were composed as follows:—

——	No.
Staff	1
Royal Artillery	273
Ceylon Mauritius Company's R.G.A. ...	210
Royal Engineers	121
Army Service Corps	3
Army Ordnance Corps	13
Royal Army Medical Corps	16
Army Pay Corps	1
19th Madras Infantry	839
18th Bengal Infantry	837
Total	2,314

To assist the maintenance of this garrison the Colony paid £29,054 to the military authorities.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

It is difficult to find anything new to say of Mauritius. Year after year sees the same fight with disease, hurricanes, and declining prices. The difficulties of the people and the condition of the country have been set forth in previous Reports.

There is nothing to add, and it would be wearisome to reiterate the dismal statistics of hospital reports, the technical speculation of the law of storms, or the melancholy record of a falling market.

But the year 1901 was an exceptional year in the history of Mauritius. The monotonous record was interrupted by an unusual event which calls for notice in this Report.

That year was the year of the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. The story of the tour and the visit has been told in books and journals more widely read than official publications, and it would be difficult at this date to find anything that could give fresh interest to or throw new light on the subject. But it may be safely affirmed that in no country that they visited did Their Royal Highnesses find a stranger mixture of races and languages than in Mauritius; in no country did they find a community more sorely tried by the anxieties of sickness and poverty.

But during the few short days of the Royal visit the sickness and poverty were forgotten, the various languages expressed but one thought, the various races were united by a common sentiment, the sentiment of loyalty to the kindly and courteous Prince, and of reverence and admiration for the gracious and stately Princess who brought a gleam of sunshine and sympathy into the hard struggle for existence which is the daily life of the Mauritian people.

The years in Mauritius are, for the most part, noted for the calamities they have brought. There is the hurricane year of 1892 when the Island was devastated and houses blown down. There is the year of the great fire, the plague year, the year of the drought and the years of the low prices and hard times. Their Royal Highnesses have broken the tradition and have named a year when the anxieties were forgotten in a happy memory. They have given us the year 1901 as the Prince's year.

About 100,000 people witnessed the arrival of Their Royal Highnesses, and about 6,000 children marched past them. Deputations representing all races and classes attended the Levee.

A convent was visited, and a sugar mill, for Their Royal Highnesses were interested in both the charities and industries of the Island. In return, the people tried to show the Island at its best, and by their cheerfulness and good humour proved that there is a silver lining to the cloud that has so long hung over Mauritius.

GRAHAM BOWER,

Colonial Secretary.

1st November, 1902.

RODRIGUES.

The Island of Rodrigues is a dependency of Mauritius, administered by a magistrate. It has recently become important as one of the stations of the Eastern Telegraph Company.

The revenue of the year 1901 was Rs. 19,549, as against Rs. 19,601 in 1900.

The expenditure was Rs. 22,402 in 1901, as against Rs. 22,425 in 1900.

The population consists of 1,820 males and 1,525 females, making a total of 3,345, mostly of African descent.

The spiritual needs of the population are supplied by a Roman Catholic priest, with a salary of Rs. 2,000; and the health of the population is cared for by a Government Medical Officer.

There is a hospital and two dispensaries.

The climate is healthy and the population tends to increase.

The industries are tobacco growing, cattle raising, and fishing.

There was formerly good deer shooting, but the deer have been greatly reduced in number by the inhabitants.

GRAHAM BOWER,
Colonial Secretary.

1st November, 1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 412.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1902.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 379.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1903.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
391	Gambia	1902
392	St. Helena	"
393	Hong Kong	"
394	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
395	Seychelles	"
396	Ceylon	"
397	Gold Coast	"
398	Barbados	1902–1903
399	Fiji	1902
400	Lagos	"
401	British Solomon Islands	1902–1903
402	Cocos-Keeling Islands	1903
403	St. Vincent	1902–1903
404	Grenada	1902
405	Southern Nigeria	"
406	Straits Settlements	"
407	Trinidad and Tobago	1902–1903
408	Basutoland	"
409	Northern Nigeria	1902
410	Malta	1902–1903
411	St. Lucia	1902

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.

No. 412.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 379).

GOVERNOR SIR CHARLES BRUCE to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House, Mauritius,
17th October, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1902, together with a report by Sir Graham Bower, K.C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

2. The year 1902 must long remain a year of melancholy interest by an epizooty of surra, which not only threatened the ruin of the sugar industry but seriously prejudiced every public and private interest in the Colony. The history of the disease and its consequences have formed the subject of a long series of despatches, but its consequences have so materially modified the operations of the year in nearly every Department of Government that a despatch on the Blue Book would be wholly inadequate without a brief summary of the more important consequences to which it has led. The appearance of the Blue Book on the eve of my departure from the Colony must be my excuse for reproducing what I have already said on the subject on another occasion, and, indeed, I do not know that with more time and leisure I should be able to give a more concise and intelligible record of the measures adopted to avert financial disaster and the imminent peril of the sugar industry.

3. My address to the Council of Government, in opening the present Session, of necessity dealt largely with the matter, and

I reproduce from it the following extract which may, I trust, be found of general interest. It records, at least, the heroic struggle of a community, sorely tried by a long period of adversity, to overcome, in a spirit of self-help and without appealing for foreign aid, a visitation not less calamitous, although it may appeal less forcibly to sentiment, than the disasters which have recently befallen other tropical islands.

The months that have elapsed since the Prorogation of Council in December last have been months of labour and anxiety. Never perhaps in the history of the Colony has its immediate agricultural prosperity been so dependent on the meteorological influences that affect it. These influences have been most favourable, and by God's mercy we may now look forward with reasonable hope to an abundant crop; but the work of transporting the canes and carrying the sugar has to be undertaken in the face of difficulties unprecedented in the history of the Colony. Experience has perfected, on all the greater estates, economical and well organised arrangements for transport by animal draught, while the requirements of the small planters have been met, and the general business of carters and carriers has been carried on by the independent but intelligent industry of a laborious class of men drawn chiefly from the Indian population. Within a year the disease known as surra everywhere dislocated, and in districts destroyed, the established system. The consequences have affected not only the sugar industry and business more or less directly connected with it, but every department of public and private activity. In particular serious difficulties have obstructed the work of sanitation both in urban and rural districts. The imperative task of creating a new system of transport in substitution for the established methods was all the more formidable inasmuch as at the moment when the disease of surra appeared the financial prosperity of the sugar industry had been checked by other causes. In these circumstances the havoc caused by the disease produced a twofold difficulty; funds were urgently required for the cultivation of the land for the coming crop; and not less urgently required for the establishment of means of transport without which the crop could not be realised.

So far as concerns the cultivation of the land during the critical period extending from December 1st to March 31st, the peril was averted by the operation of the Sugar Estates (Advances in Aid) Ordinance, which provided for advances to estates and *Bailleurs de fonds* out of a loan of £200,000 raised in England. There can be no doubt that the ready sanction given by the Secretary of State to this measure and the prompt and indefatigable energy of the Loan Board Commissioners in respect of the distribution of the loan saved the Colony from imminent disaster. Nor was the action of the Government free from anxiety and difficulty, for the needs to be met were most pressing and at the outset we were faced by the problem of how to make the proceeds of the loan raised in London immediately available in Mauritius. This difficulty had not presented itself in connection with the advances made to planters in 1898 because at that time specie payments were suspended and advances were made in currency notes. I was naturally averse to resorting to so extreme a measure as the temporary suspension of specie payments, and fortunately it was not necessary. The uninterrupted cultivation of the crop during the critical period of the hurricane season was thus secured.

In the meantime the substitution of mechanical for animal transport had been vigorously undertaken, and the amount of advances in aid of this work authorised by Ordinance No. 34 of 1902 was increased from £70,000 to £220,000. The advances approved under this Ordinance provide for the purchase of about 450 kilometres of superficial tramway lines; about 40 kilometres of aerial wire tramways; and 25 automobiles. In addition the Government has assisted estates by the construction of 17 sidings of a total length of about 14,000 feet in accordance with the terms of a resolution passed by the Council on the 17th June, 1902. The special expenditure incurred during the year in order to meet the increased traffic diverted to the railway has been very large ; it includes :

	Rs.
Four Locomotives	186,000.00
Enlargement to goods sheds	12,000.00
Eight miles rails	225,000 00
Fifty open wagons for canes	157,500.00
Traffic overtime from September to January, 1903 ...	16,913.39
Locomotive overtime from September to January, 1903	12,961.08
Crop expenses	14,480.00

It is hoped that what has been done will go far to meet the requirements of the larger estates and will enable them to assist to a considerable extent the small planters having contiguous holdings, but in order to meet the wants of areas occupied by small planters not in proximity to the mills of the larger estates it has been decided to proceed at once with the construction of the projected Long Mountain Railway at an estimated cost of about Rs. 110,000, as well as with the construction of a light railway line in the district of Savanne, designed to provide for the needs of a large area of land occupied by small planters. The estimated approximate cost of this light line is Rs. 60,000. The cost of these lines it is proposed to charge partly to the revenue of the current year and partly to the revenue of 1903–1904. I have asked the Secretary of State to sanction a loan for the construction of the projected Black River Line, and further schemes of railway extension will be submitted to you.

The foregoing measures provide chiefly for the wants of the rural districts. For the transport of grain and other merchandise from the quays to the railway station in Port Louis, three sidings are being constructed. It has been necessary also to make special provision for additional quay accommodation for the landing of tramway materials, and this has been effected by the removal of the workshops and other buildings at Caudan Basin to Plaine Lauzun, where all the railway works are now concentrated. Three additional sidings have also been constructed for the sanitary requirements of Port Louis and another is being constructed for the same purpose.

The events of the year have, of course, materially affected the estimated Revenue and Expenditure. Nevertheless, I am glad to be able to assure you that our financial position, though demanding prudence, need cause no anxiety.

I have, &c.

CHAS. BRUCE,

Governor.

INTRODUCTORY.

The delay caused by the printer must again be the apology for the late presentation of this Report. The printing contract, which lapsed owing to the failure of the Government contractor, has been divided amongst several establishments, which have also private work to attend to, and the arrangement cannot be pronounced satisfactory. It is probable that the Government will ultimately be compelled to do its own printing, but in the meanwhile, the delays, however vexatious, must be endured.

In accordance with instructions contained in the Secretary of State's despatch of the 23rd December, 1902, the returns of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 1902-3, though, owing to the delay caused by the printers, they have been received before the completion of the Report, have not been included. The Report, therefore, except in the case of a return relative to Tramways, and one relative to the Public Debt, does not go further than the end of December, 1902.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1902 was given in the Report for last year, but it will be convenient to reproduce from it the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years, which was as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1897	7,996,705	8,626,798	899,336
1898	7,629,318	8,131,465	438,866
1899	9,066,314	8,406,227	1,077,715
1900	8,568,943	9,179,975	1,704,424
1901-02	9,043,066	8,568,943	1,834,669

The Public Debts stood as follows on the 30th June, 1902:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings ...	42.193	10	0
2. Moka Railway 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings ...	400	0	0
Carried forward	42,593	10	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	42,593	10	0
3. Consolidated 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings... ...	57,800	0	0
4. Mauritius Inscribed Stock, under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887, including loan made for Mare-aux-Vacoas—£34,000	482,390	16	0
5. Hurricane Loan, 1892, 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock under Ordinance 4 of 1892	600,000	0	0
	£1,182,984	6	0

The following table, extracted from a Minute of His Excellency the Governor, shows the Debt of Mauritius classified in productive and unproductive loans on the 5th September, 1903. The return speaks for itself, and shows that the Colonial Government is financially in a strong position:—

PUBLIC DEBT OF MAURITIUS.

Loans.	Amounts.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Railway Loans—						
Borrowed under Ordinance No. 10 of 1876	66,700	0	0			
" " " No. 10 of 1879	96,700	0	0			
" " " No. 1 of 1887	446,391	0	0			
" " " No. 2 of 1887	800	0	0			
" " " No. 4 & 12 of 1892	54,000	0	0			
Total Railway Debt	—			664,591	0	0
2. Mare-aux-Vacoas—						
Borrowed under Ordinance No. 22 of 1887	36,000	0	0			
" " " No. 4 & 12 of 1892	60,816	0	0			
Total Mare-aux-Vacoas Debt	—			96,816	0	0
3. Sundries—						
Borrowed under Ordinances 4 & 12 of 1892, on account of the Central Prisons, the Hurricane Expenditure, and the Deficit 1892.	—			85,184	0	0
4. Loan Office—						
Borrowed under Ordinances Nos. 4 & 12 of 1892	400,000	0	0			
" " Ordinance No. 43 of 1902	200,000	0	0[°]			
" " " No. 34 of 1902	?[†]					
Total Loan Office Debt	—			600,000	0	0
				1,446,591	0	0

[°] To be repaid in two years; will leave a profit of Rs.100,000.

[†] Not yet raised; will leave a profit.

PRODUCTIVE and UNPRODUCTIVE LOANS.

—	Annual Charges.	Total.	Annual Revenue.	Dead Weight.
1. Railways—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
a. Annual charges on account of debt.	495,346			
b. Maintenance and working expenses.	1,460,577*			
		1,955,923	1,905,579*	50,344.
2. Mare-Aux-Vacoas—				
a. Annual Charge on account of debt.	63,489.60			
b. Maintenance and working expenses.	53,748.88			
		117,238.48	36,557.33	80,681.15
3. Sundries—				
a. Annual charge on account of debt.		51,110.40		51,110.40
Total Annual Dead Weight	...	...	...	182,135.55
4. Loan Office—				
a. Annual charge on account of debt.	240,000.			
b. Working expenses ...	14,631.42			
		254,631.42	300,000	45,368.58 (Surplus)
Net Annual Dead Weight	...	...	...	136,766.97

* Calculated on the Revenue and Expenditure of the last five years.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The Town Council of Port Louis is elective, being the only purely elective institution in the Island. The following statement shows the financial position at the end of 1902:—

	Rs.
Balance in hand	45,296.19
Revenue and receipts	574,727.70
Total	620,023.89
Expenditure	592,893.09
Balance carried forward on 31st December	Rs. 27,130.80

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1898	455,157.96	478,183.17
1899	432,911.00	424,385.92
1900	435,264.53	433,351.95
1901	442,854.46	448,214.52
1902	*442,825.20	472,875.39
Total ...	2,209,013.15	2,257,010.95

* Not including a loan of Rs 30,000 for Municipal Night Soil Service and Manure Factory.

The following is a statement of the debts of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis on 31st December, 1902, showing provision for payment in 1903:—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayment to be made in 1903.
	£	£
Conversion Loan	126,400	1,400
	Rs.	Rs.
Colonial Loan	54,600	7,800
Grand River Bridge Loan	18,000	2,000
Manure Establishment Loan	28,000	2,000
Government Hurricane Loan	106,756.36	5,331.55
Overflood Loan	25,000.04	4,166.66
Total	—	21,298.21

Provision for payment of principal and interest on the above loans is included in the Budget of the Corporation, Item IV.

The following statements relate to the Boards of Curepipe, Beau-Bassin and Rose-Hill, and Quatre Bornes. These Boards are all nominee Boards:—

BOARD OF BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the Years 1898–1902.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1898 ...	22,709.87	20,439.04
1899 ...	23,298.56	23,626.60
1900 ...	22,905.09	25,377.09
1901 ...	28,252.08	27,520.54
1902 ...	29,442.81	33,133.34

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF QUATRE BORNES.

Comparative Statement of Total Revenue and Expenditure from January 1st, 1898, to December 31st, 1902.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs	Rs.
1898 ...	9,537.79	8,724.85
1899 ...	10,054.90	9,189.68
1900 ..	10,060.70	11,418.02
1901 ...	12,827.14	10,148.34
1902 ...	13,627.55	13,454.95
Total ...	56,108.08	52,935.84

Debt—Nil.

	Rs.
Balance in Commercial Bank on 31st December, 1902...	3,086.74
In Treasurer's hands	85.50
Total ...	3,172.24

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR CUREPIPE.

(A.)--*Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.*

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	59,863.74	61,568.61	59,759.18	115,590.13	121,322.79
Expenditure...	57,550.88	59,085.14	57,108.48	88,426.58	120,286.57

(B.)—*Debts of the Board of Curepipe.*

	Rs.	Rs.
1. Amount of debentures issued in 1901 and 1902 for the construction of the Town Hall in virtue of Ordinance No. 39 of 1900	70,000	
Amount paid off in 1902	2,500	
		67,500
2. Balance of sale price of a piece of land purchased by the Board		4,000
Total ...		71,500

This sum is to be paid out of the General Revenue of the Board. Article 9 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1900 enacts that 25 of the Debentures issued shall be payable in every year.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

VALUE of IMPORTS (exclusive of Charges and Exchange) and EXPORTS (exclusive of Shipping Charges).

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
1. Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	11,814,488 14	11,875,934 03	26,845,267.07	29,963,911.29	243,523 26	167,627.11	27,088,790.33	30,131,538.40
2. Raw Materials :—								
1. Textile ...	9,737.36	10,058.52	339,849.98	901,804.32	1,240.00	8,445.00	341,089,98	910,248.32
2. Metal... ...	10,821.04	2,927.20	—	—	12,119.20	16,164.50	12,119.20	16,164.50
3. Other... ...	1,780,731.37	1,500,998.97	45,993.74	14,639.16	75,714.14	31,129.07	121,707.88	45,768.23
3. Manufactured Articles :—								
1. Textile ...	2,226,901.58	1,966,821.34	—	150.00	63,817.33	56,262.38	63,817.33	56,412.38
2. Metal... ...	1,242,377.47	1,415,552.76	64,746.00	46,826.00	34,606.87	32,014.96	99,352.82	72,840.96
3. Other... ...	4,117,612 89	3,714,882.76	9,590.02	16,728.85	245,458.68	550,684.69	255,048.70	567,413.49
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	47,889.39	1,434 738.42	—	—	1,133,138.00	4,403,260.00	1,133,138.00	4,403,260.00
Total ...	21,250,559.24	21,917,914.00	27,305,446.81	30,938,059·62	1,869,617.48	5 265,587.66	29,115,064.29	36,203,647.28

VALUE of IMPORTS (exclusive of Charges and Exchange) and EXPORTS (exclusive of Shipping Charges).

Coastwise.

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901	1902.	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	144,577.62	385,555.67	16,496.48	17,769.46	169,443.79	181,555.44	185,940.27	199,324.90
2. Raw Material :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	—	—	—	367.00	—	367.00
2. Metal... ...	—	—	—	—	—	134.00	—	134.00
3. Other... ...	41,638.53	48,678.67	19.00	5,476.60	2,017.50	5,342.15	2,036.50	10,818.75
3. Manufactured Articles :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	18.00	44.00	61,718.37	63,970.87	61,636.37	64,014.87
2. Metal ...	—	—	1,157.05	921.90	18,047.42	14,684.81	19,204.47	15,606.31
3. Other... ...	288,534.00	1 294.95	5,835.03	3,639.18	48,235.46	53,577.89	54,070.49	57,217.07
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	—	—	—	—	—	20,000 00	—	20,000.00
Total ...	474,750.15	435,529.29	23,525.56	27,851.14	299,462.54	339,631.76	322,988.16	367,482.90

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the VALUE of the CHIEF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (exclusive of Charges and Exchange).

Articles	Imports.		Exports.			
			1901.		1902.	
	1901.	1902.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	295,013	388,740	455	8,740	25	3,150
Apothecary wares	145,016	114,288	—	—	—	—
Apparel, Wearing	67,936	96,536	30	5,015	110	22,081
Bags and Pockets (empty)...	757,892	610,112	7,477	21,383	3,973	136,745
Bicycles	15,230	18,020	—	334	—	1,140
Brass and copper wares	145,701	45,862	—	15,474	—	14,923
Coals	856,041	545,329	—	128,440	—	10
Corn, grain flour, &c.	8,610,038	8,519,749	36	74,145	—	70,077
Cotton manufactures	847,600	1,045,003	—	22,715	—	40
Earthen and china wares	35,258	32,719	—	3,058	10	646
Fibre Aloe	—	—	339,850	—	901,804	—
Glass and Glass Wares	39,356	49,835	—	1,573	—	1,161
Haberdashery	387,894	365,486	—	9,996	—	27,524
Hardware and cutlery	510,323	506,794	3,324	15,575	—	8,842
Hats	53,088	45,452	—	573	—	4,817
Jewellery, Clocks, &c.	58,839	55,132	—	1,425	—	11,335
Leather (wrought and unwrought)	150,341	156,833	16,434	7,343	8,534	35,801

Machinery and millwork	230,473	515,359	61,422	500	40,826	202
Malt liquors, wines, spirits...	681,950	637,152	88,400	17,759	27,973	2,365
Manures and fertilizers	1,440,862	1,178,224	2	2,082	—	1,686
Matches	38,306	44,481	—	3,001	—	990
Meat (fresh frozen)	—	127,074	—	—	—	—
Molasses	4	—	240,720	—	817,158	—
Oils of all kinds	984,376	836,850	15,077	39,623	127,945	46,368
Painters', Dyers' colours, &c.	81,954	64,447	—	1,001	—	129
Provisions, preserved	1,166,826	1,164,563	15,635	22,540	14,127	41,516
Seeds of all sorts	56,946	32,336	2,146	1,809	271	323
Soap	101,517	151,482	135	282	151	314
Stationery	113,346	116,860	—	2,146	5	4,927
Sugar...	835	1,379	26,378,852	—	28,866,254	—
Timber and wooden ware	679,040	591,554	—	—	5,394	56,077
Tobacco (manufactured and unmanufactured)	197,545	285,644	—	2,972	29	5,436
Paper, cigarette	14,408	17,403	—	335	—	499
Toys	31,830	22,806	—	552	—	2,501
Umbrellas and parasols	23,447	24,716	—	1,872	—	24
Vanilla	19,136	11,600	119,201	77,889	109,779	13,656
Woollen manufactures	151,975	102,959	—	1,979	—	—
Miscellaneous	2,212,328	1,960,357	14,416	148,928	13,677	345,430
Total	21,202,670	20,483,176	27,305,447	676,479	30,938,060	862,327
Bullion and specie	47,889	1,434,738	—	1,133,138	—	4,403,260
Grand total	21,250,559	21,917,914	27,305,447	1,809,617	30,938,060	5,265,587

CUSTOMS.

The following statement shows the value of goods imported to and exported from Mauritius during the year ended 31st December, 1902:—

IMPORTS.

—	Value in Rupees of the total Imports, exclusive of Charges and Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	4,989,106.65	3,235,143.41	8,224,250.06
British Possessions	13,708,782.86	3,214,223.37	16,923,006.23
Foreign Countries	3,220,024.49	2,371,497.33	5,591,521.82
Grand Total... ...	21,917,914.00[°]	8,820,864.11	30,738,778.11

EXPORTS.

—	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Shipping Charges on Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	4,119,413.14	251,497.58	245,940.27	4,616,850.99
British Possessions.	26,415,652.84	1,861,334.15	4,799,427.65	33,076,414.64
Foreign Countries	402,993.64	25,216.54	220,219.74	648,429.92
Total ...	30,938,059.62	2,138,048.27	5,265,587.66	38,341,695.55[†]

[°] Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion imported, Rs. 1,434,738.42.

[†] Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion exported, Rs. 4,403,260.00.

TRADE OF MAURITIUS.

1. **The total** value of imports into, and exports from, the Colony (exclusive of duty-free goods to and from the Dependencies)

for the year ending 31st December, 1902, compared with 1901, is as follows:—

—	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	31,679,842.99	30,738,778.11
Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	29,134,452.71	36,203,647.28
Total	60,814,295.70	66,942,425.39

Accounted as under:—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	9,607,926.11	8,224,250.06	3,223,952.95	4,365,353.41
British Possessions.	15,645,021.27	16,923,006.23	24,582,123.22	31,215,080.49
Foreign Countries.	6,426,895.61	5,591,521.82	1,328,376.54	623,213.38
Total ...	31,679,842.99	30,738,778.11	29,134,452.71	36,203,647.28

2. The total value of imports and exports from and to the Dependencies, per Coast Sufferances, is recorded thus:—

—	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	474,750.15	435,529.29
Exports	322,988.10	367,482.90
Total	797,738.25	803,012.19

3. The aggregate value of trade is, therefore, as under:—

—	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	32,154,593.14	31,174,307.40
Exports	29,457,440.81	36,571,130.18
Total	61,612,033.95	67,745,437.58

4. The figures in No. 1 and No. 3 include the value of exported postal parcels despatched by the Post Office; they have not in previous years been shown as part of the trade of the Colony. The imported postal parcels have, as hitherto, been included in the imports. The import and export value of parcels is given further on.

5. Excluding the value of exports to and imports from the Dependencies, the rate of trade per head of population was as follows:—

—	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	83.83	81.34
Exports (exclusive of shipping charges)...	77.09	95.80

The difference in the rate of trade for exports is attributable to the larger amount of specie exported in 1902, as compared with 1901.

6. The value of specie and bullion, imported and exported, is as follows:—

—	1901.		
	Value.	Charges.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imported	47.889.39	12,625.81	60.515.20
Exported	1,133,138.00	—	1,133,138.00
Total	1,181,027.39	12,625.81	1,193,653.20

—	1902.		
	Value.	Charges.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imported	1,434,738.42	70,689.10	1,505,427.52
Exported	4,403,260.00	—	4,403,260·00
Total	5,837,998.42	70,689.10	5,908,687.52

7. Deducting specie and bullion, the value of the imports and exports mentioned in paragraph 1 is as follows:—

—	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	31,619,327.79	29,233,350.59
Exports	28,001,314.71	31,800,387.28
Total...	59,620,642.50	61,033,737.87

8. The amount of duty collected (including for 1902 the surcharge of 4 per cent. on imports, levied from 1st August, 1902, and amounting to Rs. 35,998.42), was as follows:—

—	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	2,850,884.22	2,611,411.70
Exports	504,583.29	485,235.10
Total...	3,355,467.51	3,097,645.71

9. Return B is a comparative statement of the value of the chief articles of imports and exports for the years 1901 and 1902.

In this return, automobiles and tramway materials were, according to entries in the Blue Book for 1902, included under the heading "Machinery." Orders have been given to enter such goods under their proper heading in future.

POSTAL PARCELS.

10. The declared value of the postal parcels imported and exported during the past five years is as under:—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imported ...	125,633.85	184,625.50	183,425.50	214,534.60	231,993.73
Exported ...	13,178.92	14,584.42	18,940.26	19,388.42	20,628.64
Total ...	138,812.77	199,209.92	202,365.76	233,923.02	252,622.37

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

11. The total value of imports and exports for the last five years, 1898-1902, is as under:—

Year.	Imports Including Charges and Exchange.	Exports Including Shipping Charges.
	Rs.	Rs.
1898	28,326,008.29	31,866,437.07
1899	28,180,979.14	27,381,160.50
1900	31,427,401.72	33,550,973.94
1901	31,679,842.99	30,842,305.66
1902	30,738,778.11	38,341,695.55

IMPORTS.

12. Detail of the Articles.—Dealing with the articles and their value according to the entries (where the differences are over Rs. 5,000), the following results are to be noted:—

Acid-Phosphoric.

Which was exclusively imported from the United Kingdom, shows a decline in quantity of kilos. 4,307 in 1902, but an increase in value of Rs. 8,480 over the imports of the preceding year.

Ammonia Sulphate.

The imports decreased from kilos. 4,754,695, of the value of Rs. 949,485 in 1901, to kilos. 2,547,670, of the value of Rs. 535,917, in 1902; the whole quantity for the past year being imported from the United Kingdom, while Australia supplied none last year, against kilos. 285,288, of the value of Rs. 54,837, in 1901.

Animals.

Cows and Oxen.—In 1901 the imports amounted to 1,124 head, of the value of Rs. 113,695; Continental India and Madagascar supplying 364 and 758 head, of the value of Rs. 47,775 and Rs. 65,827, respectively.

In 1902, Madagascar provided 5,369 head, of the value of Rs. 521,352, showing an increase of 4,611 in number, and Rs. 555,525 in value, for the past year.

Horses.—The total number imported in 1901 amounted to 366, valued, Rs. 120,952, against 768, valued, Rs. 120,952, against 768, valued, Rs. 213,760, imported in 1902; the imports from Australia and Sandalwood showing respective increases of

218 and 126 in number, and Rs. 111,746 and Rs. 15,951 in value for 1902.

Mules decreased in number from 1,030, of the value of Rs. 459,907, in 1901, to 687, of the value of Rs. 174,498, in 1902.

Sheep and goats increased in number from 171, of the value of Rs. 3,341, in 1901, to 457, of the value of Rs. 8,314, in 1902; Argentine Confederation provided a surplus in 1902 of 326 head in number and Rs. 4,973 in value over 1901.

Swine decreased in number from 120, of the value of Rs. 3,565, in 1901, to 94, valued, Rs. 11,506, in 1902, but with an increase of Rs. 7,951 in value over 1901; the imports being chiefly from Argentine Republic.

Apothecary Wares.

The decrease under this head in 1902 is Rs. 45,311. British and French produce show a decrease of Rs. 9,667 and Rs. 35,251 respectively, as compared with 1902.

Wearing Apparel.

The imports in 1902 show an increase of Rs. 35,390, as compared with imports of 1901. Continental India, France, Pondicherry show respective suplus of Rs. 24,970, Rs. 9,032, and Rs. 7,133 over 1901; while a decrease of Rs. 4,711 is noticed for the United Kingdom. A large quantity is now received by postal parcels.

Areca Nuts.

Have increased from kilos. 27,356, of the value of Rs. 6,446, in 1901, to kilos. 47,115, of the value of Rs. 12,404; the increase being chiefly from Continental India.

Asphaltum.

The imports for 1902 amounted to kilos. 9,144, of the value of Rs. 515, against kilos. 71,374, of the value of Rs. 6,136, for 1901, showing a decrease of Rs. 5,621 in value, and kilos. 62,230 in weight; the article being exclusively imported from the United Kingdom.

Bacon and Hams.

The imports in 1902 show a decrease of kilos. 17,926 in quantity, and Rs. 30,910 in value, as compared with 1901. The produce of the United Kingdom exhibit the substantial decrease of Rs. 22,981.

Luggage.

Dutiable articles increased in value from Rs. 47,712 in 1901 to Rs. 56,243 in 1902.

Bags.

Gunny.—There has been a decrease of 878,579 in number and Rs. 146,537 in value, as compared with imports of 1901.

Straw.—The imports for 1902, as compared with 1901, show a decrease of Rs. 22,246 in value, but an increase of 8,000 in number.

Vacoa.—Increased from 9,425 bags, valued, Rs. 1,763, in 1901, to 20,750 bags, valued, Rs. 3,362, in 1902.

Bark and Dyewood.

The imports from Australia increased from kilos. 59,922, of the value of Rs. 7,495, in 1901, to kilos. 81,814, of the value of Rs. 12,985, in 1902.

Beef (Salt).

The quantity imported in 1902 shows a substantial decrease, Rs. 68,898, as compared with 1901. Kilos. 270,066, of the value of Rs. 133,849, were imported in 1901, against kilos. 110,125, of the value of Rs. 64,951, in 1902. British, Australian, and American produce exhibit decreases of Rs. 3,544, Rs. 4,993, and Rs. 67,655.

Beer and Ale.

In casks.—This article exclusively imported from the United Kingdom, shows for 1902 an increase of 987 hectolitres in quantity and Rs. 8,723 in value over the imports of 1901.

In bottles.—Increased from 77,200 litres, of the value of Rs. 31,878, in 1901, to 116,441 litres, of the value of Rs. 50,074, in 1902.

The chief increases are noticeable specially under United Kingdom and Germany, and amount to Rs. 10,485 and Rs. 6,922 respectively.

Blacking.

Increased from Rs. 7,370 in 1901 to Rs. 15,661 in 1902. United Kingdom and France showing increases of Rs. 6,574 and Rs. 8,718 respectively.

Books, Printed.

The value of books shows an increase of Rs. 12,190 over the imports of 1901. The chief increases being from the United Kingdom, Continental India, and France.

Bran.

Compared with 1901, the imports of 1902 show a total decrease in value of Rs. 11,187. There is an increase in quantity, kilos. 224,324, and value, Rs. 43,299, from Continental India, while the imports from Australia and Argentine Republic show the large decrease of Rs. 17,993 and Rs. 20,087 respectively. These decreases are accountable to the less number of animals which were imported in 1902 from these places.

Brassware and Brass Ornaments.

These two items were amalgamated in 1901. They are entered under separate headings for 1902. The aggregate value of the imports amounted in 1902 to Rs. 22,544, against Rs. 129,055 in 1901, showing a decrease of Rs. 106,511—the United Kingdom, Continental India, and France showing decreases of Rs. 100,403; Rs. 6,007, and Rs. 597 respectively. Austria, Germany, and China supplied brass ornaments for a small value in 1902, against no supply of brassware in the previous year.

Bricks and Tiles.

Increased from 122,228 in number and Rs. 11,495 in value in 1901 to 299,568 in number and Rs. 33,219 in value in 1902, the United Kingdom showing an increase of 33,932 over the imports of 1901; while a decrease of Rs. 2,208 is noted from France.

Butter.

There is, for 1902, an increase in quantity, of kilos. 10,507, and in value of Rs. 23,587, over the imports of 1901. Increases are noticed under Australia, Denmark, France, and Holland, while the United Kingdom and the United States exhibit decreases. Canada, Belgium, and Switzerland supplied none in 1902, while a small quantity was supplied by Nova Scotia.

Bicycles.

This item for 1902 exhibits a decrease of 12 in number, as compared with 1901, while an increase of Rs. 5,276 in value is to be noted.

Cabinet and Upholstery Wares.

The increase in 1902 over 1901 amounts to Rs. 64,094. Goods from United Kingdom show an increase of Rs. 11,907, while decreases are noticed from the United States, France, Germany, and Austria.

Camphor.

Crude.—The increase in value under this head is Rs. 4,518. The imports from the United Kingdom in 1902 amount to Rs. 3,381, against Rs. 9 in 1901, and from Holland, Rs. 1,119, against none for 1901.

Candles.

Composition.—Exhibit a surplus both in weight and value, *i.e.*, Rs. 16,962, in 1902 in excess of 1901. The value of imports from the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, and Continental India has increased by Rs. 3,574, Rs. 11,926, Rs. 11,327, and Rs. 6,476 respectively, while Germany supplied none in 1902, against the value of Rs. 731 in 1901. Holland supplied kilos. 6,127 of the value of Rs. 4,115 in 1902, against none in 1901.

Caoutchouc, India-Rubber Manufactures.

The decrease in 1902 in weight is kilos. 2,141, and in value, Rs. 12,586, as compared with 1901. This article is exclusively supplied by the United Kingdom.

Carts and Waggons.

None supplied in 1902. In 1901, the Government Railways imported from the United Kingdom 20 waggons of the value of Rs. 49,653.49, and the United States supplied one cart, valued, Rs. 158.39.

Casts of Statues and Busts.

Increased in value from Rs. 913, for 1901, to Rs. 13,694 for 1902. The articles were imported chiefly from France and the United Kingdom.

Cement.

The imports for 1902 show a decrease in weight of kilos. 381,813 and of Rs. 75,720 in value. The United Kingdom and France show decreases of Rs. 72,171 and Rs. 3,560 respectively.

Cheese.

Decreased in 1902, as compared with imports, 1901, of kilos. 14,626 in weight and Rs. 27,607 in value, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Holland showing distinct decreases.

Choorah.

Decreased in weight from kilos. 63,210, valued, Rs. 9,701, in 1901, to kilos. 29,921, valued, Rs. 4,218, imported in 1902.

Coals.

The quantity imported in 1902 was kilos. 49,016,577, of the value of Rs. 1,422,401, as against kilos. 79,165,606, of the value of Rs. 2,224,833, in 1901. The United Kingdom, Australia, and Continental India show decreases in weight of kilos. 21,649,492, kilos. 3,385,956, and kilos. 5,113,581, and in value, of Rs. 606,535, Rs. 36,819, and Rs. 158,278 respectively. The decreases are attributable to fewer steamers calling for coal since the cessation of the South Africa War.

Coffee.

Increased in weight of kilos. 375,420, in 1901, to kilos. 393,986 in 1902, but decreased in value from Rs. 207,639 to Rs. 176,118, the principal decrease in the value of the coffee being from Continental India, Ceylon, Singapore, Java, Pondicherry, Aden, and the United States. Arabia supplied none in 1902.

Copper.

Bars (red).—The imports in 1902 amounted to kilos. 4,903, valued, Rs. 3,975, as against kilos. 6,534, valued, Rs. 10,708, for the past year, showing a decrease in value of Rs. 6,733, as compared with 1901.

Bars (yellow).—Increased from kilos. 4,253, of the value of Rs. 4,553, in 1901, to kilos. 7,222, of the value of Rs. 9,552, this article being chiefly imported from the United Kingdom.

Bars (old).—The imports from the United Kingdom decreased from kilos. 8,840, of the value of Rs. 9,026, in 1901, to kilos. 7,412, valued, Rs. 4,685, in 1902, showing a decline in value of Rs. 3,341.

Sheets and Nails (red).—Decreased from kilos. 34,761, valued, Rs. 56,443, in 1901, to kilos. 11,809, valued, Rs. 13,224, showing a falling off of Rs. 45,219 for 1902. France, Belgium, and the United States, which supplied in 1901 for Rs. 39,032, Rs. 14, and Rs. 8,779 respectively, sent none in 1902.

Sheets and Nails (yellow).—Increased in weight from kilos. 24,109, in 1901, to kilos. 32,924 in 1902, with a decrease in value of Rs. 11,962.

Cordage.

Coir.—The imports for 1902 show an increase of kilos. 30,568 in weight, and of Rs. 5,060 in value over those in 1901.

Hemp.—Decreased from kilos. 49,595, of the value of Rs. 33,377, in 1901, to kilos. 20,717, of the value of Rs. 13,026. Net shortage in weight of kilos. 28,878, and decrease in value of Rs. 20,351. Hong Kong supplied none in 1902, against kilos. 13,972, valued, Rs. 16,467, for 1901.

Oiled.—Increased from kilos. 692, of the value of Rs. 602, in 1901, supplied by the United Kingdom only, to kilos. 9,902, of the value of Rs. 5,474, in 1902, the United Kingdom and

Continental India providing for the value of Rs. 3,204 and Rs. 2,270 respectively.

Cordials and Liquors.

Decreased from 8,606 litres, of the value of Rs. 21,400, in 1901, to 4,498 litres, of the value of Rs. 12,722, in 1902. Net decrease, Rs. 8,224, French produce showing a decrease of Rs. 7,896.

Corks and Bungs.

The imports for 1902 show an increase of 2,912,650 in number and of Rs. 6,717 in value, as compared with 1901—an increase of Rs. 7,356 to be noticed under France.

Corn Flour.

The imports for 1902 show an increase of kilos. 110,713 in weight, and of Rs. 22,040 in value over 1901. Continental India supplied in 1902 kilos. 102,350, valued, Rs. 15,123, against none in 1901.

Corn, Grain, Meal, &c.

Barley.—The total decrease in 1902 in weight is kilos. 260,758, and in value Rs. 35,418, as compared with 1901. Continental India provided only Rs. 2,303 in 1902, against Rs. 11,245 in 1901, while Australia and Argentine Confederation supplied none in 1902, against Rs. 4,078 and Rs. 22,411 respectively in 1901.

Dholl.—This article has also largely decreased in 1902, both in quantity and in value, the imports being short of kilos. 1,879,049 and of Rs. 305,551, as compared with 1901.

Gram.—Shows for 1902 a decrease in weight of kilos. 2,559,419, and in value of Rs. 45,206, as compared with 1901.

Lentils show for 1902 a decrease in weight of kilos. 225,403, and in value of Rs. 39,336, as compared with 1901.

Oats show a total decrease in weight (for 1902) of kilos. 4,663,215, and in value of Rs. 56,610, as compared with 1901. Australian produce decreased by Rs. 84,060. The Argentine Republic sent none in 1902, against Rs. 19,691 in 1901. Continental India shows an increase of Rs. 49,396 in value.

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The decrease in the import of barley, husks, oats, gram, and dholl is mainly due to the effects of surra upon the beasts of burden. The enormous loss of animals has naturally resulted in a decreased importation of forage.

Peas.—The imports for 1902 amounted to kilos. 304,219 of the value of Rs. 57,448, showing a surplus over 1901 of kilos.

112,639 in weight, and of Rs. 23,261 in value. Continental India shows a shortage of Rs. 11,117, while Madagascar shows a surplus of Rs. 34,271.

Rice.—Compared with 1901, the imports for 1902 show a decrease in weight of kilos. 1,843,084, but an increase in value of Rs. 511,263. Straits Settlements provided kilos. 225,000, valued, Rs. 35,845, against none in 1901; while Cochin China supplied none in 1902, against kilos. 150,150, valued, Rs. 18,093, in 1901. Continental India supplied kilos. 64,193,968, of the value of Rs. 6,937,161, for 1901, against kilos. 61,935,279 of the value of Rs. 7,373,644, for 1902, showing thereby a decrease in weight of kilos. 2,258,689, but an increase in value of Rs. 336,483. China provided, for 1901, kilos. 198,323, of the value of Rs. 23.284, against kilos. 494,844, of the value of Rs. 74,705, in 1902, showing an increase in weight of kilos. 296,521, and in value of Rs. 51,421.

Wheat.—Decreased from kilos. 351,446 in quantity, valued, Rs. 447,599, in 1901, to kilos. 307,025, valued Rs. 35,688. Nett decrease, Rs. 11,911.

Wheat Flour.—This article shows a decrease both in quantity, kilos. 3,428,587, and in value, Rs. 355,653. The decrease is in the importation from Australia and China of Rs. 428,357 and Rs. 6,967 respectively. The United Kingdom and Continental India show slight increases.

Cotton Manufactures.

Coloured.—As compared with 1901, the value of imports shows an increase of Rs. 120,357. Increases are from the United Kingdom, Rs. 116,510, Continental India, Rs. 5,816, and Belgium, Austria, China, France, Rs. 10,380, Germany, Rs. 17,784, United States, and Italy. Decreases are to be noted from Pondicherry, Rs. 5,204, and Switzerland, Rs. 13,165; Holland supplied Rs. 14,472 in 1901, against none for the past year.

Hosiery.—This article also shows a large increase, amounting to Rs. 11,142 in 1902. German goods show an increase of Rs. 11,773, while a shortage is to be noticed under British and French goods.

Plain.—This item shows in value a surplus of Rs. 273,610 in 1902. The increases are chiefly from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Continental India.

Thread for Sewing.—Total increase in value of Rs. 20,851, of which Rs. 21,668 from the United Kingdom, and Rs. 1,187 from France; but Belgium shows a shortage of Rs. 2,004.

Waste.—Decreased in value from Rs. 4,192; United Kingdom and Continental India showing slight decreases.

Fish.

Dried or Salted.—Increased in 1902, amounting to Rs. 17,167. Decreases are noticed from the United Kingdom, Rs. 16,034, Cape Colony, Rs. 7,851, France, Rs. 2,108, and Continental India, Rs. 16,586, Muscat, Rs. 16,024; while increases arise from the surplus supplied from Madagascar, Rs. 30,069, Nova Scotia, Rs. 20,667, Newfoundland, Rs. 7,188, and the United States, Rs. 14,757.

Pickled.—Increased in 1902, amounting to Rs. 27,336. Small increases are noticeable from the United Kingdom and the United States; Nova Scotia supplied in 1902 kilos. 59,895 of the value of Rs. 18,838, against none in 1901.

Ghee.

The imports for the past year amounted to kilos. 172,233 of the value of Rs. 133,923, against kilos. 99,041, of the value of Rs. 112,998, for 1901, showing an increase in the value of Rs. 20,924. This article is exclusively supplied from Continental India.

Glass.

Looking and Mirrors.—Decreased in number from 17,793 in 1901 to 16,855 in 1902, but increased in value from Rs. 8,446 to Rs. 15,025. Nett increase in value, Rs. 6,581. The increase arises specially from France.

Glassware.

Increase of Rs. 12,000 in 1902, arising from Continental India and France principally.

Groceries.

Increase of Rs. 4,716 in 1902, of which Rs. 3,359 from the United Kingdom.

Haberdashery.

The value of the imports declared in 1902 is Rs. 27,861 less than in 1901. Decreases are shown principally under the following countries:—United Kingdom, Rs. 3,161, Continental India, Rs. 4,482, France, Rs. 43,467, Switzerland, Rs. 3,114. A large increase is noticeable under Germany, Rs. 13,735. Belgium, Italy, Japan, China, Austria, and Hong Kong show also slight increases.

Hardware and Cutlery.

The imports for 1902 show a surplus of Rs. 8,670, as compared with 1901. The United Kingdom supplied Rs. 8,710 less than in 1901. The United States, Rs. 4,889, and Austria, Rs. 893; while France and Germany provided a surplus of Rs. 16,659 and Rs. 7,802 respectively.

Hats.

Felt.—Decreased in 1902 by Rs. 10,550; principally from the United Kingdom, Austria, France, and Germany. Italy shows a slight increase.

Straw.—Decreased in 1902 by 9,586 in number and Rs. 9,277 in value. France shows a shortage of 11,094 in number, and of Rs. 13,890 in value. The United Kingdom shows a shortage of 2,057 in number, but a surplus of Rs. 5,279 in value.

Of other sorts.—Decreased in number from 2,356 in 1901 to 4,040 in 1902, but with an increase in value of Rs. 5,573 for the past year. Decreases arise chiefly from the United Kingdom, France, and Italy, while Continental India supplied 2,501, valued, Rs. 6,313 in 1902, against none in 1901.

Hides.

Tanned.—Decreased from 7,989 in number, valued, Rs. 20,685, in 1901, to 3,789, valued, Rs. 11,956, for 1902. Continental India and France supplied none in 1902, against 3,773, valued, Rs. 10,071, and 1,403, valued, Rs. 5,850, respectively for 1901, while Pondicherry shows a slight increase.

Hulls of Vessels.

Abandoned.—Nil in 1902, against Rs. 9,230 in the previous year.

Iron.

Bars.—The imports for 1902 amounted to kilos. 509,424 of the value of Rs. 64,053, showing a decrease of kilos. 409,332 in weight and of Rs. 42,155 in value, as compared with 1901. Decreases arise from the United Kingdom and Belgium, the latter country supplying none in 1902.

Nails.—Decreased from kilos. 276,141, of the value of Rs. 72,813, in 1901, to kilos. 253,310, of the value of Rs. 66,778, in 1902. The decreases arise from the United Kingdom, Continental India, and Belgium; while France shows a slight increase.

Sheets.—Increase of kilos. 13,837 in weight, and of Rs. 10,527 in value for 1902, the United Kingdom providing the surplus.

Wrought of other sorts.—The imports of 1902, as compared with 1901, show a decrease of kilos. 129,889 in weight, and of Rs. 41,253 in value; the decrease from the United Kingdom amounting to Rs. 40,761, and in weight to kilos. 23,163.

Jewellery.

The declared value in 1902 is Rs. 7,565 less than in the previous year, the United Kingdom and France showing respective decreases of Rs. 6,872 and Rs. 4,175; while Continental India and Switzerland give a surplus of Rs. 1,163 and Rs. 3,220 respectively.

Lard.

The imports for 1902 show the large increase of kilos. 230,144 in quantity, and of Rs. 69,313 in value, as compared with the previous year, the United Kingdom, Continental India, China, and France showing increases of Rs. 6,611, Rs. 31,930, Rs. 93,851, and Rs. 24,786 rsepectively; while the United States show a decrease of Rs. 19,391.

Lead.

Sheets and pipes.—Decrease of kilos. 43,117 in weight, and of Rs. 14,427 in value, as compared with 1901, the decrease being chiefly from the United Kingdom.

Leather, Sole.

The imports in 1902 show an increase in value of Rs. 6,346, and in weight of kilos. 4,195 over 1901. The increase is due to more imports from Australia.

Wrought of other sorts.—This item shows an increase of Rs. 19,470 for 1902, as compared with 1901. From the United Kingdom and Continental India there is a shrinkage of Rs. 5,606 and Rs. 769 respectively; while France provides an increase of Rs. 27,503 for the past year.

Lime.

Phosphate of Lime.—The quantity imported in 1902 is kilos. 50,000, valued, Rs. 6,233, against kilos. 1,352,144, valued, Rs. 117,689, in 1902, showing a large decrease of kilos. 1,302,144 in weight, and of Rs. 111,456 in value. The United Kingdom and Belgium sent in 1901 kilos. 1,012,144, valued, Rs. 77,078, and kilos. 100,000, valued, Rs. 10,572, respectively, against 1,000 in 1902. France shows for the past year a decrease of kilos. 190,000 in weight, and of Rs. 23,167 in value as compared with 1901.

Superphosphate of Lime.—The imports in 1902 amounted to kilos. 628,001 in weight, and to Rs. 52,819 in value, against kilos. 1,792,715 and Rs. 79,258, as compared with 1901, showing also a decrease of kilos. 1,164,714 in weight, and of Rs. 26,439 in value. The United Kingdom shows a shrinkage of kilos.

759,129 in weight, and of Rs. 2,434 in value, while Belgium and France sent none in 1902, against kilos, 33,092, valued, Rs. 6,565, and kilos. 372,494, valued, Rs. 17,440, respectively, in 1901.

Linen Manufacture.

Canvas.—Decrease in value, Rs. 6,127, as compared with 1901. From the United Kingdom the decrease is Rs. 6,160; while Continental India shows a slight increase.

Machinery and Millwork.

The imports under this item amounted, for 1902, to Rs. 948,281 in value, including therein, tramway materials, Rs. 210,637, and traction engines and automobiles, Rs. 256,157, and wire rope, Rs. 20,567. For 1901, the imports amounted to Rs. 413,331 in value, plus, Rs. 7,016 for two automobiles from France, giving the aggregate value of Rs. 420,347. The total increase over 1901 is therefore Rs. 527,914. From the United Kingdom, Rs. 364,134; Continental India provided for Rs. 71,998 in 1901, against nil for the past year, while Germany, Belgium, and the United States provided for 1902, Rs. 29,440, Rs. 46,913, and Rs. 3,903, respectively, against none in 1901. France supplied Rs. 162,538, against Rs. 7,016 for 1901. The whole increase under this item is attributable to the traction engines and automobiles, tramway, and wire rope materials of the aggregate value of Rs. 487,361 imported in 1902 by the planters to replace the draught animals on the sugar estates. Owing to the heavy loss sustained by the Colony through the acute prevalence of surra upon the beasts of burden, the duty on traction engines, tramways, &c., imported for sugar estates was, under resolution of the Council of Government, dated 17th June, 1902, remitted.

Manure.

Guano.—This article, exclusively imported in 1902 from Seychelles, amounted to kilos. 3,419,295 in weight, and to Rs. 144,463 in value, showing an increase of kilos. 1,223,401 in weight, and of Rs. 48,342 in value over the imports of 1901, provided by Seychelles, the United Kingdom, Glorieuse Island, and Madagascar. The three last-named countries sent none in 1902, against, for 1901, kilos. 24,758, valued, Rs. 3,119, kilos. 60,960, valued Rs. 2,025, and kilos. 436,880, valued, Rs. 20,121, respectively. Seychelles shows for the past year the large increase of kilos. 1,645,999 in weight, and of Rs. 73,606 in value.

Of other sorts.—Total increase in quantity, kilos. 66,518, and in value, Rs. 48,071. The United Kingdom shows an increase in value of Rs. 44,883, Australia, Rs. 32,479, Continental India, Rs. 5,575. Imports from Argentine Republic and Seychelles are Rs. 5,041 and Rs. 29,363 respectively less in value.

Margarine.

The quantity imported in 1902 is kilos. 50,623, and in value, Rs. 63,925, less than the imports in 1901. The principal decrease comes from Holland, Rs. 61,107, United States, Rs. 4,882, Germany, Rs. 3,754, France and Switzerland; while increases are shown under the United Kingdom, Rs. 1,813, and Denmark, Rs. 5,529.

Matches.

The imports in 1902 amounted in value to Rs. 57,295, against Rs. 50,285 for 1901, showing an increase of Rs. 7,010. Japan provides an increase of Rs. 8,638, while Sweden shows a shortage of Rs. 1,815.

Mathematical and Optical Instruments.

Increase of Rs. 6,845 over the imports of 1901. The United Kingdom shows an increase of Rs. 9,137, while France shows a shortage of Rs. 2,285.

Meat (Fresh).

Frozen.—This is a new item added this year. The importation was from Australia. The carcases received are hereunder enumerated:—

			Kilos.		Rs.
796	cows and oxen,	weighing	253,000,	valued,	127,772
7,212	sheep,	„	167,220	„	82,653
351	swine,	„	15,745	„	14,700
4,528	poultry (fowls, turkeys, geese, &c.),			„	17,596
4,968	rabbits			„	2,604

Military Articles.

The imports for 1902 amounted to Rs. 1,343,621, against Rs. 1,294,442 for 1901, showing an increase of Rs. 49,179 over 1901. The United Kingdom and Continental India provided for 1902, Rs. 1,130,371 and Rs. 210,696, against Rs. 1,150,281 and Rs. 144,162 respectively for 1901. Ceylon provided for the past year Rs. 2,554, against nil in 1901.

Musical Instruments.

Increase of Rs. 7,069 over 1901, United Kingdom and France showing respective increases of Rs. 4,964 and Rs. 4,650 respectively; Germany, China, and Switzerland show slight decreases. Belgium provided for Rs. 1,005 in 1901, against nil in 1902.

Oil.

Castor.—Increase of kilos. 68,985 in weight, and of Rs. 4,251 in value, over the imports of 1901. Continental India provided the increase.

Cocoanut.—Increase of 717 hectolitres in quantity, and of Rs. 12,082 in value, over the imports of 1901. Seychelles provides the increase.

Gingely.—The imports for 1902 amounted to kilos. 207,586 of the value of Rs. 55,709, against kilos. 59,787 of the value of Rs. 19,939, showing an increase of kilos. 147,799 in weight, and of Rs. 35,770 in value. Continental India shows an increase in value over 1901 of Rs. 39,190, while a decrease of Rs. 3,425 is noticeable from Pondicherry.

Linseed.—Decrease of 631 hectolitres in quantity, and of Rs. 25,237 in value, as compared with the imports of 1901. The decrease is in the importation from the United Kingdom.

Mustard.—Exclusively imported from Continental India, this article shows an increase of kilos. 240,742 in weight, and of Rs. 80,839 in value, as compared with the imports of 1901.

Petroleum.—The imports decreased from hectolitres 27,133 of the value of Rs. 281,480, in 1901, to hectolitres 11,372 of the value of Rs. 133,586, showing a decrease of hectolitres 15,761 in quantity, and of Rs. 147,894 in value. Decreases are from the United States, which show a shortage of Rs. 110,495 in value, and Russia supplied none for the past year, against hectolitres 3,610 of the value of Rs. 37,396 for 1901.

Painters and Dyers' Colours and Materials.

Decrease of Rs. 27,382, as compared with the imports of 1901. Decreases are from the United Kingdom, Rs. 22,817, Germany, Rs. 4,800, the United States, Pondicherry, and Belgium, while Continental India, France, Switzerland, China, and Austria show slight increases.

Paper.

Cigarette.—Increase of Rs. 7,528 in value over 1901. This article is exclusively imported from France.

Packing.—Increase of Rs. 15,939 over the imports of 1901. France and Germany show increases of Rs. 15,835 and Rs. 360 respectively, but the United Kingdom shows a slight decrease.

Stained, for hanging.—The imports show an increase of Rs. 4,395. This increase is from the United Kingdom, while France shows a small shortage.

Pictures.

Oil Paintings.—24 in number, valued, Rs. 6,106, were imported in 1902, against 2 from France, valued, Rs. 330, in 1901. The 24 pictures imported in 1902 were from the following countries:—9 from the United Kingdom, valued, Rs. 876, 5 from France, valued, Rs. 4,094, and 6 from Japan, China, and Continental India of the aggregate value of Rs. 137.

Pockets.

Empty.—The quantity imported in 1902 amounted to 892,000, of the value of Rs. 160,052, against 1,044,555 of the value of Rs. 195,194, showing a decrease of 152,155 in number, and of Rs. 35,142 in value. The articles are almost exclusively imported from Continental India.

Postal Parcels.

The value of imported parcels for 1902 shows an increase of Rs. 17,459, as compared with 1901, and an increase of Rs. 48,569 over 1900. Every year the postal parcels imported show a substantial increase over the previous period; the reason being that the community at large derive benefit in taking advantage of the cheap rate of transport for minor articles by postal parcels. By indenting directly upon leading wholesale stores in Europe, articles are thereby obtained at a cheaper rate than on the local market. The articles specially thus indented are, haberdashery, millinery, wearing apparel, and jewellery.

To prevent unscrupulous persons from defrauding the Revenue by postal packets, Government is considering the question of using the X-rays to detect fraud.

Potash.

Nitrate.—Increase of kilos. 478,270 in weight, and of Rs. 16,212 in value. The United Kingdom shows an increase in value of Rs. 34,955, while a shortage is noticed from Continental India of Rs. 18,742.

Sulphate of Potash.—Decrease of kilos. 150,188 of the value of Rs. 19,884, as compared with 1901. The United Kingdom shows a falling off of kilos. 119,588 in weight, and in value of Rs. 24,227. France sent none in 1902, against kilos. 30,000, valued, Rs. 5,657, in 1901.

Potatoes.

The imports for 1902 amounted to kilos. 425,947 of the value of Rs. 45,105, against kilos. 290,062 of the value of Rs. 32,251 for 1901, showing an increase of kilos. 135,885 in weight, and of Rs. 12,854 in value. Réunion provided kilos. 188,828 of the value of Rs. 20,999 in 1902, against nil in 1901. Australia shows an increase of kilos. 42,008 of the value of Rs. 4,433, but from France and Continental India respectively, decreases are noticed in weight of kilos. 35,992 and kilos. 59,540, and in value of Rs. 9,170 and Rs. 3,503, as compared with 1901.

Prints and Engravings.

Increase of Rs. 1,688 in value over 1901. A substantial increase is noticeable from the United Kingdom amounting to Rs. 5,251. France and Germany show decreases.

Provisions, Preserved.

The imports for 1902 show a decrease of Rs. 83,057, as compared with those of 1901. Decreases are noticeable under the United Kingdom, Rs. 18,565, Seychelles, Denmark, Italy, France, Rs. 42,366, Germany, Rs. 2,453, Portugal, Rs. 17,878, Spain, Rs. 3,180, Switzerland, Rs. 6,320, and the United States, Rs. 3,812, but Continental India, Australia, China, and Holland show slight increases.

Rattans.

The imports for 1902 show a decrease both in quantity and in value, as compared with 1901. Continental India and Singapore show decreases in value of Rs. 4,228 and Rs. 6,244 respectively, but China shows a surplus of Rs. 8,705.

Salt.

The imports for 1902 amounted to kilos. 1,831,965 of the value of Rs. 90,674, against kilos. 3,080,598 of the value of Rs. 80,311 for the previous year, showing a decrease in quantity of kilos. 1,248,633, but a surplus in value of Rs. 10,453. The United Kingdom and France supplied in 1901, kilos. 878,219, valued, Rs. 27,395, and kilos. 1,209,625, valued, Rs. 37,146, against for 1902, kilos. 1,428,749, valued, Rs. 70,382, and kilos. 401,000, valued, Rs. 20,218 respectively. Muscat supplied kilos. 44,344 of the value of Rs. 4,467 in 1901, against nil for 1902.

Seeds.

Aniseeds.—Increase of kilos. 17,805 in quantity, but decrease in value of Rs. 10,829, as compared with 1901. The difference arises chiefly from Continental India.

Coriander.—Decrease both in quantity, kilos. 31,769, and in value, Rs. 12,672, as compared with the previous year. The article is exclusively imported from Continental India.

Mustard.—Decrease both in quantity, kilos. 37,455, and in value, Rs. 7,957, as compared with the previous year. The article is almost exclusively imported from Continental India.

Silk Manufactures.

Decrease both in quantity, metres 28,623, and in value, Rs. 20,414, as compared with 1901. Decreases are from the United Kingdom, Rs. 11,750, Continental India, Rs. 5,824, France, Rs. 1,672, Italy, Japan, and Hong Kong. China, Germany, and Pondicherry show slight increases.

Skin.

Sheep and Goats', tanned.—The imports for 1902 show a decrease of kilos. 3,946 in weight, and of Rs. 10,185 in value, as compared with 1901. Continental India, France, and Singapore supplied for Rs. 7,413, Rs. 660, and Rs. 436 respectively in 1901, against nil for 1902, and Madagascar for Rs. 1,352 in 1902, against nil in the previous year.

Soap.

Increased from kilos. 749,456 of the value of Rs. 169,065 in 1901 to kilos. 1,028,504 of the value of Rs. 254,554 in 1902, showing a surplus of kilos. 279,048 in quantity and of Rs. 85,489 in value. The United Kingdom shows an increase of kilos. 314,316 in weight, and of Rs. 91,624 in value; the United States, a decrease of kilos. 40,787 in weight, and of Rs. 8,048 in value. France supplied in 1901, kilos. 5,196 of the value of Rs. 1,306, against nil in 1902. Seychelles and Continental India provided small quantities in 1902, against nil for the previous year.

Soda.

Nitrate of Soda.—The imports for 1901 amounted to kilos. 2,424,642 of the value of Rs. 251,492, of which the United Kingdom supplied kilos. 10,399 of the value of Rs. 1,808, and the remainder from Chili, against kilos. 1,236,700 of the value of Rs. 170,059, exclusively, from Chili for 1902. The decrease is, therefore, kilos. 1,187,942 in weight, and of Rs. 81,433 in value, as compared with the imports of the previous year.

Specie.

Gold.—The United Kingdom supplied specie to the value of Rs. 31,300 in 1902, against Rs. 25,206 in 1901, showing a surplus of Rs. 6,094.

Paper Currency.—The United Kingdom and Seychelles forwarded in 1902, Rs. 5,826 and Rs. 24,960 respectively, giving an aggregate amount of Rs. 30,786, against Rs. 5,715 in 1901 from the United Kingdom. The surplus is, therefore, of Rs. 25,071 over 1901.

Silver.—In 1902, Continental India and France supplied to the value of Rs. 1,409,705 and Rs. 2,520 respectively, amounting to the aggregate value of Rs. 1,412,225, against Rs. 2,228, of which Rs. 1,248 from Continental India, and Rs. 980 from France in 1901. Surplus over the previous year is Rs. 1,409,997.

Spices.

Chillies.—The imports for 1902 show an increase of kilos. 30,269 in weight, but a decrease in value of Rs. 9,141, as compared with the previous year. The article is almost exclusively supplied by Continental India.

Spirits.

Brandy.—The imports for 1902 measured litres 49,263, valued, Rs. 121,548, against litres 52,138, valued, Rs. 93,954 in 1901, showing a decrease of litres 2,875 in measure, but an increase in value of Rs. 27,594. The United Kingdom supplied litres 461, valued, Rs. 671 in 1901, against litres 2,700, valued, Rs. 4,224 in 1902, showing an increase both in measure of litres 2,239, and in value of Rs. 2,029. France supplied in 1901, litres 51,573, valued, Rs. 93,190, against, for 1902, litres 46.563, valued Rs. 117,324, showing a decrease in quantity of litres 5,010, but an increase in value of Rs. 24,134. Algeria sent a few litres in 1901, against nil for 1902.

Whisky.—Decreased both in quantity, litres 11,611, and in value, Rs. 19,423, as compared with 1901. The decrease is chiefly from the United Kingdom.

Starch.

Decrease of kilos. 13,928 in weight, and of Rs. 4,433 in value, as compared with 1901. Continental India shows in value a decrease of Rs. 10,373; Singapore shows a surplus of Rs. 1,057. China provided in 1902 for Rs. 4,953, against nil for the previous year.

Stationery.

Decrease in value of Rs. 10,200, as compared with 1901. Decreases are from the United Kingdom, Rs. 7,539, Continental India, Ceylon, Austria, Hong Kong, France, Rs. 3,910, Germany, and the United States. Slight increases are noted under Belgium, China, and Switzerland. Holland, Pondicherry, and Singapore supplied small quantities in 1902, against nil for the previous year.

Sulphur.

Common.—The imports for 1902 show a decrease of kilos. 420,273 in weight, and in value of Rs. 51,588, as compared with the previous year. Decreases arise from the United Kingdom and France of kilos. 35,293 and kilos. 384,980 in weight, and of Rs. 4,464 and Rs. 47,125 in value respectively.

Tamarinds.

Decrease of kilos. 36,391 in weight, and of Rs. 24,755 in value, as compared with the previous year. The article is exclusively supplied by Continental India.

Tapioca.

Increase from kilos. 397, valued, Rs. 256, in 1901, to kilos. 11,963, valued, Rs. 5,324, in 1902, showing an increase of kilos. 11,566 in weight, and of Rs. 5,068 in value. The increase is in imports from Continental India, which supplied in 1902, kilos. 11,250, valued, Rs. 4,931, against nil in 1901. Both the United Kingdom and France show slight increases over their supply of 1901.

Tarpaulins.

In 1901, the United Kingdom supplied 115 in number of the value of Rs. 4,880, against nil in 1902.

Tea.

The imports for 1902 show an increase of kilos. 16,978 in weight, and of Rs. 14,072 in value over 1901. The increase is from Ceylon, which supplied in 1902 a surplus of kilos. 20,055 in weight, and of Rs. 16,101 in value over the supply of 1901. China shows a small surplus. Small decreases are noticed under Continental India and Hong Kong.

Tin-Slabs.

Decrease of kilos. 12,780 in weight, and of Rs. 6,082 in value, as compared with 1901. The United Kingdom, China, and Singapore show decreases in value of Rs. 963, Rs. 14,145, and Rs. 1904 respectively. Continental India and Straits Settlements show increases of Rs. 3,445 and Rs. 699 respectively.

Tobacco.

Manufactured.—The imports for 1902 amounted to kilos. 191,209, valued, Rs. 391,760, against for 1901, kilos. 114,646, valued, Rs. 224,172, showing an increase both in weight of kilos. 76,563, and in value of Rs. 67,588. The United Kingdom, China, Réunion, the United States provided a surplus of kilos. 4,163, kilos. 143, kilos. 7,128, and kilos. 64,892 in weight, and of Rs. 7,376, Rs. 4,446, Rs. 24,358, and Rs. 135,156 in value respectively. Seychelles and Algeria supplied kilos. 244 of the value of Rs. 272 and kilos. 319 of the value of Rs. 1,227 respectively, against nil in the previous year. Slight decreases are noticed under Continental India, Hong Kong, and France.

Cigars.—Decreased from kilos. 9,225 of the value of Rs. 33,410 in 1901, to kilos. 8,014 of the value of Rs. 22,205, showing a decline both in weight of kilos. 1,211 and in value of Rs. 11,205 in 1902. Decreases are from the United Kingdom, Continental India, the United States, and Egypt. France, Canary Islands, Germany, Holland, Philippine Islands, and Spain supplied small quantities in 1901, against nil in 1902. Italy, Réunion, Denmark, Algeria, and Aden provided each a few kilos. in 1902, against nil in the previous year.

Toys.

The imports for 1902 show a decrease of Rs. 14,380, as compared with 1901. Decreases are noted under the United Kingdom, Rs. 4,155, France, Rs. 4,815, Germany, Rs. 4,601, and Seychelles. Continental India, China, United States, and Hong Kong show also slight decreases. Pondicherry and Japan supplied a small quantity in 1902, against nil in the the previous year.

Turmeric.

Decrease of kilos. 2,434 in weight, and in Rs. 10,877 in value, as compared with 1901. Continental India shows a falling off of kilos. 15,584 in weight, and of Rs. 9,885 in value. Pondicherry shows a small increase, and Cochin China supplied in 1902 a small quantity against nil in the previous year.

Umbrellas and Parasols.

Increase of 3,214 in number and in value of Rs. 4,125. The increase is from the United Kingdom, which provided a surplus of 6,221 in number, and of Rs. 8,537 in value. Decreases are noticeable under France, Continental India, and Japan.

Vanilla.

Seychelles provided in 1902, kilos. 1,450 of the value of Rs. 12,354, against kilos. 1,449 of the value of Rs. 20,092 in 1901, showing a decrease in value of Rs. 7,738, which is due to the inferior quality of goods supplied.

Vinegar.

Increase of hectolitres 217 in quantity, and Rs. 4,240 in value over 1901. The increase is almost entirely from France.

Wine.

Champagne.—The imports for 1902 amounted to litres 8,973 of the value of Rs. 25,333, against litres 17,065 of the value of Rs. 36,964 in 1901, showing a falling off of litres 8,092 in quantity, and Rs. 11,531 in value. The decreases are from the United Kingdom and France, which show declines of litres 816 and litres 7,612 in quantity, and of Rs. 2,936 and Rs. 9,101 in value respectively.

Claret, in casks.—A decrease of hectolitres 2,037 in quantity, and of Rs. 93,627 in value, as compared with 1901. France shows a falling off of hectolitres 2,671 in quantity, and of Rs. 121,932 in value. Spain shows a surplus of hectolitres 688 in quantity, and of Rs. 14,751 in value. Portugal supplied hectolitres 42, valued, Rs. 945, in 1902, against nil in 1901. Algeria supplied hectolitres 7 of a small value in 1901, against nil in 1902.

Claret, in demi-johns.—Hectolitres 283, of which 190 from France, and 93 from Spain, were supplied in 1902. The aggregate declared value was Rs. 12,881. None supplied in 1901 in such packages.

Claret, in bottles.—2,155 litres less were supplied in 1902, and a shortage of Rs. 1,938 in value is noticeable under this head. France is accountable for the shortage.

Port in bottles.—3,361 bottles less were supplied in 1902, and a shortage of Rs. 5,986 in value is noticeable. The deficiency is from Spain and Portugal.

Timber.

The imports for 1902 amounted to 6,642 cubic metres of the value of Rs. 501,282, against 4,382 cubic metres in 1901, valued, Rs. 540,213, showing a falling off of 2,260 cubic metres in quantity, and Rs. 38,931 in value. Continental India, Singapore, Madagascar, Norway, and the United States show decreases of Rs. 260,037, Rs. 657, Rs. 5,653, Rs. 2,608, and Rs. 1,627 respectively. Australia shows an increase of Rs. 43,191.

Woollen Manufactures.

Blankets.—4,493 less were imported in 1902, and the shortage in value amounts to Rs. 10,787. Imports have decreased in value from France by Rs. 7,415, Holland by Rs. 3,018, and the United Kingdom by Rs. 948. Small increases are noticeable under Continental India and China.

Mixed with Cotton and Silk.—The imports for 1902, as compared with 1901, show a decrease in quantity of 131,528 metres, and in value of Rs. 67,316. Imports from the United Kingdom have decreased in value by Rs. 43,826, Continental India by Rs. 7,418, Italy by Rs. 2,020, Holland by Rs. 1,773, and Germany by Rs. 12,294. Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, and Singapore supplied small quantities in 1902, against nil for 1901. France shows an increase of Rs. 1,146, and Pondicherry provided for Rs. 971 for the past year, against nil in 1901.

Woollen Shawls.—The imports under this head show an increase of 4,489 in number, and of Rs. 4,681 in value. The increase is in the importation from the United Kingdom, Switzerland, France, and Germany.

EXPORTS.

13. The principal articles exported from Mauritius are sugar, rum, molasses, cocoanut oil, aloe fibre, and vanilla, the produce of this Colony. The quantities and values exported in the last five years are shown in the following table:—

Articles.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Sugar—					
Kilos	154,548,657	164,911,833	174,765,785	157,016,976	150 305,678
Rupees	26,211,349	24,419,886	30,566,536	27,961,583	30,598,229
Rum—					
Litres	828,783	1,468,104	1,970,226	791,123	171,908
Rupees	82,607	160,221	231,930	91,494	28,952
Molasses—					
Kilos	12,967,400	12,681,205	14,929,157	19,613,200	15,378,066
Rupees	1,677,900	1,377,647	532,889	337,008	1,144,021
Cocoanut Oil—					
Hecto.	1,457	1,265	2,643	1,664	5,280
Rupees	33,353	31,622	51,825	16,811	142,658
Aloe Fibre—					
Kilos	1,494,928	2,249,809	3,105,341	1,242,988	2,144,609
Rupees	444,197	588,671	978,049	353,444	937,877
Vanilla—					
Kilos	4,043	3,709	4,553	3,353	4,787
Rupees	231,158	221,011	212,276	149,002	137,224

The quantity and value of the principal minor exports are shown below :—

Articles.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Vacoa bags—					
Number	171,302	14,575	251,056	268,950	57,625
Rupees	6,911	1,092	18,841	7,477	3,973
Salted Fish—					
Kilos	55,009	28,013	68,816	24,710	27,224
Rupees	30,995	16,807	21,078	10,331	11,204
Hides, Raw and salted—					
Kilos	123,891	73,369	53,410	25,167	11,562
Rupees	55,418	32,821	21,938	11,544	4,960
Horns—					
Number	19,700	1,300	5,145	4,000	1,425
Rupees	1,504	400	621	2,000	48
Soap—					
Kilos	292,356	26,532	3,911	467	655
Rupees	66,048	6,062	1,216	135	151
Machinery and Millwork—					
Kilos	17,812	8,662	109,504	92,516	55,319
Rupees	10,015	6,305	293,655	61,422	40,826
Tea—					
Kilos	7,266	2,685	281	4	288
Rupees	10,876	3,900	451	6	312

14. The countries to which the principal products have chiefly been exported, with the quantities exported, are shown below:—

Countries.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Sugar—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India	61,283,319	81 675,459	104,261,386	91,202,235	92,645,867
Cape Colonies	29,206,696	25,573,377	29,858,872	32,244,866	26,611,758
Ceylon	22,424,388	1,669,848	120,307	54,523	72,164
Austria	9,466,047	11,130,557	10,367,690	8,791,547	6,512,[illegible]95
United States of America	22,338,811	33,928 421	16,289,215	6,517,851	—
United Kingdom	3,495,279	6,415,260	9,300,262	15,227,507	16,618,750
Hong Kong	1,228,640	925,733	478,302	1,013,222	7,433,620
Delagoa Bay	1,724,553	1,168.670	—	—	—
Natal	35,353	130,153	774,831	1,415.926	61,857
Aden	333,590	558.016	122,487	82,469	7,377
Egypt	—	18,716	—	—	—
Seychelles	135,721	227,870	242,730	232.127	201,093
Zanzibar	629,935	345,342	678,708	73	—
Madagascar	—	—	—	—	1.790
France	2,146,373	986,813	1,964,796	225	150
St. Helena	55,106	43,927	—	—	—
Mombassa	—	—	121,758	21,287	12,757
Sumatra...	—	—	—	434	—
Beira	—	—	115,[illegible]40	5,187	—
Singapore	—	—	—	120,085	24,705
Straits Settlements	—	—	—	—	12,091
Glorieuse Islands	300	594	1,543	—	584
Pondicherry	10,451	40,675	—	11,999	—

Statement of number and tonnage of British and foreign sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for 1901-2:—

Entered.

—	1901.		1902.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	121	65,426	96	48,284	—25	— 17,142
Steamers ...	171	335,980	169	329,730	— 2	— 6,250
Total ...	292	401,406	265	378,014	—27	— 23,392

Cleared.

—	1901.		1902.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	112	62,821	101	52,204	—11	— 10,617
Steamers ...	170	334,771	166	327,830	— 4	— 6,941
Total ...	282	397,592	267	380,034	—15	— 17,558

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities:—

Entered.

Nationality.	1901.		1902.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamer...	120	238,714	120	242,168	—	+ 3,454
Sailing ...	91	50,492	69	35,001	—22	— 15,491
French—						
Steamer...	42	83,764	39	74,219	— 3	— 9,545
Sailing ...	5	2,031	6	2,431	+ 1	+ 400

British vessels show a shrinkage of one in number and 4,921 in tonnage, as compared with 1901, while foreign vessels have increased by two in number. The tonnage, however, is 538 tons less.

Vessels with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered at this port from foreign countries and the British possessions with cargoes during the year 1902 amounted to 317,488 tons, and the tonnage cleared, 255,128 tons, as against 318,288 tons entered, and 241,580 tons cleared in the year 1901.

With regard to the coasting trade (Dependency), the tonnage entered with cargoes during 1902 amounted to 5,632 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 5,899 tons, as against 6,524 tons entered and 10,412 tons cleared in 1901.

Transports and Men-of-War.

The undermentioned vessels of war and transports called at this port in 1902:—

Vessels of War.	Transports.	Tonnage.
	"The Tagus" ...	3,056
	"Englishman" ...	4,708
H.M.S. "Highflyer"	—	5,600
	"Lake Manitoba" ...	5,702
	"Ortona" ...	7,945
	"Golconda" ...	3,760
	"Dunera" ...	3,457
Portuguese Man of War—"Liberal"	—	558
Total	—	34,786

Suez Canal.

The value of the imports during the year 1902 is the highest of the five years, and is nearly Rs. 20,000 more than the previous year. The shipment of goods for mechanical transports accounts for the increase over 1901.

The value of exports is also the highest of the five years ended 1902. Sugar, shipped by steamers passing through the Canal, is valued at Rs. 754,135, and aloe fibre at Rs. 691,004 more than in 1901.

6. Number and tonnage of steam vessels which entered and cleared from and to all countries, *viâ* Suez Canal, and value of goods (including bullion and specie) imported and exported by that route into and from Mauritius:—

Years.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared.		Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Including Bullion and Specie.	
					Rs.	Rs.
1898	38	70,028	32	57,070	178,644	66,635
1899	36	68,863	25	48,860	283,510	44,991
1900	37	72,122	28	51,780	365,928	185,114
1901	38	74,012	24	49,040	386,835	89,232
1902	26	50,849	27	52,242	388,761	218,998

The first table has been prepared in accordance with the Annual Imperial Statistical Abstract, and includes all vessels entered and cleared, exclusive of vessels to and from the Dependencies, while the second table exhibits the shipping to and from the Dependencies exclusively.

In the first table, in the total of 1902, there is a reduction of 43 in the number, and 35,491 in the tonnage, as compared with 1901. Sailing vessels are 40 less in number, and 26,409 in tonnage, while steam vessels are only accountable for a shortage of 3 vessels and tonnage of 9,082.

British vessels show a falling of 32 and of 12,763 tons, while foreign vessels are 11 in number, and 22,678 in tonnage less than in the previous year.

Amongst the vessels entered and cleared during the year 1902, are included 21 steamers with a tonnage of 42,577, which called at this port exclusively for bunker coal, and 20 of 36,937 tons in 1901.

DEPENDENCIES.

(Coasting Trade.)

The number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies is in 1902 one more than the number in 1901, but the tonnage is 5,639 less.

There were no steam vessels recorded in 1902, as against 3 of 4,109 tonnage in 1901.

Sailing vessels show in 1902 an excess of 4 in number, but a diminution in tonnage of 1,330.

SHIPPING.

The following tables exhibit the shipping of the five years, 1898-1902:—

Exclusive of Coasting Trade (Dependencies).

—	1898.		1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared	543	632,598	485	664,101	467	656,043	512	782,008	469	746,517
2. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels (British) ...	347	420,095	293	440,876	301	439,174	356	558,968	324	546,155
3. Total No. and Tonnage of Foreign Vessels	196	212,503	192	223,225	166	216,869	156	223,040	145	200,362
4. Total No. and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels	272	137,863	216	140,493	173	125,966	174	115,366	134	88,957
5. Total No. and Tonnage of Steam Vessels	271	494,735	269	523,608	294	530,077	338	666,642	335	657,560

Coasting Trade (Dependencies).

—	1898.		1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
(a.) Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared	52	12,946	62	12,455	67	14,897	62	16,990	63	11,351
(b.) Total No. and Tonnage of British Vessels... ...	39	8,801	54	10,407	65	14,373	58	15,642	57	10,721
(c.) Total No. and Tonnage of Foreign Vessels ...	13	4,145	8	2,048	2	[illegible]	4	1,348	6	810
(d.) Total No. and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels	52	12,946	62	12,455	64	13,[illegible]	59	12,881	63	11,351
(e.) Total No. and Tonnage of Steam Vessels	—	—	—	—	3	1,241	3	4,109	—	—

Statements A. show the Nationality of the vessels &c.

CROWN LANDS and BARACHOIS in MAURITIUS and its DEPENDENCIES except SEYCHELLES and RODRIGUES, in charge of the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, and the LEASE for ONE YEAR or more during 1902, or paying RENT without LEASE, with RENTS DUE, or AMOUNT RECEIVED, also ARREARS of RENT for 1902 and PREVIOUS YEARS still OUTSTANDING on 31st December, 1902.

(1.)	(2.)	(3.)								(4.)	(5.)	(6.)	(7.)	(8.)	(9.)
—	Number of leases.	Nature of land under lease and area in arpents.								Arrears on rent due on 31st December, 1902.	Rent due in 1902.	Receipts to 31st December, 1902, for arrears (in column 4).	Receipts to 31st December, 1902, for rent due in 1902. (Column 5.)	Arrears due for 1902 and previous years on 31st December, 1902.	Rent struck off as Irrecoverable.
		Lease in bare land.	Land with buildings.	Pasturage.	Pas Géométriques.	Docks and patent slips.	Islands adjacent to coast.	Barachois.	All other lands.						
	No.	Arp. c.		Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Port Louis	186	60.98	—	—	4	13.68	2.24	2.25	—	8,556.08	9,339.90	1,079.84	8,155.65	2,992.71	668.28
Pamplemousses ...	46	181.93	—	—	400.42	—	—	—	—	665.50	1,765.76	541.50	987.76	942.00	—
Riviere du Rempart	131	248.05	—	10.00	898.26	—	261.64	320.82	—	1,033.50	3,368.56	552.84	2,311.33	1,381.39	206.50
Flacq	110	179.80	—	73.40	1,080.80	—	—	108.21	—	2,692.45	3,372.89	1,590.50	1,210.39	2,726.70	587.75
Grand Port	98	279.62	—	—	872.71	—	72.00	—	—	591.50	5,049.08	361.00	4,441.08	678.50	160.00
Savanne	135	188.81	—	—	600.98	.05	—	—	—	4,966.04	5,712.71	2,166.50	3,460.21	4,891.04	170.00
Black River	116	28.88	—	—	1,109.17	—	100.00	49.00	—	671.68	1,982.52	366.00	1,561.84	695.36	31.00
Plaines Wilhems ...	7	304.45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67.44	549.94	36.44	470.00	110.94	—
Moka	9	8.21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	177.00	488.00	153.00	257.00	255.00	—
Dependencies ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	375.75	—	—	—	777.00	—	777.00	—	—
Total ...	844	1,880.16	—	83.40	4,912.34	13.73	811.63	479.78	—	14,420.19	32,396.36	6,847.12	23,571.76	14,624.14	1,773.53

REVISED SUMMARY of the BLUE BOOK for 1901.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.			
	Value in Rupees of Total Imports exclusive of Charges and Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total.	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Shipping Charges on Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom... ...	5,273,652.70	4,334,273.41	9,607,926.11	3,052,897.92	187,805.39	171,055.03	3,411,758.34
British Possessions ...	12,256,565.76	3,388,455.51	15,645,021.27	23,031,115.11	1,461,074.46	1,551,008.11	26,043,197.68
Foreign Countries ...	3,720,340.78	2,706,554.83	6,426,895.61	1,221,433.78	78,261.52	87,554.34	1 387,349.64
Total	21,250,559.24	10,429,283.75	31,679,842.99	27,305,446.81	1,727,241.37	1,809,617.48	30,842,305.66

Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion imported, Rs. 47,889.39.
Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion exported, Rs. 1,183,138.00.

Measles spread through the Island in 1902, and during the cool weather severe cases were observed. 540 cases were reported, but the figure is almost certainly inaccurate, as many cases of measles were diagnosed as German measles. 64 deaths were ascribed to measles.

The trying effect of a hot and damp summer are generally manifest on the health of the inhabitants of the Colony from January to April, and, besides these depressing influences, there is also at that period of the year the concourse of circumstances favourable to the spread of malaria, and the occurrence of dysentery and intestinal complaints. The incidence of these diseases at that period has already been referred to in previous reports, and attention has been called to the occurrence of respiratory diseases from July to October, when the cold season is felt.

The performance of the scavenging and night soil service has been much hampered owing to the mortality among the draught animals due to "surra," and, although not a cause of disease, nevertheless, the unsatisfactory performance of this service must have affected the resisting power of the population. The disease now recognized as surra broke out in an epizootic form in the northern districts of the Island in March, and gradually extended to the other districts. The mortality was first noticed amongst bullocks, but the equines were shortly afterwards affected. The nature of the sickness was attributed to various causes, and at one moment, thought to be due to anthrax, but the microscopical evidence of the bacillus being wanting, further researches were made, and Dr. Aime Lesur, of Flacq, recognised the existence of a worm-like parasite in the blood of a sick mule in April. A slide having been sent to the Sanitary Department, the organism was recognised to be a trypanosoma, and the diagnosis surra was then made. The discovery of the same parasite in the blood of sick cattle in the District of Plaines Wilhems was shortly afterwards made by Mr. Deixonne, Veterinary Surgeon, and the existence of the protozoon in the alimentary canal of a fly stomoxys was demonstrated by Mr. A. Daruty de Grandpré, whose subsequent experiments proved that the insect was an active agent in the transmission of the disease. The disease was subsequently investigated by Dr. Edington of the Cape Colony, who was specially asked to visit the Island for that purpose.

It may be of interest to state that the direct loss to the Colony owing to surra, is estimated at over three million rupees.

There are nine hospitals in the Island, exclusive of the Prison Hospitals and the Leper Asylum, and seventeen dispensaries. These have been described in previous reports. It will be sufficient to say that a new hospital has been opened at Long Mountain, and that a small bacteriological laboratory has been installed at the Civil Hospital of Port Louis. A matron has been appointed to the Civil Hospital, and one of her principal duties will be the training of nurses.

Quiescent Stage.

Districts.	January to May, 1899.		June, 1899 to March, 1900.		April, 1900 to July, 1900.		August, 1900 to March, 1901.		April to August, 1901.		September, 1901 to March, 1902.		April to August, 1902.		September, 1902 to March, 1903.	
	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.
Port Louis	3	16	—	—	—	10	—	—	4	9	—	—	1	12	—	—
Pamplemousses ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	3	—	—
Rivière du Rempart ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flacq	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Port	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Savanne...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plaines Wilhems ...	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	4	—	—	2	6	—	—
Black River	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	18	—	—	3	15	—	—	5	20	—	—	3	21	—	—
Total Number of cases	21		—	—	18		—	—	25		—	—	24		—	—
Percentage of deaths ...	85·7		—	—	83·3		—	—	80		—	—	87·5		—	—

The same measures have been carried out as in previous years, and may be summarised as the killing of rats, disinfection, evacuation, the use of Yersin's serum as a prophylactic and its use as a curative.

The following return, which shows the separation between these two periods, may be of interest:—

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of PLAGUE CASES and the PERCENTAGE MORTALITY for the YEARS 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902 to 31st MARCH, 1903.

(A.) Epidemic Period.

Districts.	January to May, 1899.		June, 1899 to March, 1900.		April, 1900 to July, 1900.		August, 1900 to March, 1901.		April to August, 1901		Se tember, 1901 to March, 1902.		April to August, 1902.		September, 1902 to March, 1903.	
	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.	Cured.	Deaths.
Port Louis ...	—	—	172	698	—	—	94	334	—	—	180	593	—	—	62	213
Pamplemousses ...	—	—	24	88	—	—	30	74	—	—	14	26	—	—	—	3
Rivière du Rempart ...	—	—	32	99	—	—	57	108	—	—	26	43	—	—	—	—
Flacq	—	—	2	1	—	—	6	15	—	—	14	32	—	—	—	—
Grand Port ...	—	—	3	2	—	—	5	11	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	1
Savanne... ...	—	—	15	63	—	—	6	7	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	1
Plaines Wilhems ...	—	—	68	207	—	—	21	91	—	—	55	84	—	—	24	44
Black River ...	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moka	—	—	3	9	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
	—	—	319	1,172	—	—	220	644	—	—	292	784	—	—	88	263
Total Number of cases	—	—	1,491		—	—	864		—	—	1,076		—	—	351	
„ Percentage of deaths ...	—	—	78·6		—	—	74·5		—	--	72·9		—	—	74·9	

The year 1902 was, for Mauritius, a healthy year. The death-rate was 34 per thousand, that is to say, 5·8 less than that of the previous year, and 1·7 less than that of 1900.

The number of admissions into hospitals amounted to 17,874, being 668 less than in 1901.

The case mortality, exclusive of still-births, was 5·57 per cent., against 6·96 the previous year.

Malarial fever was as usual answerable for a large proportion of the admissions. The number was, however, smaller than for 1901. The figures being 4,182 for 1901, and 3,360 for 1902.

Measures have been taken to combat malaria, and in the Moka District the admissions to hospital from malarial fever show a reduction of 25 per cent.

As might be expected from the reduced number of malarial cases, there has been a reduction in the number of cases of dysentery. There were 673 cases of this disease admitted into the hospitals, against 799 in 1901. The case mortality was reduced from 17·6 in 1901 to 12·17 in 1902.

Enteric fever is, however, increasing. There were 36 admissions on this account in 1902, against 14 in 1901. The case mortality was 24·3 per cent. The number of cases notified was 157, and the total mortality 44, or 28·02 per cent.

As the total death-rate is somewhat in excess of the hospital death-rate, the inference is, that only the more severe cases have come under notice of the Medical Authorities.

Typhoid in the tropics is often far from typical, and is sometimes known as typho-malaria, whilst, again, it may appear as a mild continued fever.

The plague was less prevalent than in previous years, as the following table will show:—

PLAGUE.

Year.	No. of Cases.	No of Deaths.	Death-rate.
			Per cent.
1899...	1,416	1,117	78·9
1900...	796	593	74·5
1901...	1,093	805	73·6
1902...	506	386	76·3

The disease has practically been limited to the Districts of Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems.

Plague in Mauritius, as elsewhere, has its period of dormancy and of activity.

Table showing the Cases of Each Kind of Disease—continued.

Diseases.	Savanne.		Plaines Wilhems.						Moka.		Total.	
			New Central Prisons.		Barkly Asylum.		Reformatory.					
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
General Diseases...	341	33	408	5	1,393	114	56	—	353	17	8,555	509
Diseases of the Nervous System ...	17	3	9	—	65	4	—	—	20	5	445	40
„ „ Eye	33	—	2	—	72	—	2	—	3	—	301	—
„ „ Ear	1	—	1	—	9	—	—	—	2	—	31	—
„ „ Nose	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	8	—
„ „ Circulatory System ...	25	5	—	—	61	16	—	—	11	1	253	50
„ „ Respiratory System ...	123	15	50	—	159	19	5	1	30	3	1,689	162
„ „ Digestive System ...	122	6	94	3	295	32	4	—	51	1	1,363	100
„ „ Lymphatic System ...	20	—	14	1	121	5	2	—	6	—	606	26
„ „ Urinary System ...	33	3	8	—	121	15	1	—	44	6	468	57
„ „ Generative Organs ...	52	—	7	—	113	1	1	—	11	1	687	2
„ „ Organs of Locomotion	11	—	1	—	17	—	1	—	1	—	138	2
„ „ Cellular Tissue ...	25	—	10	—	97	4	2	—	13	1	528	20
„ „ Skin	28	—	44	—	259	3	3	—	40	—	759	3
Injuries	60	1	20	—	145	7	5	—	31	1	1,161	21
Parasites	20	—	7	—	37	—	1	—	—	—	267	—
Poisons	1	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	17	—
Other Diseases	90	—	1	—	232	—	—	—	—	—	493	—
Total	1,003	66	676	9	3,204	220	83	1	617	36	17,769	992

MEDICAL.

The following is a TABLE showing the CASES of EACH KIND of DISEASE TREATED in HOSPITALS during the YEAR 1902, with the NUMBER of DEATHS from EACH such DISEASE.

Diseases.	Port Louis.				Pamplemousses.		Rivière du Rempart.		Flacq.		Grand Port.	
	Civil Hospital.		Prison Hospital.									
	Cases.	Deaths	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
General Diseases...	3,095	216	651	2	261	18	480	11	735	47	782	46
Diseases of the Nervous System ...	179	15	4	—	14	2	26	1	28	3	83	7
" " Eye	51	—	6	—	8	—	96	—	15	—	13	—
" " Ear	3	—	—	—	2	—	5	—	7	—	1	—
" " Nose	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
" " Circulatory System ...	70	16	2	—	10	2	16	1	42	7	16	2
" " Respiratory System ...	750	83	163	1	35	6	63	10	94	6	217	18
" " Digestive System ...	368	36	137	—	27	7	69	2	63	2	133	11
" " Lymphatic System ...	235	13	31	—	3	—	63	2	52	2	59	3
" " Urinary System ...	160	24	4	—	5	—	37	3	26	3	29	3
" " Generative Organs ...	257	—	18	—	12	—	111	—	56	—	54	—
" " Organs of Locomotion	53	2	8	—	3	—	23	—	2	—	18	—
" " Cellular Tissue ...	154	6	24	—	12	1	58	1	57	6	76	2
" " Skin	192	—	49	—	19	—	30	—	27	—	68	—
Injuries	318	7	17	—	31	—	58	—	270	2	206	3
Parasites	102	—	14	—	4	—	18	—	51	—	13	—
Poisons	7	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Diseases	169	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	6,165	418	1,123	3	449	36	1,154	31	1,525	77	1,770	95

GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

The number of schools working in connexion with the Department and earning grants from Government on the results of the examinations, was 31, the examinations being, however, open to all the girls in the Colony, except those attending Government and Aided Primary Schools.

The numbers of girls competing in the various standards, and the successes obtained, are shown in the following table:—

Standard.	Number examined.	Number who obtained Pass Certificates.
I.	56	4
II.	33	9
III.	50	0
IV.	20	6
V.	38	1
VI.	23	0
VII.	19	0
Totals ...	239	20

Both French and English are taught in the Schools. But experience seems to show that whilst the men, especially those engaged in business or seeking Government employment, cultivate their English, the girls do not speak English in after life, and seem to forget what they have learnt.

table gives the staff, which has since been increased by a professor of Mechanical Drawing, and a professor of Chemistry:—

Establishment.	Salaries paid in 1902.
	Rs.
Director of Public Instruction	12,000.00
Refund of actual travelling expenses	82.00
Total	12,082.00
Royal College—	
Rector	9,000.00
Senior Professor	3,625.00
Secretary	2,400.00
1st Class Professors (4 at Rs. 4,500 to 5,000)	19,900.62
2nd " (3 at Rs. 3,500 to 4,000)	11,098.50
3rd " (4 at Rs. 2,500 to 3,000)	8,197.80
Mistress, Royal College School, Port Louis	1,800.00
1st Class Masters (9 at Rs. 2,000 to 2,500)	20,099.13
2nd " (11 at Rs. 1,000 to 1,500)	22,649.92
Assistant 2nd Class Master	750.00
Religious Instructors—4	1,799.96
Drawing Master	1,800.00
Professor of Hindustani	999.96
Teacher of Bookkeeping	600.00
Instructor of Gymnastics (Port Louis and Curepipe)...	1,500.00
Ushers—4	6,999.84
Porter	—
Peons (3 at Rs. 300)	900.00
Servants—12	2,592.00
Personal Allowances to Head Masters, Royal College Schools, Curepipe and Port Louis.	999.96
Special Masters (2 at Rs. 2,500)	—
Contingencies	353.24
	118,065.93
Exchange on Salaries paid in England	1,812.50
Total	119,878.43

—	Pupils.
Royal College proper—	
Average for the year	229
December	208
Royal College School, Port Louis—	
Average for the year	61
December	69
Royal College School, Curepipe—	
Average for the year	119
December	113

The birth-rate in the general population, exclusive of Indians, was 33·4, and in the Indian population, 37·3. The rates for the preceding five years were:—

General Population.	Year.	Indian Population.
35·5	1897	36·8
33.0	1898	37·7
34·1	1899	37·8
33·7	1900	40·2
34·0	1901	35·1
33·4	1902	37·3

It will be noticed that the Indian population are maintaining a higher birth-rate than that which exists among the general population.

DEATHS.

The mortality for 1902 is less than that for 1901, and lower than for the previous years.

The figures since 1897 are:—

Year.	Mortality.	Rate per 1,000.
1897	11,066	29·5
1898	12,064	31·9
1899	13,222	34·8
1900	13,691	34·8
1901	14,971	40·3
1902	12,716	34·0

The following table derived from the Report of 1899 of the Registrar-General of England, gives the death-rate in certain European countries, the rates given in the Colonies being taken from the Annual Reports of the Registrars-General of those Colonies:—

DEATHS to 1,000 LIVING.

Years.	United Kingdom.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	Denmark.	Norway.	Sweden.	Austria.
Average— 1874–1898 ...	19·3	19·4	19·7	18·1	18·6	16·7	17·2	29·0
Rate for 1899 ...	18·3	18·3	18·6	17·6	17·5	16·8	17·6	25·4

Brought forward ...		373,823
Arrivals in the Island	8,676	
Departures from the Island	6,239	
Difference in favour of arrivals		2,437
Total civil population		376,260
Military stationed in the Island		2,291
Total population of the Island		378,551
Estimated population of Dependencies and outlying Islands (excluding Seychelles) ...		4,859
Estimated total population of the Colony ...		383,410

The crews of non-Colonial shipping in the harbour have not been included in the above estimate.

The Indian population, included in the above, numbered 263,971, showing an increase of 2,047 over the previous year. The steady and progressive increase in the Indian population is one of the most important facts connected with the vital statistics of the Island.

The Chinese numbered 5,009, but there were only 40 Chinese females in the Island.

MARRIAGES.

By the law of the Colony, no marriage is legal (except those performed *in articulo mortis*) unless it be celebrated by a Civil Status Officer, either at a Civil Status Office, or, by special arrangement, at the houses of the contracting parties.

There were 1,240 marriages celebrated during the year by the Civil Status, as against 1,235 in 1901, being an increase of 5.

Of these marriages, 665 belonged to the general population (exclusive of Indians), and 575 to the Indian population.

In 1901, the figures were 627 and 608 respectively.

The marriage-rate gives 6·7, as against 6·6 for 1901.

By the law of the Colony, parents may, by their subsequent marriage legitimate their children born prior to their marriage.

Ministers of any Christian religion and Civil Status Officers may under certain conditions celebrate marriages between persons, one of whom is *in articulo mortis*, without any previous formalities or publication.

It may be interesting to compare the marriage-rate of Mauritius with that of other countries. In 1901, the rate in Mauritius was 6·6 per thousand; in Jamaica, in 1900, it was 5·0 per thousand; in Trinidad, for the year 1901, it was 8·3 per thousand; and in the United Kingdom, the rate for 1899 was 16·7 per thousand.

REFORMATORY.

The condition of the reformatory is admitted to be unsatisfactory, and a committee has been appointed to consider a scheme of reorganisation. The place is at present a boys' prison and a school for criminals. According to official returns, 68 ex-reformatory boys passed through the prisons during the year 1902. This is a smaller number than that of previous year, when 131 ex-reformatory boys passed through the prisons; but it is evident that the majority of the boys who pass through the reformatory are not reformed, but join the criminal classes.

There were 235 admitted to the reformatory in 1902, as against 208 in 1901. The Superintendent of Prisons reports 112 offences against discipline, and that the conduct of the boys was not good.

The Director of Public Instruction reports that the educational results were inferior to those of last year, when compared with the number examined, but better when compared with the number on the roll, but that very little blame can be attached to the teachers on account of the short stay of the boys.

The institution is frequently visited by Catholic and Protestant Clergymen, and the boys attend Divine Service on Sundays.

Technical instruction is given; but, as the whole system, including the duration of the sentences, the nature of the training, and the influence on the daily life of the boys, must be reformed, it would be useless to describe the system, which, it is hoped will soon be obsolete.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population on the 1st January, 1902, was		373,044
The number of births registered in 1902 was	12,196	
The number of births unregistered, owing to death intervening before registration was made, was	1,299	
Total births	13,495	
Number of deaths registered was	12,716	
		779
Carried forward ...		373,823

The total number of prisoners admitted after conviction was 5,537 males and 267 females. These numbers show an increase of 982 males and 32 females, as compared with the return for 1901, and is the largest for the last three years.

There is an increase of 1,080 prisoners previously convicted. There is a decrease in the sentences from three months to five years, and an increase in sentences of three months or less.

The average daily number under detention shows an increase of 62·23, accounted for by the increased number of admissions.

The death-rate shows a decrease, being as follows:—

—	1901.	1902.
Port Louis... ...	2·30	1·02
Beau Bassin ...	8·46	2·19

This is satisfactory evidence of the result of the sanitary improvements carried out in the prisons.

The principal diseases remain as before, namely, malaria, dysentery, and pulmonary complaints, including tuberculosis.

The total expenditure for housing, maintaining, and guarding, was in—

	Rs.
1901	119,645.27
1902	120,958.86
Total increase ...	Rs. 1,313.59

or taking the expenditure per head per annum for the two years—

	Rs.
1901	163.16
1902	152.02

showing a decrease in the cost per head of prison population of Rs. 11.14.

The net cost per head for each prisoner taking credit for cash receipts and value of work done for Government was Rs. 98.20.

The statistics therefore show an improvement in prison management and sanitation.

Prison Statistics—cont.

Name and Nature of Prisons (whether Common Gaol, Penitentiary, &c.).	Number of Persons (at Col. 5) committed to Penal Imprisonment.				Daily average number in Prison.	Number of admissions to Hospital during the year 1902.	Daily average on the sick list.	Number of Deaths during 1902.
	For five years or more.	For one year or more, but less than five years.	For more than three months but less than one year.	For three months or less.				
Port Louis and Beau Bassin—								
Central Common Gaol and House of Correction.	18	42	672	5,072	795·52	1,886	37·02	14
Reformatory for Boys (Penitentiary)	4	18	34	105	66·70	82	3·54	1
Total	22	60	706	5,177	862·22	1,968	40·56	15
District Prison of Rodrigues	—	—	—	24	2·4	2	—	—
For the whole Colony except Rodrigues—								
Men	16	41	659	4,821	777·76	1,802	34·70	14
Women	2	1	13	251	17·76	84	2·32	—
Juveniles—								
Males	4	18	34	105	66·70	82	3·54	1
Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	22	60	706	5,177	862·22	1,968	40·56	15

By "Penal Imprisonment" is meant imprisonment (Col. 5) inflicted as a substantive punishment in pursuance of a sentence of a Court of Justice, as distinguished from imprisonment for safe custody, &c.

PRISONS.

The following are the Prison Statistics for the year 1902:—

Name and Nature of Prisons (whether Common Gaol, Penitentiary, &c.).	Number of persons committed in 1902.	Number committed for				Number of those committed who have been previously convicted.		
		Debt.	Non-payment of Fines and Costs.	Safe custody till trial or want of Security.	Purposes of Penal Imprisonment	Once	Twice.	Thrice or more.
Port Louis and Beau Bassin—								
Central Common Gaol and House of Correction.	7,630	6	1,616	1,826	4,182	1,477	1,412	1,255
Reformatory for Boys (Penitentiary)...	235	—	75	—	160	35	19	23
Total	7,865	6	1,691	1,826	4,342	1,512	1,431	1,278
District Prison of Rodrigues	27	—	3	8	24	18	6	3
For the whole Colony except Rodrigues—								
Men	7,296	6	1,442	1,759	4,089	1,433	1,369	1,170
Women	334	—	174	67	93	44	43	85
Juveniles—								
Males	235	—	75	—	160	35	19	23
Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7,865	6	1,691	1,826	4,342	1,512	1,431	1,278

CASES of CRIMES in which PERSONS were CHARGED.

Offences.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons Charged.	Number of Persons Convicted or Committed to Assizes.	Amount of Property Stolen.	Amount of Property Recovered.	
					By all Agencies.	By Police Only.
				Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Murder, including parricide, infanticide, wife murder, &c., and poisoning causing death.	11	29	19	—	—	—
Attempt at foregoing murder and poisoning not causing death	11	12	6	—	—	—
Manslaughter, including wounds and blows causing death	5	6	3	—	—	—
Rape, including attempt upon chastity	20	31	11	—	—	—
Larceny at night by breaking, or with violence to the person	86	127	80	7,106.12	1,586.13	1,416 71
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	28	37	23	—	362.27	362.27
Prædial and other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement and swindling.	1,228	1,469	1,114	16,434.59	7,442.79	6,171.4
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property by foregoing larcenies	305	358	233	—	5,320.84	4,936.45
Arson and other malicious injuries to property	15	15	9	—	—	—
All other offences not included above	579	769	529	—	—	—
Total	2,288	2,853	2,027	23,540.71	14,712.03	12,786.91

It will be observed that of serious offences reported to or detected by the police, there were 2,288 cases for which 2,853 were charged and 2,027, or 71·5 per cent., either convicted or committed to Assizes.

ASYLUMS.

There are no poorhouses, in the English sense, in Mauritius, but there are infirmaries, asylums, and orphanages, as well as a system of out-door Poor Law relief, which is, unfortunately, much needed.

The following is a list of the charitable institutions, with their inmates:—

The Barkly Asylum	207
The Calebasses Infirmary	132
The Convent Infirmaries—	
Rempart Street	42
Belle Rose	122
Pamplemousses	51
Chemin Grenier	18
St. Julien	19
The Barkly Asylum Orphanage	44
The Convent Orphanages—	
Rempart Street	17
La Paix Street	6
Canal Street...	17
Mahebourg	5
Moka	6
Church of England Orphanages—	
Plaisance	63
Rose Belle	60
Leper Asylum, St. Lazare	99
Total	908

POLICE.

The total nominal strength of the Police Force in December, 1902, was 709, but the actual effective strength was 694.

This force comprised ten nationalities, but 574 were Mauritius Creoles. 119 men were enlisted during the year, and 38 were dismissed.

Other extensions are under consideration; but it may be safely prophesied that if the surra continues in the Island, the necessity for feeders to the main lines will become more and more pressing, while the traffic on the main lines will increase enormously.

A good tramway, of 60-centimetre gauge and German materials, is being built in Port Louis, from funds taken from Revenue, and sidings have been constructed to meet the various requirements of the planters, the merchants, and the docks.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The following is a statement of the military expenditure for the year 1902:—

Particulars.	Amount.
	£
Pay, &c., of the Army	61,920
Medical Establishments	3,867
Transport and Remounts	10,867
Provisions, Forage, &c.	36,447
Clothing Services	2,138
Warlike and other Stores	2,930
Works, Buildings and Repairs	10,964
Military Works Loan...	46,346
Establishments for Military Education	320
Miscellaneous Effective Services	890
Army Non Effective Services	[illegible]
Total	177,141

Paid by the Colony.

Particulars.	Amount.
	£
Colonial Contribution under Ordinance No. 33 of 1897 towards Military Expenditure for 1902.	25,047
Adjusting Balance for 1901...	153
Payment to Military Authorities under Ordinance No. 6 of 1900 in lieu of exemption on Customs duties for 1902.	2,333
Total	27,533

These figures confirm the information derived from other sources, which tends to show that the Mauritian Creoles are seeking to better their fortunes by emigrating to South Africa, whilst the Indian population are replacing them in Mauritius.

The gross receipts of Post and Telegraph Offices for 1902 were Rs. 148,433.49; the gross expenditure for Post and Telegraphs for 1902 was 158,591.26: showing a deficit of Rs. 10,157.77.

The telephone service in Mauritius is a private enterprise.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

The railways increased their earnings in 1902, the figures being for 1901, Rs. 2,012,720.41; for 1902, Rs. 2,065,295.89.

But, in fairness, the Government traffic, which is not paid, should be added; if this be done, the earnings were Rs. 2,171,848.36; the working expenditure was Rs. 1,273,535.03; showing a profit of Rs. 898,313.33.

The percentage of working expenses to the earnings was for 1901, 63·35 per cent., for 1902, 58·63 per cent.; showing a decrease in the proportion of working expenses to increase of 4·72 per cent. Owing to the epidemic of surra, the traffic on the railway has greatly increased, and the following railway extensions have been sanctioned:—

Terre Rouge to Montagne Longue—being a branch line to the entrance of the Long Mountain Valley. The length of this extension is 17,800 feet, and the gauge, 4 feet 8½ inches. This line is being built from funds taken from the Revenue.

The Black River Railway—being a branch line from the Midland line to the sugar estates in the Black River Valley. The length of this extension is about 13 miles, and the gauge, 4 feet 8½ inches. A loan is being floated to meet the cost of construction of this line.

The Riviere du Poste, Bois Cheri and Mexico Light Railway Branch. This is a light narrow gauge railway, about 10 miles long, of 75 centimetres gauge, with German rails and rolling stock, which leave a point close to Riviere du Poste Railway Station and runs to the Colville Bridge, where it divides into two forks going in opposite directions. The one tapping the small planters in the direction of Bois Cheri on the west, the other tapping the small planters in the direction of Mexico and Nouvelle France on the east. This line, the cost of which is estimated at Rs. 40,000 is being built with funds taken from Revenue.

Mapou to Cannoniers Point, 7 miles.

Wires to Military Camps, 18⅝ miles.

Time ball wire from Observatory, 10 miles.

Terre Rouge and Montagne Longue, 4½ miles.

Poudre d'Or Branch, 2 miles.

Argy to Centre de Flacq, 1¼ mile.

Two other lines are in course of construction, from Mahebourg to Grand Port, and from Richelieu to Chamarel, total length, 35 miles.

The amount collected by the Post Office during the year 1902 on account of the sale of postage stamps, postcards, envelopes, &c., was Rs. 115,325.37, against Rs. 89,947.54 in the preceding year.

The return of money orders is interesting, as showing the Colonies in which the Mauritian community possess relatives or friends:—

—	Issued in the Colony.			Paid in the Colony.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	4,809	14	4	4,254	3	0
Cape of Good Hope	185	13	3	2,868	18	3
Natal	107	16	2	7,430	10	7
New South Wales	277	14	2	176	14	7
Victoria	25	0	10	33	4	6
Western Australia	60	12	5	43	17	0
South Australia	5	0	0	4	2	0
Hobart, Tasmania	0	6	0	37	0	0
Queensland	15	15	6	17	2	2
Total	5,487	12	8	14,865	12	1

—	Issued in the Colony.	Paid in the Colony.
	Rs.	Rs.
India	136,156.60	17,364.31
Ceylon	1,134.23	1,338.03
Rodrigues	20,004.35	61,188.30
Seychelles	7,264.92	3,474.57
Total	164,560.10	83,365.21

It will be noticed that Mauritians receive considerable remittances from friends or relatives in South Africa, and that the Indian community transmit considerable sums to their friends and relatives in India.

6. Cheaper telegrams.
7. Bicycle telegraph boys.
8. More pillar boxes.
9. Posting late letters in the railway guard van.
10. Money Orders on foreign countries issued at the chief inland offices.

These improvements have been effected; and the red bicycles, with their riders dressed in red jackets, are now a common feature in the streets of Port Louis.

The following statement shows the total number of letters, postcards, and newspapers posted in the Colony in the years 1901 and 1902:—

—	Letters.	Postcards.	Newspapers.
1901	1,488,837	116,689	1,450,926
1902	1,495,114	126,917	1,412,306
Increase	6,277	10,228	...
Decrease	—	—	38,620

The Money Order Department has been divided into three branches—

1. Foreign Branch—gold currency countries.
2. Foreign Branch—silver currency countries.
3. Inland money orders.

TELEGRAPHS.

The following are the telegraph wires in the Colony:—

Two Midland lines:—

One for the public, length, 36 miles.

One for the railway, length, 36 miles.

Two North line wires:—

One for the public, length, 31 miles.

One for the railway, length, 31 miles.

Two Moka line wires:—

One for the public, length 37 miles.

One for the railway, length, 37 miles.

One Savanne line, length, 41 miles.

Petite Riviere to Bambous, 5 miles.

Mapou to Butte aux Sables, 9 miles.

MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.

The absolute values of the magnetic elements for the year 1902, were as follows:—

		°	′	″
Mean declination west	... ...	9	17	78
Mean dip south	... ...	54	5	06
Mean horizontal force (c.g.s. units)	...	0·23753		
Mean vertical force (c.g.s. units)	...	0·32794		
Mean total force (c.g.s. units)...	...	0·40492		

Fifteen magnetic disturbances were recorded during the year, none of which were remarkable. The largest occurred on January 24th, April 11th, May 8th to 10th, August 21st to 22nd, October 31st to November 1st, November 23rd to 24th.

SEISMOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the year 1902, earthquakes were recorded by the Milne seismograph, the largest of which occurred on April 19th, when the town of Guatemala was destroyed.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Watch was kept on the nights of November 13th and 14th, and 14th and 15th, but no records were observed. The sky was generally clear on both nights, with occasional fragments of light cloud; but full moon occurring on the evening of November 15th, it is possible that some small meteors passed unnoticed.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

During the year 1902, a Commission was appointed to consider the improvements that could be introduced into the Post and Telegraph Department.

The improvements recommended are now being gradually introduced; but they may be summarised as follows:—

1. An increased and better paid staff.
2. Express delivery of letters, with an express delivery stamp.
3. Better and quicker sorting.
4. Private boxes.
5. Quicker and more efficient delivery of letters and telegrams.

Month.	Atmospheric Pressure.	Temperature of the Air.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall.	Wind Velocity.
1902.	Ins. Ins.	° °	Per cent.	Ins. Ins.	m. m.
January	29·781 + ·028	77·8 — 0·9	73 — 2	2·33 — 5·46	11·0 — 0·2
February	29·700 — ·035	77·8 — 0·7	80 + 3	17·51 + 9·26	15·7 + 4·5
March	29·812 + ·043	76·2 — 1·[illegible]	78 — 1	5·41 — 4·07	8·9 — 1·0
April	29·819 + ·002	75·3 — 0·2	78 — 2	1·74 — 3·07	6·4 — 4·0
May	29·879 — ·009	72·4 + 0·2	76 — 2	1·95 — 1·22	8·8 — 1·4
June	29·918 — ·045	70·5 + 1·7	75 0	1·69 — 0·25	9·9 — 1·4
July	29·961 — ·045	69·0 + 1·3	76 + 1	2·18 — 0·15	10·4 — 1·4
August	29·956 — ·052	69·4 + 1·3	74 0	0·63 — 2·26	9·9 — 2·4
September	29·982 — ·017	70·7 + 1·2	71 0	1·32 + 0·04	10·9 — 1·0
October	29·914 — ·025	73·7 + 1·4	71 0	1·87 + 0·63	10·7 — 0·4
November	29·849 — ·029	76·5 + 1·3	70 + 2	1·31 — 0·49	8·7 — 1·8
December	29·721 — ·030	78·1 + 0·1	79 + 6	10·01 + 5·21	10·5 — 0·4
For Year	29·858 — ·023	74·0 + 0·5	74 0	47·98 — 1·83	10·1 — 0·9

showers. The rainfall is very variable in different parts of the Island; the wettest station is Cluny, in Grand Port, with a mean annual fall of 145 inches; and the driest, Albion, on the west coast, with a mean annual fall of only 31 inches. The mean monthly rainfall for the whole Island decreases from 12 inches in March to 2·6 inches in September and October.

In addition to the annual variations, there is a marked diurnal variation in all elements. The atmospheric pressure undergoes a double oscillation with maxima near to 9 a.m. and p.m., and minima, near to 3 a.m. and p.m. The mean variation is 0·048 inches from 3 a.m. to 9 a.m., 0·069 inches from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 0·068 inches from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., and 0·047 inches from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. The mean diurnal range of temperature increases from 12° in April to 16·9° in November. The diurnal range of relative humidity is very variable, its mean value is 25 per cent., but ranges of 50 per cent. in one day occasionally occur. The hourly velocity of the wind increases, in the average, 7·6 miles between 5 a.m. and Noon, and the direction shows a retrograde motion of 20° in the same interval. The rainfall, like the atmospheric pressure, shows a double oscillation with maxima near to 4 a.m. and p.m., and minima, near to 9 a.m. and p.m. The extent of the oscillation is 0·070 inches per month.

SPECIAL FEATURES IN 1902.

The beginning of the year was characterised by temperature, rainfall, wind velocity, and humidity, below the average, with pressure above the average. Except in February, when it was 0·035 inches below, owing to the passage of four cyclones, the first over Rodrigues on February 3rd, the second, about 50 miles to the north of Mauritius, on February 5th, the third over Mauritius on February 9th, the fourth between Mauritius and Rodrigues on February 17th. In the second cyclone the wind attained a velocity of 78·5 miles per hour, and in the third, a velocity of 53·5 miles per hour; in the first and fourth, the velocity was never excessive. In the month of May, a wave of relatively low pressure, high temperature, and little wind set in, lasting until the end of the year, as will be seen in the following table, in which are given the monthly means and departure from average of the principal elements for 1902:—

The foregoing table explains the exodus from Port Louis to the country districts. All those who are not compelled, either by poverty or by the nature of their occupations or professions, to live in town, migrate to the country.

The statistics of death, sickness, and marriage are greatly affected by the poverty or ease of the population. Poverty means insufficient food, insufficient clothing, and insanitary conditions.

The better health, therefore, of the Indian population may be partly ascribed to their frugal and saving habits. The deposits standing to the credit of the Indian population in the Savings Bank, on the 30th June, 1902, were Rs. 1,123,442, and they purchased real property during the year to the value of Rs. 1,131,141. It is inevitable that these figures should be reflected in the vital statistics, and that the Indians should show a steady advance on the Creole population.

CLIMATE.

Mauritius lies between the Meridian of 57° 18', and 57° 49' East Longitude, and the Parallels of 19° 58' and 20° 32' South Latitude. To the North, extends the equatorial belt of calms, with its hot, damp, and rarified atmosphere; and to the South, a belt of high pressure from which a current of air blows nearly continuously towards the Equator, but deflected somewhat by the rotation of the Earth on its axis.

The migration of these belts North and South with the Sun, produce the seasonal variations of weather at Mauritius. With the system in its most southerly position, the Island is under the influence of the belt of low pressure, and in its most northerly position, the influence of the high pressure belt is felt, so that in the summer months, December to April, the atmospheric pressure is below the average, and the weather is hot and sultry with occasional very heavy rain, produced principally by the cyclones which form on the North-East of Mauritius, and travel usually on a south-westerly course, passing sometimes to the eastward and sometimes to the westward, but seldom immediately over the Island. The mean velocity of the wind is also below the average during the summer, and its mean direction is due East.

In winter, the mean temperature in the lowland falls to 72°, while at Curepipe, a town situated on the central plateau at an altitude of 1,800 feet above the sea, it falls to 62°. The midday heat is tempered by the trade winds which become relatively strong from July to September, and bring refreshing

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of DEATHS from all CAUSES during EACH MONTH, 1902.

Districts.	January	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Grand Total.
Black River	36	41	37	52	56	74	53	58	38	53	49	62	609
Moka	66	61	62	69	62	90	102	96	103	101	96	89	987
Plaines Wilhems	175	134	130	122	159	160	196	217	184	162	198	201	2,038
Savanne	57	47	58	85	102	81	117	90	90	92	90	80	989
Grand Port	98	87	96	82	136	154	192	191	172	116	101	111	1,539
Flacq	104	89	103	110	120	146	157	155	123	130	121	128	1,486
Rivière du Rempart	43	51	51	53	81	69	79	83	56	58	46	77	737
Pamplemousses	85	87	98	112	151	149	148	122	133	136	150	154	1,525
Port Louis	244	171	171	173	225	205	265	286	256	260	292	261	2,806
Total	908	768	808	858	1,082	1,118	1,309	1,298	1,155	1,108	1,143	1,163	12,716

Deaths to 1,000 Living—continued.

Years.	Hungary.	Switzerland.	German Empire.	The Netherlands.	Belgium.	France.	Italy.
Average— 1874–1898	33·2	20·9	24·6	20·9	20·3	22·0	27·1
Rate for 1899	27·0	17·6	21·5	17·1	18·8	21·1	22·1

The death-rates in certain Colonies per 1,000 were:—

Cape Colony, 1899	22·5
British Guiana, 1901	23·6
Jamaica, year ended 31st March, 1900 ...	22·8
Trinidad, 1901...	25·0
Mauritius, 1902	34·0

DEATH RATES in CERTAIN FOREIGN TOWNS and in CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, and MADRAS.

Towns &c.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
Calcutta	43·9	51·3	25·0	—
Bombay	95·2	61·0	43·9	49·2
Madras	47·5	37·6	40·1	44·6
Cairo	—	37·4	—	—
Alexandria ...	—	31·9	—	—
Port Louis (Mauritius).	44·4	45·6	61·0	61·6

The average death-rate in Mauritius for the period 1873-1901 was 32·6.

The high mortality shown in Bombay is, of course, due to plague, which is far more destructive to human life in Bombay than in Mauritius, but comparing the death-rate in Mauritius with that of other European and tropical countries, it will be seen that Mauritius is, by comparison, distinctly unhealthy.

Nevertheless, in Mauritius the death-rate varies greatly in different districts, as the following table shows:—

STATEMENT shewing the IMPORTATION FREE of CUSTOMS DUTY of TRAMWAY MATERIALS, TRACTION ENGINES, &c., during the PERIOD BEGINNING JULY, 1902 and ENDING 31st AUGUST, 1903.

1902—*July to December.*

Countries whence Imported.	Tramway Materials.		Traction Engines, Automobiles, &c. and Accessories.			Wire Rope.	
	Kilos.	Value.	Number.	Kilos.	Value.	Kilos.	Value.
		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.
United Kingdom	39,090	3,826·00	16	160,927	104,956	28,755	11,178
France	745,571	69,154·59	4	97,834	34,260	—	—
Belgium	257,662	25,496·00	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	91,086	16,000·00	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1,133,409	114,476·59	20	258,761	139,216	28,755	11,178

1903—*January to 31st August.*

Countries whence Imported.	Tramway Materials.		Traction Engines, Automobiles, &c. and Accessories.			Wire Rope.	
	Kilos.	Value.	Number.	Kilos.	Value.	Kilos.	Value.
United Kingdom	1,513,368	131,146·50	63	642,003	373,521·61	76,653	25,289·50
France	670,840	81,847·00	1	11,354	8,428·00	1,219	597·00
Belgium	12,392,231	1,079,952·26	13	81,392	62,678·45	64,322	4,150·00
Germany	4,051,092	557,512·99	5	206,210	46,891·00	—	—
Holland	410,992	40,950·00	1	6,687	7,104·25	—	—
Total	19,038,523	1,891,408·75	83	947,646	498,623·31	142,194	30,036·50

N.B.—The values above given are exclusive of exchange.

RODRIGUES.

The Revenue of Rodrigues for the year 1902 was Rs. 12,303, as against Rs. 19,569, showing a decrease of Rs. 7,266.

The expenditure was Rs. 26,277 in 1902, as against Rs. 22,406 in 1901, showing an increase of Rs. 3,870.

The ratio of Revenue to population is Rs. 3.50 per head, and the expenditure, Rs. 7.55 per head.

Rodrigues is a dependency of Mauritius, governed by laws and regulations passed in Mauritius, and administered by a magistrate.

A Government medical officer resides in the Island, and there is a small hospital and two dispensaries.

There are also two Government Schools. The attendance in 1902, was as follows:—

—	Boys.	Girls.
Port Mathurin School	68	60
St. Gabriel School	78	102

A Catholic Priest, paid by the Government, cares for the spiritual needs of the community.

The population is of mainly African origin, with a mixture of European blood, but there are about 30 Indians and 12 Chinamen on the Island. The climate, though hot in summer, may be described as healthy.

The deer, which were at one time plentiful, are now very scarce, having been poached by the inhabitants.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The year 1902 was, on the whole, a dry year for Mauritius, and as usually happens, a dry year is a comparatively healthy year for the inhabitants, but a bad year for the sugar crop. Unfortunately, the shortage in the crop was accompanied by the loss of the majority of the draught animals, and by low prices. These misfortunes coming together threatened, at one time, to bring on a serious financial crisis. Had the Government not come to the assistance of the planters, the disaster must have been widespread involving the ruin of the sugar industry in Mauritius.

Whatever theories may be held or general principles as to the proper limits of Government interferences, there can be no doubt that there were special reasons affecting Mauritius which left the Government practically no choice in the matter.

The revenue and finances of the country are dependent on the sugar industry, and a bankrupt industry means no revenue, but an equally imperative consideration is that there are 96,083 Indians employed on sugar estates. Had these estates gone into sequestration, the Government would have been morally responsible for the food and salary of the Indian employees.

In many cases the Government is the mortgage creditor of the sugar estates, and might be forced to become the owner. Now the Government has, it is needless to say neither the machinery nor the capacity to manage sugar estates.

The measures taken were, therefore, not only beneficent to the planters, but were also measures of self-protection, so far as the Government were concerned. The alternative of a financial crisis would have involved contingencies which the Government were not prepared to face, and no reasonable administration could face, with a light heart.

Government assistance was regulated by two Ordinances, Nos. 34 and 43 of 1902, and provided under Ordinance 43 for advance to meet what is known as the *faisance valoir*, that is to say, the expenditure necessary to cultivate and reap the crop; and under Ordinance No. 34, for the mechanical means of transport necessary to bring the crop to the mills.

The Island is now a spider's web of tramways and wire ropes, whilst traction engines of nearly all forms are constantly seen on the roads. These tramways are a permanent benefit to the Island, and a great economy in the cost of transport. Moreover, they provide a security which is not furnished by stables of draught animals, which may be swept off any day by some chance epizootie which may visit the Island.

The anxiety is expressed by some planters that the soil may deteriorate from the absence of animal manure, but the chemical properties of soils are now so well known, and so easily ascertained, that there ought to be no difficulty in supplying any deficiencies in the chemical composition of the soils of the different estates.

The smaller engines and tramways have, for the most part, come from Germany and Belgium, and have not only been delivered quickly from stocks in hand, but have given great satisfaction in working. The engines are strong, the working parts are all easily accessible, and the finish is quite as good as can be desired for practical work.

The year 1903 finds the Colony not only more hopeful than it has been for years, but the hopes have a solid foundation. The planters have the promise of a record crop, the certainty of material wherewith to gather it, and a reasonable prospect of better prices than during the year 1902. The year 1902 represents a dark cloud in the history of Mauritius, but, in passing, it showed that it had a silver lining, and the silver lining is likely to be made more manifest during the year 1903.

Mauritius has still her difficulties, plague and malaria. Tuberculosis and dysentery are still with us but if the poverty which has proved the chief provocative and fore-runner of diseases can be relieved, if the people can live in more sanitary conditions, and if the Government can find the money so necessary for sanitary improvements, even disease may be diminished and cease to become a danger.

The greater prosperity which all now confidently look forward to may yet bring not only happiness but health to the sorely tried people of Mauritius.

The Report for 1901 gave the price of sugar in Mauritius up to and including September, 1902. The following table brings these prices up to date:—

		Rs.
1902—	October	8.50
	November	8.75
	December	8.90
1903—	January	9.25
	February	9.30
	March	9.00
	April	9.00
	May	9.50
	June	9.30
	July	9.30
	August	9.40
	September	9.50

5,000 bags were sold early in October at Rs. 9.25, the next day a further consignment of 2,000 bags was sold at Rs. 9, an offer has been made since to purchase at Rs. 8.50, but has been refused, and the brokers are holding at Rs. 8.75. The Sugar Convention came into force on the 1st September. No explanation can be given of the fall in October, other than the somewhat unsatisfactory supposition that the supply in Bombay probably exceeds the demand.

It is unnecessary to say that the universal hope in Mauritius is that the fall is purely accidental.

GRAHAM BOWER,

Colonial Secretary.

12th October, 1903.

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LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 430.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1903.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 412.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1904.

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1904.

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No. 430.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 412).

ACTING-GOVERNOR SIR GRAHAM BOWER to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Mauritius,
27th July, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your information, the Report on the Mauritius Blue Book for the year 1903, which has been prepared by Mr. Gibson, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. I am glad to be able to report that the delays in the preparation of the Blue Book, mainly caused by difficulties with the printers, are now being overcome, and it is hoped that the report will, in future, be ready at a reasonable date after the close of the year.

3. The financial condition of the Colony during the past year has been the subject of grave anxiety; a reduction of expenditure has become an absolute necessity if the Government is to continue to pay its way without an undue increase of the burden of taxation.

4. The population of Mauritius is poor and must, I fear, continue to be poor. The estate owners have, for the most part, to bear a heavy burden of debt which has been borrowed at a high rate of interest, whilst the labouring classes can never hope to earn a high wage, even if the employers could afford to pay it, for the standard of wage is necessarily governed by the facilities for the introduction of Indian labour.

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5. A further cause of poverty is found in the prevalence of plague, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases. These diseases, though not caused by poverty, are encouraged and promoted by the conditions of life which are incidental to poverty. They in turn cause the disablement of the wage earner—further poverty and further disease. Poverty and disease are in fact working in a vicious circle in Mauritius, and although the Government spends all it can afford in the attempt to eradicate the causes of disease, nevertheless the conditions are such that the medical authorities have hitherto been fighting an unsuccessful battle.

6. The hard case of the unfortunate inhabitants who are struggling with disease and adversity may well excite sympathy, and I am glad to report that the officers of the Government have done all that lay in their power to aid the people in the difficulties with which they have had to contend. I would especially bring to notice the good work of the Railway Department and the Medical Department.

I have, &c.,

GRAHAM BOWER,

Administering the Government.

REPORT ON MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1903.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The following is a comparative statement of the Heads of Revenue for the year 1902-3:—

Heads of Revenue.	1901–02.	1902–03.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Customs	3,309,996	2,980,574	—	329,422
2. Port, Harbour, Wharf, and Lighthouse Dues.	229,598	201,134	—	28,464
3. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	2,637,929	2,606,777	—	31,152
4. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	209,133	237,865	28,732	—
5. Post Office and Telegraphs	120,066	148,151	28,085	—
6. Government Railways ...	1,927,273	2,377,494	450,221	—
7. Rent of Government Property	57,857	50,824	—	7,033
8. Interest	523,276	518,697	—	4,579
9. Miscellaneous Receipts...	123,966	99,664	—	24,302
10. Land Sales	1,655	416	—	1,239
Total	9,140,753	9,221,600	507,038	426,191

The increases in the foregoing table are mainly due to a large sugar crop. The decreases are, in respect of the largest item, "Customs," due to reduced taxation on Imports.

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure for the years 1901-2, 1902-3:—

No.	Heads of Expenditure.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Public debt	836.703.74	836,940.22	236.48	—
2	Pensions	520,233.50	540,185.87	19,952.37	—
3	Governor and Legislature	96.840.52	96,618.67	—	221.85
4	Colonial Secretary... ...	62,071.90	60,660.59	—	1,411.31
5	Receiver General	126.694.41	136,357.61	9,663.20	—
6	Auditor General	55,792.63	58,683.70	2,891.07	—
7	Customs	262.849.28	260,901.83	—	1,947.45
8	Port and Marine	204,050.82	246,303.18	42,252.36	—
9	Observatory...	19.504.04	21,886.86	2.382.82	—
10	Museum	7.946.54	10,597.01	2,650 17	—
11	Registrar General	25,267.81	23,609.76	—	1,658.05
12	Receiver of Registration Dues.	54,104.01	53,133.31	—	970.70

Expenditure—cont.

No.	Heads of Expenditure.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
13	Post Office	154,007.79	159,595.69	5,587.90	—
14	Woods and Forests ...	130,031.77	127,347.87	—	2,683.90
15	Judicial Departments ...	480,500.06	485,805.54	5,305.48	—
16	Ecclesiastical	144,560.03	143,636.00	—	924.03
17	Education	487,658.62	527,201.70	39,543.08	—
18	Medical and Health ...	701,572.80	738,237.07	36,664.27	—
19	Quarantine	36,975.41	66,911.09	29,935.68	—
20	Poor Law Commission ...	181,067.25	185,160.59	4,093.34	—
21	Police	531,418.70	539,831.49	8,412.79	—
22	Prisons	155,166.51	153,583.15	—	1,583.36
23	Storekeeper General ...	34,223.82	34,286.85	63.03	—
24	Immigration	125,290.71	123,604.27	—	1,686.44
25	Dependencies	54,276.75	54,536.00	259.25	—
26	Crown Agents	11,649.89	16,083.27	4,433.38	—
27	Writers and Copyists ...	6,266.85	6,766.20	499.35	—
28	Transport	3,657.95	8,609.01	4,951.06	—
29	Miscellaneous	397,967.71	307,227.30	—	90,740.41
30	Charitable Allowance ...	17,460.36	16,953.45	—	506.91
31	Interest and Exchange ...	150,615.93	209,913.72	59,297.79	—
32	Military Contribution ...	419,477.54	466,864.66	47,387.12	—
33	Railways	1,588,117.94	1,883,483.73	295,365.79	—
34	Surveyor General	62,376.27	63,214.21	837.94	—
35	Public Works, Recurrent...	371,975.89	520,446.95	148,471.06	—
36	Do., Extraordinary ...	137,471.32	100,721.25	—	36,750.07
37	Loan Commission	14,631.42	14,194.93	—	436.49
38	Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.	53,748.88	50,878.76	—	2,870.12
39	Drainage Works	20,015.65	19,537.57	—	478.08
40	Secret Service	10,500.00	7,450.00	—	3,050.00
41	Plague Services	288,323.34	197,221.20	—	91,102.14
		9,043,066.36	9,575,182.13	771,137.08	239,021.31

The main increases in expenditure are due to the putting into force of a New Educational Code which provides for more liberal grants to the Schools; to the construction of a narrow gauge light railway, extending from Rivière du Poste Station on the Savanne Line to Bois Chéri on the west, and Mexico and Nouvelle France on the east; to the extension of the North Line of Railway from Terre Rouge Station to the Long Mountain Valley—a portion of the cost of which extensions has been met out of Treasury balances—and to the additional public works undertaken by the Surveyor General's Department.

POSITION OF THE COLONY AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1902-3.

	Rs.
At the close of the year 1902-3, the balance in favour of the Treasury was	1,263,430
At the close of 1901-2, it was	1,834,669
Showing a decrease in 1902-3 of ...	571,239

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years, and the Treasury balances at the close of last year, were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1898	7,620,318	8,131,465	438,866
1899	9,066,314	8,407,227	1,077,715
1900	9,179,968	8,568,923	1,704,424
1901–02	9,140,754	9,043,066	1,834,669
1902–03	9,221,600	9,575,182	1,263,430

The difference between the revenue and expenditure of 1902-3 —Rs. 353,582—was met from Treasury balances.

Assets and Liabilities on 30*th June*, 1903.

1. Commissioners of Currency:—

	Rs.
Assets	6,010,181
Liabilities	5,911,250
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...	98,931

2. Government Savings Bank:—

	Rs.
Assets	3,134,996
Liabilities	2,825,858
Balance in favour of Bank	309,138

3. Curatelle:—

	Rs.
Assets	462,947
Liabilities	462,947

4. Treasury proper:—

	Rs.
Assets	4,196,027
Liabilities	2,932,597
Balance in favour of the Treasury ...	1,263,429

5. Public Debt:—

The Public Debt stood as follows on the 30th June, 1903:—

	£	s.	d.
(1) Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings ...	40,693	10	0
(2) Moka Railway 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings ...	600	0	0
(3) Consolidated 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	56,100	0	0
(4) Mauritius Inscribed Stock under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887, including loan made for Mare-aux-Vacoas (£34,000)	482,390	16	0
(5) Hurricane Loan 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock under Ordinance 4 of 1892	600,000	0	0
(6) Planters 4 per cent. Loan under Ordinance No. 34 of 1902	200,000	0	0
	£1,379,784	6	0

For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock, the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the trustees on the 30th June, 1903, amounted to £167,234 16*s.* 8*d.*, the amount duly provided as required by law. This is exclusive of the balance due to the Loan Office, amounting to £321,623 9*s.*

The sum at the credit of the sinking funds on 30th June, 1903, showed an increase of £20,742 6*s.* 11*d.* on the previous year.

Currency.

Amount of currency notes on 31st December, 1903:—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents) ...	483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,639	0	0
	£4,122	16	5

Rupee notes under Ordinance 28 of 1876:—

	Rs.
1. In the Commissioner's vault	1,063,000
2. In the hands of the public (including the banks and financial officers) ...	4,848,250
	5,911,250

MUNICIPALITIES.

The Municipality of the town of Port Louis is the only elective institution in the Island. The following statement shows the financial position at the end of 1903:—

	Rs.
Balance in hand on 1st January, 1903 ...	27,130.80
Revenue and receipts during the year ...	551,965.93
	579,096.73
Expenditure	552,574.44
Balance in hand on 31st December, 1903	26,522.29

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1899	432,911.00	424,385.92
1900	435,264.53	433,351.95
1901	412,854.46	448,214.52
1902	442,825.20	472,875.39
1903	*422,351.45	451,345.77

* Not including a loan of Rs 30,000 for the purchase of the buildings of the Gas Company and of a traction engine for scavengering purposes.

The following is a statement of the debts of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis on 31st December, 1903, showing provision for payment in 1904:—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1904.
	£	£
Conversion Loan	125,000	1,450
	Rs.	Rs.
Colonial Loan	46,800	7,800
Grand River Bridge Loan	16,000	2,000
Manure Establishment Loan	26,000	2,000
Government Hurricane Loan	101,424.78	5,544.81
Overflood Loan	20,833.38	4,166.66
Municipality Loan	30,000.00	2,000
Total	241,058·16	23,511.47

Provision for payment of capital and interest on the above loans is included in the annual budget of the Corporation.

The following statements relate to the townships of Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes. These townships are governed by Nominee Boards of Commissioners.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR CUREPIPE.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	61,568.61	59,759.18	115,590.13	121,322.70	85,477.51
Expenditure...	59,085.14	57,108.48	88,426.58	120,286.57	77,023.39

Debts of the Board of Curepipe.

	Rs.	Rs.
1. Amount of debentures issued in 1901 and 1902 for the construction of the Town Hall in virtue of Ordinance No. 39 of 1900 ...	70,000	
Amount paid off in 1902 and 1903 ...	5,000	
		65,000
2. Balance of sale price of a piece of land purchased by the Board		4,000
Total ...		69,000

This sum is to be paid out of the General Revenue of the Board. Article 9 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1900 enacts that 25 of the debentures issued shall be repayable in every year.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	23,298.56	22,905.09	28,252.08	29,442.81	32,516.10
Expenditure...	23,626.60	25,377·09	27,520·54	33,133.34	29,235.29

Debt.—A loan of Rs. 20,000 was made to the Board by Government on its creation to permit of the works of repairing and draining the streets and lanes of the township being undertaken without delay. This amount is refunded by annual instalments of Rs. 2,000 and the debt is now reduced to Rs. 6,000.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR QUATRE BORNES.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	10,054.90	10,060.70	12,827.14	13,627.55	15,460.80
Expenditure ...	9,189.68	11,418.02	10,148.32	13,454.95	14,000.25

Debt—Rs. 615. This represents the share to be paid to Government by the Board for remetalling a main road in the township. Provision has been made in this year's estimates to pay off this debt.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following returns give the total imports and exports, classified under the headings, live animals and food, raw materials, manufactured articles, coin, bullion and specie, and the distinction has been drawn between home and foreign produce.

VALUE of IMPORTS (exclusive of charges and exchange) and EXPORTS (exclusive of shipping charges).

—	Imports.		Exports					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	11,875,934.03	12,135,759.91	29,963,911.29	33,047,233.00	167,627.11	201,493.78	30,131,538.40	33,248,726.78
2. Raw Material:—								
1. Textile ...	10,058.52	7,637.00	901,804.32	530,032.50	8,445.00	2,000.00	910,249.32	532,032.50
2. Metal... ...	2,927.20	5,527.50	—	—	16,164.50	—	16,164.50	—
3. Other... ...	1,500,998.97	1,869,467.98	14,639.16	19,030.50	31,129.07	2,859.00	45,768.23	21,889.50
3. Manufactured Articles:—								
1. Textile ...	1,966,821.34	1,571,903.86	150.00	50.00	56,262.38	18,253.65	56,412.38	18,303.65
2. Metal... ...	1,415,552.76	4,110,605.70	40,826.00	66,876.00	32,014.96	41,167.52	72.840.96	108,043.52
3. Other... ...	3,714,882.76	3,666,347.03	16,728.85	16,719.35	550,684.69	192,355.41	567,413.49	209,074.76
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	1,434,738.42	3,243,365.10	—	—	4,403,260.00	1,532,526.71	4,403,260.00	1,532,526.71
Total ...	21,917,914.00	26,610,614.08	30,938,959.62	33,679,941.35	5,265,587.66	1,990,656.07	36,203,647.28	35,670,597.42

VALUE of IMPORTS (exclusive of charges and exchange) and EXPORTS (exclusive of shipping charges).

Coastwise.

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	385,555.67	461,787.94	17,769.46	24,338.18	181,555.44	223,725.36	199,324.90	248,063.54
2. Raw Material :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	—	—	367.00	400.75	367.00	400.75
2. Metal... ...	—	—	—	—	134.00	24.12	134.00	24.12
3. Other... ...	48,678.67	9,346.25	5,476.60	1,030.40	5,342.15	11,273.80	10,818.75	12,304.20
3. Manufactured Articles :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	44.00	7.00	63,970.87	10,567.13	64,014.87	10,574.13
2. Metal ...	—	3.00	921.90	573.00	14,684.81	29,326.08	15,606.31	29,899.08
3. Other... ...	1,294.95	18,861.95	3,639.18	2,719.11	53,577.89	139,828.16	57,217.07	142,547.27
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	—	—	—	—	20,000.00	—	20,000.00	—
Total ...	435,529.29	489,999.14	27,851.14	28,667.69	339,631.76	415,145.40	367,482.90	443,813.09

CUSTOMS.

The following statements show the value of goods imported into and exported from Mauritius during the year 1903:—

IMPORTS.

Countries.	Value in Rupees of the Total Imports, exclusive of Charges and Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	5,617,021.46	4,690,560.66	10,307,582.12
British Possessions	15,034,345.35	3,389,695.55	18,424,040.90
Foreign Countries	5,959,247.27	4,578,976.95	10,538,224.22
Grand Total... ...	26,610,614.08°	12,659,233.16	39,269,847.24

° Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion imported, Rs. 3,243,365.10.

EXPORTS.

Countries.	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Shipping Charges on Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	4,247,926.81	259,927.88	100,934.22	4,608,788.91
British Possessions.	29,118,284.36	1,843,392.10	1,693,836.47	32,655,512.93
Foreign Countries	313,730.18	20,349.35	195,885.38	529,964.91
Total ...	33,679,941.35	2,123,669.33	1,990,656.07	37,794,266.75*

* Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion exported, Rs. 1,532,526.71.

TRADE OF MAURITIUS.

1. The total value of imports into and exports from the Colony (exclusive of duty-free goods to and from the Dependencies) for the year ending 31st December, 1903, compared with 1902, is as follows:—

—	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	30,738,778.11	39,269,847.24
Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	36,203,647.28	35,670,597.42
Total	66,942,425.39	74,940,444.66

Accounted for as under:—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	8,224,250.06	10,307,582.12	4,365,353.41	4,348,861.03
British Possessions.	16,923,006.23	18,424,040.90	31,215,080.49	30,812,120.83
Foreign Countries.	5,591,521.82	10,538,224.22	623,213.38	509,615.56
Total ...	30,738,778.11	39,269,847.24	36,203,647.28	35,670,597.42

2. The total value of imports and exports, from and to the Dependencies, per Coast Sufferances, is recorded thus:—

—	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	435,529.29	489,999.14
Exports	367,482.90	443,813.09
Total	803,012.19	933,812.23

3. The aggregate value of trade is, therefore, as under:—

—	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	31,174,307.40	39,759,846.38
Exports	36,571,130.18	36,114,410.51
Total	67,745,437.58	75,874,256.89

4. Excluding the value of exports to and imports from the Dependencies, the rate of trade, per head of population, was:—

—	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	81.34	103.30
Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	95.80	93.59

The difference in the rate of trade for imports is accountable to the large amount of specie and bullion imported in 1903, showing a surplus of Rs. 2,039,016 over 1902, and also to tramway materials, &c., amounting to Rs. 5,007,809, imported duty free.

5. The value of specie and bullion imported and exported is as follows:—

—	1902.			1903.		
	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imported	1,434,738.42	70,689.10	1,505,427.52	3,243,365.10	230.389.46	3,473,754.56
Exported	4,403,260.00	—	4,403,260.00	1,532,526.71	—	1,532,526.71
Total	5,837,998.42	70,689.10	5,908,687.52	4,775,891.81	230,389.46	5,006,281.27

6. Deducting specie and bullion, the declared values of imports and exports, mentioned in paragraph 1, were as follows:—

—	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	29,233,350.59	35,796,092.68
Exports	31,800,387.28	34,138,070.71
Total...	61,033,737.87	69,934,163.39

7. The amounts collected as duty during the years (1st January to 31st December) 1902 and 1903 are as under:—

—	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	2,611,411.70	2,638,370.89
Exports	485,235.01	546,835.20
Total...	3,097,645.71	3,230,206.09

The 4 per cent. surcharge levied on imports to meet the Sinking Fund and interest on a loan to be raised for reafforestation purposes produced Rs. 102,875.06 in 1903.

8. The following return is a comparative statement of the value of the chief articles of imports and exports for the years 1902-3, exclusive of charges and exchange.

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1902.		1903.	
	1902.	1903.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	388,740	956,965	25	3,150	—	—
Apothecary wares	114,288	114,536	15	1,592	20	4,056
Apparel, Wearing	96,536	88,957	110	22,081	—	2,305
Bags and Pockets	610,112	621,129	3,973	136,745	1,835	16,184
Bicycles	18,020	13,705	—	1,140	—	—
Brass and copper wares	45,862	27,988	—	14,923	—	17,053
Coals	545,329	874,825	—	10	—	—
Clocks, Watches and Jewellery	55,132	35,736	—	11,335	—	55
Corn, grain, meal	8,519,749	8,213,481	—	70,077	174	48,724
Cotton manufactures	1,045,003	907,545	—	40	—	8,426
Earthen and china wares	32,719	27,850	10	646	63	474
Fibre, Aloe	—	—	901,804	—	530,033	—
Glass and Glasswares	49,835	36,430	—	1,161	—	388
Haberdashery	365,486	347,721	—	27,524	—	3,882
Hardware and cutlery	506,794	653,091	—	8,842	1,680	7,648
Hats	45,452	31,969	—	4,817	—	5
Leather (wrought and unwrought)	156,833	175,368	8,534	35,801	21,312	2,934

Machinery for agricultural purposes	264,870	2,753,374	—	—	—	—
Machinery and millwork	250,489	140,833	40,826	202	65,196	10,254
Malt liquors, wines, and spirits	637,152	610,872	27,973	2,365	9,998	2,370
Manures and fertilizers	1,178,224	1,075,106	—	1,686	—	11
Matches	44,481	44,526	—	990	—	3,739
Molasses	—	—	817,158	—	287,180	—
Meat (fresh and frozen)	127,074	158,575	—	—	—	37,500
Oils of all kinds	836,850	1,053,856	127,945	46,368	109,654	61,893
Painters' colours	64,447	46,726	—	129	—	1,938
Paper, cigarette	17,403	12,124	—	499	—	—
Provisions, preserved	1,164,563	1,169,052	14,127	41,515	8,105	36,739
Seeds of all sorts	22,336	48,382	271	323	270	691
Soap	151,482	176,622	151	314	62	93
Stationery	116,860	131,435	5	4,927	12	9,645
Sugar...	1,379	502	28,866,254	—	32,543,203	—
Timber and wooden-ware	591,594	308,484	5,394	56,077	463	20,593
Tobacco	285,644	233,891	29	5,436	—	732
Toys	22,806	27,755	—	2,501	—	268
Umbrellas and parasols	24,716	31,323	—	24	—	3
Vanilla	11,600	—	109,779	13,656	88,191	—
Woollen manufactures	102,959	102,267	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	1,672,121	1,851,055	13,677	324,802	12,490	130,701
Baggage and Postal Parcels	288,236	262,793	—	20,629	—	28,625
Total	20,483,176	23,367,249	30,938,060	862,328	33,679,941	458,129
Bullion and specie	1,434,738	3,243,365	—	4,403,260	—	1,532,527
Grand total	21,917,914	26,610,614	30,938,060	5,265,588	33,679,941	1,990,656

POSTAL PARCELS.

9. The declared value of the parcels, despatched and imported, during the past five years is as under:—

—	1899.	1900.	1901	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imported ...	184,625.50	183,425.50	214,534.60	231,993.73	224,885.17
Exported ...	14,584.42	18,940.26	19,388.42	20,628.64	28,624.83
Total ...	199,209.92	202,365.76	233,923.02	252,622.37	253,510.00

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

10. The total value of imports and exports for the last five years, 1899-1903, is as follows:—

Year.	Imports, including Charges and Exchange.	Exports, including Shipping Charges.
	Rs.	Rs.
1899	28,180,979.14	27,381,160.50
1900	31,427,401.72	33,550,973.94
1901	31,679,842.99	30,842,305.66
1902	30,738,778.11	38,341,695.55
1903	39,269,847.24	37,794,226.75

The imports show a considerable increase in 1903 as compared with 1902. This is due to the large quantity of tramway materials and to the number of traction engines and automobiles imported to meet the requirements of the planters. There is, however, a deficiency in the exports of Rs. 547,468.80, due to delay in the shipment of sugars.

IMPORTS.

11. Dealing with the articles and their values according to the entries (where the differences are over Rs. 5,000) the following results are to be noted:—

Ammonia Sulphate.

3,983,785 kilos., of the value of Rs. 897,383, were imported in 1903, against kilos. 2,547,567, of the value of Rs. 535,917, during the previous year, showing an increase in weight of kilos. 1,436,218, and in value of Rs. 261,466 This article is exclusively imported from the United Kingdom.

Animals.

Asses.—301 in number and valued Rs. 28,096 were imported in 1903, as compared with 11 imported in 1902 from Seychelles valued Rs. 1,638, showing an increase of 290 in number and of Rs. 26,458 in value; the increase comes chiefly from the Argentine Confederation, Aden, and Continental India.

Cows and Oxen.—4,081 head were imported during 1903, as compared with 5,369 in 1902, showing a decrease in number of 1,288, and in value of Rs. 104,432. Oxen were almost exclusively imported from Madagascar.

Horses.—2,219, valued Rs. 1,394,343, were imported in 1903, against 768, valued Rs. 213,760, in the previous year; the surplus is, therefore, of 1,551 in number, and of Rs. 1,180,583 in value. Increases are from Australia, Continental India, Argentine Confederation and Sandalwood, which supplied respectively 244, 409, 529, and 268 more head than in 1902, with a surplus in value of Rs. 77,356, Rs. 755,899, Rs. 295,476, and Rs. 51,145.

Mules.—774 in number and of the value of Rs. 337,903 were imported in 1903, against 687 of the value of Rs. 174,498 in 1902, showing an increase of 87 more head, and of Rs. 163,405 in value. The Argentine Republic provides for the increase.

Sheep and Goats.—Decreased in number from 457, of the value of Rs. 8,314, in 1902, to 265, of the value of Rs. 3,253, in 1903, showing a decrease in value of Rs. 5,061.

Swine.—Only one, valued Rs. 7, was imported in 1903 from Seychelles, against 94, of the value of Rs. 11,506, in 1902, supplied by the United Kingdom, Argentine Republic, Seychelles and Norway, to the amount of 2, 83, 8 and 1 respectively.

Apparel, Wearing.

The value of the imports for 1903 amounted to Rs. 128,646, against Rs. 134,028 for 1902, showing a decrease of Rs. 5,382. The United Kingdom shows an increase of Rs. 8,279, but a decrease of Rs. 17,376 is noticed from Continental India.

Gunpowder, Blasting.

The United Kingdom supplied in 1903, kilos. 9,988, of the value of Rs. 7,060, against kilos. 3,682 in 1902, of the value of Rs. 2,706, showing an increase of kilos. 6,306 in weight and of Rs. 4,354 in value.

Automobiles.

France supplied seven automobiles of the value of Rs. 10,648 in 1903, against nil in the preceding year.

Bacon and Hams.

The imports for 1903 amounted to kilos. 35,781, of the value of Rs. 48,365, against kilos. 22,180, of the value of Rs. 29,719, in 1902, showing an increase in weight of kilos. 13,601 and in value of Rs. 18,646. The increase comes from the United Kingdom and Australia, which supplied a surplus of kilos. 12,483 and kilos. 1,025 in weight, and of Rs. 17,023 and Rs. 1,347 respectively in value over the imports of the preceding year.

Baggage.

Dutiable articles decreased in value from Rs. 56,243 in 1902 to Rs. 37,908 in 1903, leaving a shortage of Rs. 19,335.

Bags.

Gunny.—130,707 more bags were received in 1903, giving an increase in value of Rs. 57,713 over the imports for 1902. The bags were imported principally from Continental India.

Straw.—Madagascar supplied 225,000 bags more than in the preceding year, with an increase of Rs. 38,354 in value.

Bark and Dyewood.

Australia supplied kilos 81,814, valued Rs. 12,185, in 1902, against kilos 48,768, valued Rs. 7,394, in 1903, giving a shortage of kilos 33,046 in weight and of Rs. 4,791 in value.

Beef, Salted.

The imports for 1903 amounted to kilos. 285,083, of the value of Rs. 168,278, against kilos. 110,125, of the value of Rs. 64,951, in 1902, showing an excess of kilos. 174,958 in weight and of Rs. 103,327 in value. The increase comes chiefly from the United Kingdom and from the United States, which supplied an excess of kilos. 43,647 and kilos. 131,524 in weight, and of Rs. 23,021 and Rs. 80,583 in value respectively.

Beer and Ale.

In casks.—The United Kingdom exclusively supplies this article. 1,058 hectolitres more were imported in 1903, and the value increased by Rs. 19,312 accordingly.

In bottles.—The imports for last year show a decrease of litres 12,899 in measure, but an increase of Rs. 1,014 in value. The United Kingdom and France supplied an excess of litres 1,382 and litres 8,961, with a surplus value of Rs. 7,679 and Rs. 3,335 respectively, as compared with the preceding year, but from Germany there is a decrease of 21,562 litres with a less value of Rs. 9,304.

Books, Printed.

The value of books imported in 1903 shows an increase of Rs. 8,350 as compared with 1902. The increase is chiefly from the United Kingdom.

Bran.

Kilos. 2,094,558, of the value of Rs. 358,317, were imported in 1903, against kilos. 1,664,289, of the value of Rs. 175,301, in the previous year, showing an increase of kilos. 430,269 in weight and of Rs. 183,016 in value. The increases are noticeable specially under Continental India and the Argentine Republic.

Brass Ornaments.

A decrease of Rs. 5,572 is noticed for 1903, due specially to less imports from Continental India.

Bricks and Tiles.

Decreased from 299,568, of the value of Rs. 33,219, in 1902, to 147,961, of the value of Rs. 18,228, in 1903, accountable to less imports from the United Kingdom.

Bullion—Silver.

Continental India supplied in 1903 kilos. 410 less than in 1902, giving a decrease in value of Rs. 17,330.

Butter.

The imports for 1903 amounted to kilos. 36,057, of the declared value of Rs. 76,040, against, for 1902, kilos. 44,119, of the value of Rs. 101,503, showing a decrease of Rs. 25,463 in value and of kilos. 8,062 in weight. The decrease comes from Denmark, which supplied, in 1903, for a less value of Rs. 30,380. An increase of Rs. 9,095 is noticeable under Australia.

Bicycles.

155 bicycles, valued Rs. 24,100, were received in 1903, against 146, valued Rs. 32,256, in 1902, showing an increase of nine in number, but a decrease of Rs. 8,156 in value, consequent upon the importation of cheaper articles from the United Kingdom.

Cabinet and Upholstery Wares.

The declared value of the articles imported in 1903, as compared with the imports in 1902, shows an increase of Rs. 5,662.

The increase comes specially from France, which provided for Rs. 17,977 more than in the previous year. From the United Kingdom a decrease of Rs. 9,956 is noted.

Camphor.

Crude.—Decrease of kilos. 17,029 in weight and of Rs. 6,643 in value, chiefly from Continental India.

Candles.

Composition.—Decrease of kilos. 15,546 in weight and of Rs. 11,352 in value as compared with previous year. Decreases are noted from the United Kingdom, Belgium, Continental India, and Holland.

Cement.

The imports for 1903 amounted to kilos. 597,465, valued Rs. 24,919, against, for 1902, kilos. 460,120, valued Rs. 16,055, showing an increase of kilos. 137,345 in weight and of Rs. 8,864 in value. The increases to be noted are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 5,065), France, Germany, and Belgium.

Cheese.

Increase of kilos. 7,408 in quantity and of Rs. 15,031 in value over the preceding year. The increases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 6,279), Australia (Rs. 1,920), France (Rs. 1,734), Germany, Holland (Rs. 4,883).

Chocolate and Cocoa.

Decrease in weight of kilos. 3,401 and in value of Rs. 5,079. The decreases are noticeable from the United Kingdom and France.

Clocks and Watches.

Decrease of 999 in number and of Rs. 4,749 in value. The decrease comes chiefly from France and Switzerland.

Coals.

Increase of 6,993 tons in quantity and of Rs. 881,990 in value as compared with the previous year. The United Kingdom and Australia supplied an excess of 9,533 tons and 1,173 tons in weight, and of Rs. 88,802 and Rs. 33,318 in value respectively. Continental India supplied 3,929 tons less in weight, but with a surplus of Rs. 39,635 in value.

Coffee.

Compared with the imports for 1902, there is a decrease in weight of kilos. 2,704, but an increase in value of Rs. 2,468. Continental India and Singapore show an excess of kilos. 62,134 and kilos. 19,046 in weight, with an increase in value of Rs. 39,904 and Rs. 10,585 respectively. From Aden, kilos. 26,583 more were imported, but with a shortage in value of Rs. 10,750. Brazil, the Argentine Republic, and Natal provided for Rs. 39,006, Rs. 1,579, and Rs. 2,753 in 1902, against nil in 1903.

Confectionery.

Decrease of Rs. 5,238. The United Kingdom shows a falling off of Rs. 8,753, but France a surplus of Rs. 3,324.

Copperah or Poonac.

Kilos. 200, valued Rs. 38, were received from Seychelles in 1902, against kilos. 306,977, valued Rs. 12,393, imported in 1903 from Continental India. The increase is, therefore, of kilos. 306,777 in weight and of Rs. 12,355 in value.

Copper.

Yellow.—This article, exclusively imported from the United Kingdom, shows an increase of kilos. 6,260 in weight and of Rs. 8,215 in value, as compared with the imports for the previous year.

Sheets and Nails (red).—Increase of kilos. 7,143 in weight and of Rs. 7,345 in value—exclusively imported from the United Kingdom.

Sheets and Nails (yellow).—Increase of kilos. 21,781 in weight and of Rs. 11,469 in value—almost exclusively imported from the United Kingdom.

Cordage.

Coir.—Increase in weight of kilos. 56,426 and of Rs. 9,023 in value, due to imports from Continental India.

Hemp.—Decrease in weight of kilos. 29,796 and in value of Rs. 12,170, due to less imports from Continental India and Hong-Kong.

Oiled.—The United Kingdom and Continental India supplied in 1903 kilos. 3,543 and kilos. 6,359, of the declared value of Rs. 3,204 and Rs. 2,270 respectively, against, in the former year, kilos. 610, valued Rs. 220, supplied from Continental India.

Corks and Bungs.

Increase of 4,498,015 in number and of Rs. 13,523 in value, principally due to more imports from France to the value of Rs. 14,064.

Corn Flour.

Increase of kilos. 110,473 in weight and of Rs. 17,594 in value, specially due to more imports from Continental India, which provided for Rs. 15,123 in 1903, against nil in the previous year.

Corn, Grain, Meal, &c.

Barley.—Decrease of kilos. 94,599 in weight and of Rs. 8,730 in value.

Dholl.—Increase of kilos. 1,502,379 in weight and of Rs. 186,271 in value.

Gram.—Decrease of kilos. 1,840,991 in weight and of Rs. 367,518 in value.

Lentils.—Increase of kilos. 543,065 in weight and of Rs. 56,812 in value.

Barley, dholl, gram, and lentils are almost exclusively imported from Continental India.

Oats.—Decrease of kilos. 764,807 in weight and of Rs. 73,178 in value. Continental India and Australia provided for a less value of Rs. 70,641 and Rs. 10,638 respectively. The Argentine Republic provided for Rs. 8,252 in 1903, against nil in 1902.

Peas.—Decrease of kilos. 184,037 in weight and of Rs. 21,156 in value. The decrease is due to no supply in 1903 from Madagascar, against kilos. 267,217, valued Rs. 53,173, in 1902.

Rice.—Increase of tons 2,322 in weight, but decrease of Rs. 408,302 in value. Compared with 1902, the imports for 1903 give the following result:—

From Continental India.—Excess of 1,239 tons, but with a shortage in value of Rs. 399,756.

From China.—Shortage both in weight of 188 tons and in value of Rs. 44,059.

From Cochin China.—A supply of 337½ tons, of the value of Rs. 50,692, against nil in the preceding year.

From Singapore.—Surplus of 256 tons in weight and of Rs. 19,909 in value.

From Straits Settlements.—No supply in 1903, against 225 tons, of the declared value of Rs. 35,845, in 1902.

Wheat.—Decrease of 106 tons with a short value of Rs. 11,661, due to less imports from Continental India.

Wheat Flour.—The imports for last year show an increase of 533 tons in weight and of Rs. 38,015 in value, as compared with 1902, and the following is noticeable:—

From the United Kingdom.—Shortage of 44 tons with a falling-off of Rs. 7,892 in value.

From Australia.—Shortage of tons 1,338, with a decline in value of Rs. 98,407.

From Continental India.—An increase of 1,797 tons in weight and of Rs. 219,468 in value.

From China.—Excess of 43 tons in weight and of Rs. 8,531 in value.

From the United States.—42 tons, valued Rs. 9,920, were supplied in 1902, against only kilos. 87 for last year.

Cotton Manufactures.

Coloured.—Increase of Rs. 17,814 in value, with the following result:—

United Kingdom, shortage of Rs. 10,688; Continental India, surplus of Rs. 13,224; Belgium, surplus of Rs. 9,199; Germany, surplus of Rs. 7,684; Switzerland, shortage of Rs. 5,070.

Plain.—A large decrease of Rs. 243,258 is noted, and is due to less imports from the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, which show decreases of Rs. 258,380, Rs. 1,709, and Rs. 1,229 respectively, while from Continental India there is an increase of Rs. 16,843.

Thread for sewing.—Decreased both in weight, kilos. 8,089, and in value, Rs. 29,189; from the United Kingdom a falling off of Rs. 26.387 is noticeable.

Earthen and China Wares.

A decrease of Rs. 10,363 in value, chiefly from the United Kingdom (Rs. 6,411), Austria (Rs. 2,658), and Germany (Rs. 2,472).

Fish.

Dried or Salted.—Decrease in weight of kilos. 111,921, but with an increase in value of Rs. 40,275, with the following result:—

United Kingdom.—Surplus in weight of kilos. 10,640 and in value of Rs. 3,954.

Cape Colonies.—154,106 kilos., valued at Rs. 101,373, imported in 1903, against nil in the previous year.

Continental India.—A falling off of kilos. 203,761 in weight and of Rs. 33,270 in value.

Nova Scotia.—A falling off of kilos. 46,525 in weight and of Rs. 18,719 in value.

Madagascar.—An increase of kilos. 38,384 in weight and of Rs. 16,805 in value.

United States.—A decrease in weight of kilos. 45,481 and of Rs. 20,062 in value.

Newfoundland.—A decrease of kilos. 19,405 in weight and of Rs. 8,874 in value.

Pickled.—Decrease of Rs. 11,526 in value. The United Kingdom and Nova Scotia provide for a surplus of Rs. 2,559 and Rs. 7,280 respectively. A decrease of Rs. 19,448 is noted under the United States.

Glass.

Looking and Mirrors.—Decrease of Rs. 5,311 in value, principally from France, which shows a shortage of Rs. 7,217, while Germany, Continental India, and the United Kingdom show small increases.

Glassware.

Decrease of Rs. 22,801 in value, due to short imports from the United Kingdom (Rs. 5,907), Austria, Belgium, China, France (Rs. 9,665), and the United States (Rs. 5,425). A slight increase is noted under Continental India and Germany.

Haberdashery.

The imports for 1903 amounted to Rs. 560,495, against Rs. 587,275 for 1902, showing a decline of Rs. 26,780. Decreases are noted under the United Kingdom (Rs. 41,475), Continental India (Rs. 18,223), Austria, China, Japan, and the United States; while increases are shown from France (Rs. 5,745), Germany (Rs. 15,679), Holland (Rs. 10,338), Italy, Pondicherry, and Switzerland (Rs. 5,375).

Hardware and Cutlery.

The imports show a surplus of Rs. 251,354 as compared with last year. Increases are noticeable under the United Kingdom (Rs. 148,344), Ceylon, Continental India, Belgium (Rs. 20,224), China, Germany (Rs. 100,330), and Pondicherry. Decreases are from Holland, Austria, France (Rs. 6,240), Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States (Rs. 11,847).

Hats.

Felt.—Decrease of 9,030 in number and of Rs. 8,855 in value, due to less imports from the United Kingdom, France, and Italy.

Of other sorts.—Decrease of 3,360 in number and of Rs. 8,855 in value, due to less imports from the United Kingdom and from no supply from Continental India, which provided for Rs. 6,313 in 1902.

Hull of Vessels Abandoned.

Only one, of the value of Rs. 450, in 1903, against five, of the value of Rs. 31,644, in the previous year. A short difference of Rs. 31,194 is accordingly noted.

Iron.

Bars.—The imports for 1903 amounted to kilos. 1,237,241, of the value of Rs. 139,895, as compared with kilos. 509,424, of the value of Rs. 64,053, in 1902, showing an increase of kilos. 727,817 in weight and of Rs. 75,842 in value, due to more imports from the United Kingdom.

Nails.—Decrease of kilos. 119,873 in weight and of Rs. 29,987 in value. Decreases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 26,935), Continental India, and France.

Sheets.—Decrease of kilos. 338,104 in weight and of Rs. 88,215 in value, specially due to less imports from the United Kingdom.

Wire netting and galvanized.—Decrease of kilos. 25,961 in weight and of Rs. 8,188 in value, accountable to less imports from the United Kingdom.

Wrought of other sorts.—Decrease of kilos. 72,527 in weight and of Rs. 14,833 in value. The United Kingdom provided for Rs. 14,558 less as compared with the imports for 1902.

Jewellery.

Decreased from Rs. 81,326 in 1902 to Rs. 45,899 in 1903. The shortage is, therefore, of Rs. 35,427. The United Kingdom, Continental India, France, and Switzerland show respective decreases of Rs. 212, Rs. 612, Rs. 24,787, Rs. 11,064.

Lard.

Decreased both in weight (kilos. 140,949) and in value (Rs. 100,494). The United Kingdom, Continental India, China, France, and the United States provided for a less value of Rs. 7,286, Rs. 17,741, Rs. 50,843, Rs. 19,573, and Rs. 24,529 respectively. Australia supplied for Rs. 3,923 in 1903, against nil in the preceding year.

Leather.

Wrought. Boots and Shoes.—27,782 pairs more were received in 1903 and the value increased by Rs. 36,971 accordingly.

Increase is noticeable under the United Kingdom (Rs. 9,648), Continental India (Rs. 16,450), France (Rs. 8,955), and the United States.

Wrought of other sorts.—Decrease of Rs. 21,604 in value. France and the United Kingdom provided for a less value of Rs. 17,315 and Rs. 4,178 respectively.

Lime.

Superphosphate of Lime.—The United Kingdom supplied kilos. 374,001 less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 34,831, as compared with 1902.

Machinery and Millwork.

The value of machinery and millwork imported in 1902 (excluding tramway and railway materials, automobiles, traction engines, wire ropes, &c., entered under a separate heading) amounted to Rs. 460,900, against Rs. 256,738 in 1903. The decrease is, therefore, of Rs. 204,162.

Tramway materials, traction engines, automobiles and accessories, wire rope.—The imports for 1902 aggregated in value Rs. 487,361, including tramway materials Rs. 210,637, traction engines and automobiles Rs. 256,157, and wire rope Rs. 20,567.

The following statement shows the importation for 1903:—

Countries whence Imported.	Tramway Materials.		Traction Engines, Automobiles, &c. and Accessories.			Wire Rope.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Number.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Kilos.	Rs.		Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs
United Kingdom	1,605,838	155,271	71	755,219	430,504	76,653	25,289
France	1,001,689	128,442	3	29,109	23,386	1,219	597
Belgium	13,442,279	1,171,443	13	81,393	62,679	64,322	4,150
Germany	4,626,139	623,805	6	242,950	73,389	—	—
Holland	410,922	40,950	1	6,687	7,104	—	—
Total	21,086,937	2,119,911	94	1,115,358	597,062	142,194	30,036

giving the following percentage as to weight and value:—

	Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom	7·62	7·32	—	67·71	72·10	53·91	84·20
France	4·75	6·06	—	2·61	3·92	0·86	1·99
Belgium	63·74	55·26	—	7·30	10·50	45·23	13·81
Germany	21·94	29·42	—	21·78	12·29	—	—
Holland	1·95	1·94	—	0·60	1·19	—	—

Almost the whole lot of those materials were imported to cope with the requirements of the railway extension lines and for agricultural purposes, and were entered free of duty under resolution of the Council of Government.

Aggregating the different headings of those materials the amount imported from each country, with the rate of importation, is as hereunder, British goods having been superseded by those from Belgium and Germany:—

—	Value.	Rate of Importation.
	Rs.	Per cent.
Belgium	2,257,371	45·6
Germany	1,270,984	25·3
United Kingdom	1,113,970	22·2
France	277,870	5·4
Holland	87,613	1·5

Manure.

Guano.—Decrease of kilos. 2,539,290 in weight and of Rs. 92,363 in value. The imports for 1902 were exclusively from Seychelles, which provided last year for a less value of Rs. 108,098, while some guano, valued Rs. 15,733, was received from Glorieuse Island.

Other sorts.—Decrease of Rs. 60,562 in weight and of Rs. 33,530 in value. Decreases are noted under the United Kingdom (Rs. 7,903), Australia (Rs. 68,829). An increase is under Continental India, Rs. 13,779. Belgium provided for Rs. 5,385 in 1902, against nil in the past year.

Margarine.

Decrease of kilos. 16,538 in weight and of Rs. 16,245 in value. Decreases are from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Holland, and the United States (Rs. 10,153).

Meat—Fresh, Frozen.

This article is exclusively supplied from Australia, and its importation during the two years 1902 and 1903 is as under:—

—	Value.		Increase—I. or Decrease—D.
	1902.	1903.	
	Rs.	Rs.	
Cows and oxen	127.772	286,208	I.—158,436
Sheep	82,653	832	D.— 81,821
Swine	14,700	21,071	I.— 6.371
Poultry	17,596	—	D.— 17,596
Rabbits	2,604	—	D.— 2,604

Military Articles.

The importations for 1903 amounted to Rs. 1,312,314, against Rs. 1,343,621 for 1902, showing a decrease of Rs. 31,307. The United Kingdom provided for a surplus value of Rs. 23,271, but Continental India shows a falling off of Rs. 53,774.

Musical Instruments.

Increase of Rs. 91,967 in value, due to more importations from France, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 92,267. Small decreases are noticeable under the United Kingdom, Germany, and Continental India.

Oil.

Castor.—Increase of kilos. 65,416 in weight and of Rs. 14,148 in value.

Cocoanut.—Decrease of 396 hectolitres less in measure and of Rs. 13,043 in value, due to less imports from Seychelles.

Gingely.—Decrease of kilos. 26,178 in weight, but with an increase in value of Rs. 8,906—exclusively supplied from Continental India.

Linseed.—Decrease of 53 hectolitres in quantity and of Rs. 8,540 in value—exclusively imported from the United Kingdom.

Mustard.—Increase of kilos. 125,330 in weight and of Rs. 5,023 in value—exclusively imported from Continental India.

Olive.—Increase both in quantity and in value and exclusively supplied from France, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 11,514 in 1903.

Petroleum.—11,245 hectolitres more were received in 1903, with a surplus value of Rs. 261,793. The United States supplied in 1903 786 hectolitres less than in the past year, but for a more value of Rs. 41,401. In 1903 Russia supplied 12,031 hectolitres, of the value of Rs. 220,404, against nil in the previous year.

Pistachio.—Increase of kilos. 133,651 in weight and of Rs. 47,013 in value. Increases are noted under Continental India (Rs. 44,747) and China (Rs. 6,818), but Pondicherry shows a decrease of Rs. 4,552.

Other sorts.—Increase of 916 hectolitres in quantity and of Rs. 54,261 in value. The United States and France provided for a surplus value of Rs. 57,538 and Rs. 2,806 respectively. Germany provided for Rs. 5,445 last year, against nil in 1902. The United Kingdom and Continental India show respective decreases of Rs. 9,666 and Rs. 2,103.

Onions and Garlic.

Kilos. 422,675, valued Rs. 43,616, were received in 1903, against kilos. 164,655, valued Rs. 20,854, in the former year. Increase both in weight (kilos. 258,020) and in value (Rs. 22,762). The increase arises from Ceylon, Continental India, France, and Réunion, while a decrease is noted from China.

Opium

Crude.—15 kilos. more were received in 1903, with a surplus in value of Rs. 6,953. This article is exclusively imported from Continental India.

Painters', Dyers', Colours and Materials.

Decrease in value of Rs. 29,891. Less importations are noted, specially from the United Kingdom (Rs. 29,382) and also from Austria, France, Continental India, and Germany.

Paper, Cigarette.

Decrease both in weight (kilos. 2,739) and in value (Rs. 11,239). This article is exclusively imported from France.

Paper Manufactures.

Decrease in value of Rs. 6,743. Less imports were received from Continental India, Hong-Kong, Japan, Singapore, China, and France (Rs. 10,816). Increases are noted under the United Kingdom (Rs. 3,569), Australia, Germany, the United States, and Switzerland.

Perfumery.

Increase of Rs. 13,543 in value—from the United Kingdom, Continental India, and France (Rs. 10,440).

Pictures.

Oil Paintings.—24 pictures, valued Rs. 6,106, were received in 1902 against nil in 1903.

Plague Serum.

The United Kingdom provided for Rs. 6,107 in 1903, against Rs. 557 in 1902, or an increase of Rs. 5,550.

Pockets, Empty.

Continental India supplied in 1903 for a less value of Rs. 74,130 and 342,000 bags less.

Pork, Salted.

Decrease both in weight and in value (Rs. 55,557). The United States provided for Rs. 6,527 less in 1903, but small increases are noted under the United Kingdom and France.

Potash.

Nitrate of.—Decrease of kilos. 633,418 in weight and of Rs. 272,178 in value. The United Kingdom provided for Rs. 51,530 in 1902 and none in 1903. From Continental India there is a decrease of kilos. 519,058 in weight and of Rs. 220,649 in value.

Sulphate of.—Less imports were received in 1903 from the United Kingdom. Decrease of kilos. 83,877 in weight and of Rs. 43,607 in value.

Potatoes.

Increase of kilos. 181,963 in weight and of Rs. 21,069 in value, as compared with 1902. Continental India, France, and Réunion show increases in weight and in value of Rs. 5,632, Rs. 5,587, Rs. 7,248 respectively.

Provisions, Preserved.

Decrease of Rs. 27,823 in value. Decreases are under the United States (Rs. 15,680), France (Rs. 8,869), the United Kingdom, Australia, Continental India, and China. Small increases are noted under Seychelles, Portugal, and Switzerland.

Rattans.

Increase of kilos. 76,986 in weight and of Rs. 10,766 in value; China and Singapore provide the increase.

Saddlery and Harness.

The imports show for 1903 a decrease of Rs. 11,374, principally due to less supply from the United Kingdom.

Sago.

Decrease of kilos. 37,726 in weight and of Rs. 31,856 in value —due to less supply from Continental India, Singapore, and China.

Salt.

Increase of kilos. 700,972 in weight, but decrease in value of Rs. 49,937. The United Kingdom supplied kilos. 1,428,749, of the value of Rs. 70,382, in 1902, and only kilos. 316,862, valued Rs. 16,882, in 1903. From France kilos. 401,000, valued Rs. 20,218, were received in 1902, against nil in the past year. Aden supplied kilos. 2,216,000, of the value of Rs. 23,938, in 1903, against nil in the previous year. The difference in the value of the imports is accountable to salt of a cheaper price being obtained from Aden.

Seeds.

Aniseeds.—Increase both in weight of kilos. 28,562 and in value of Rs. 6,647.

Coriander.—Increase of kilos. 26,881 in weight and of Rs. 6,348 in value.

Mustard.—Increase of kilos. 23,658 in weight and of Rs. 5,188 in value.

Aniseeds, coriander, and mustard seeds are almost exclusively imported from Continental India.

Silk Manufactures.

Increase of 4,295 metres, with a surplus in value of Rs. 5,629, imported in 1903. France and Germany provided for a less supply of Rs. 5,813 and Rs. 1,593 respectively. Increases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 3,978), Continental India (Rs. 2,326), Japan (Rs. 3,125), and Pondicherry. Belgium provided for Rs. 2,372 in 1903, against nil in the previous year.

Skin.

Sheep and Goats tanned.—Kilos. 2,436, with a surplus in value of Rs. 14,925, were received in 1903. Kilos 3,950, valued Rs. 15,569, were imported in 1903 from Pondicherry, against, in 1902, kilos. 736, valued Rs. 1,991; from Madagascar kilos. 1,371, of the value of Rs. 1,350, were received in 1902, against nil in the past year; and from Continental India kilos. 593, valued Rs. 2,697, were supplied in 1903, against nil in the preceding year.

Soap.

Ordinary.—Kilos. 36,652 more were received in 1903, and the value of the imports increased by Rs. 40,768. The United Kingdom provided for a surplus value of Rs. 41,253. The United States and Seychelles show small decreases.

Soda, Nitrate of.

Decrease both in weight (kilos. 503,384) and in value (Rs. 63,959). This article is exclusively imported from Chili,

Specie.

Gold.—The United Kingdom supplied in 1903 for a greater value of Rs. 77,060, as compared with the preceding year.

Paper Currency.—The United Kingdom forwarded in 1903 paper currency of the value of Rs. 201,240, against Rs. 5,826 in 1902. Rs. 24,960 were received from Seychelles in 1902, but nothing in 1903.

Silver.—In 1903 Continental India and France supplied for the value of Rs. 3,151,200 and Rs. 167 respectively, amounting to the aggregate value of Rs. 3,151,367, against Rs. 1,412,225, of which Rs. 1,409,705 from Continental India and Rs. 2,520 from France, in 1902. Surplus value of imports for 1903 is, therefore, Rs. 2,741,662.

Spirits.

Brandy.—The imports for 1903 measured 38,006 litres, valued Rs. 76,479, against 49,263 litres, valued Rs. 121,548, in 1902, showing a decrease of litres 11,257 in measure and of Rs. 45,069 in value. The United Kingdom supplied in 1903 889 litres, valued Rs. 1,028, against 2,700 litres, valued Rs. 4,224, in 1902, showing a decrease both in quantity of 1,811 litres and in value of Rs. 3,196. France supplied in 1903 37,025 litres, valued Rs. 75,332, against 46,563 litres, valued Rs. 117,324, in 1902, showing a decrease in quantity of 11,538 litres and in value of Rs. 41,992. Australia and Spain supplied a few litres in 1903, against nil in the previous year.

Whisky.—Decrease both in quantity (6,735 litres) and in value (Rs. 12,992), due chiefly to less imports from the United Kingdom.

Starch.

Increase of kilos. 57,760 in weight and of Rs. 9,086 in value, due to more imports from Singapore and China.

Stationery.

Increase in value of Rs. 24,476, as compared with 1902, due to more imports from France (Rs. 14,760), the United Kingdom (Rs. 4,010), Austria, Belgium, Continental India, and Switzerland.

Steel.

Unwrought.—Decrease in weight (kilos. 4,670), but with an increase in value of Rs. 4,560, as compared with 1902. The United Kingdom shows a decrease in weight of kilos. 5,339 and in value of Rs. 1,736. France supplied in 1903 kilos. 2,478 valued Rs. 6,555, against nil in the previous year.

Sulphur.

Common.—Increase of kilos. 529,454 in weight and of Rs. 169,293 in value, as compared with the preceding year. France and the United Kingdom provided for Rs. 28,591 and Rs. 5,699 in 1902, against, in 1903, Rs. 193,395 and Rs. 10,189 respectively. The large increase is due, therefore, to more importations from France.

Tallow.

Increase both in weight (kilos. 21,870) and in value (Rs. 11,876). The increase arises from Australia and the United Kingdom.

Tamarinds.

Kilos. 62,306 more were received in 1903, and the value of imports increased by Rs. 5,817. This article is exclusively imported from Continental India.

Tapioca.

In 1903, kilos. 840, valued Rs. 292, were received from the United Kingdom (kilos. 796), France and Réunion, against kilos. 11,963, valued Rs. 5,324, in 1902, from the United Kingdom (kilos. 600), France (kilos. 113), and Continental India (kilos. 11,253).

Tin

Plates.—Decrease of kilos. 17,656 in weight and of Rs. 9,948 in value as compared with 1902. The United Kingdom shows a shortage both in weight and in value, while a small increase is noted from Continental India.

Tobacco.

Manufactured.—The imports for 1903 show, as compared with those of 1902, a falling off of kilos. 54,427 in weight and of Rs. 74,077 in value. The United Kingdom, Continental India, Algeria, Hong-Kong, China, and the United States provided for a less supply of Rs. 9,096, Rs. 191, Rs. 663, Rs. 172, Rs. 241, and Rs. 89,999 respectively. From Réunion an increase of Rs. 36,350 is noticeable.

Cigars.—Only an increase of kilos. 3 in weight as compared with 1902, but a surplus in value of Rs. 3,783. From Continental India there is a falling off of kilos. 330 in weight and of Rs. 2,140 in value, while from the United States there is an increase of kilos. 629 in weight and of Rs. 5,096 in value.

Unmanufactured.—The imports for 1903 amounted to kilos. 39,362, valued Rs. 27,002, against, for 1902, kilos. 53,895, valued Rs. 32,095, showing a shortage both in weight of kilos. 14,533 and in value of Rs. 5,093. Kilos. 12,062 less were imported from Continental India, and the shortage in value amounts to Rs. 513. In 1902 Réunion supplied kilos. 2,686, valued Rs. 4,684, against nil in the following year.

Toys.

Increase in value of Rs. 7,843. United Kingdom, France, and Germany show increases of Rs. 4,136, Rs. 1,411, and Rs. 2,001 respectively.

Turmeric.

Increase in weight of kilos. 22,223 and in value of Rs. 13,042. Continental India supplied for a less value of Rs. 10,670.

Turpentine.

Decrease of 361 hectolitres in measure and of Rs. 27,609 in value. The decrease is from the United Kingdom.

Twine.

Decreased both in weight (kilos. 11,486) and in value (Rs. 6,194). The decrease is due principally to less imports from Continental India.

Umbrellas and Parasols.

Cotton.—The imports for 1903 amounted to 41,945 umbrellas, of the value of Rs. 45,814, against, for 1902, 27,083, of the value of Rs. 35,929, showing an increase both in number of 14,862 and in value of Rs. 9,885. The United Kingdom provided for a less value of Rs. 2,514, but from Continental India and France the increases are of Rs. 1,738 and Rs. 10,725 respectively.

Vanilla.

Seychelles supplied in 1902 kilos. 1,450, of the value of Rs. 12,354, against nil in 1903.

Varnish.

Fifty hectolitres more were received in 1903, with an increase in value of Rs. 9,413. The United Kingdom and France supplied for a greater value of Rs. 5,753 and Rs. 3,680 respectively.

Wax, Bees.

Decrease of kilos. 9,988 in weight and of Rs. 6,595 in value. The decreases are from France and Continental India. Madagascar provided for Rs. 3,215 in 1902, against nil last year.

Wine.

Claret in Casks.—376 hectolitres more were received in 1903, with a surplus of Rs. 14,482 in value. France supplied in 1903 426 hectolitres less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 12,217, while from Spain there is an increase of 828 hectolitres, with a surplus in value of Rs. 27,243.

Claret in demijohns.—283 hectolitres, of the value of Rs. 12,881, were received in 1902. From France 190 hectolitres and from Spain 93 hectolitres, against none in 1903.

Claret in Bottles.—Compared with 1902—3,944 litres less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 4,505, were received in 1903—from France there is a falling off of Rs. 4,833 and of 4,244 litres.

Pontac in Casks.—Decrease of 42 hectolitres in measure and of Rs. 6,644 in value—exclusively received from Cape Colony.

Port in Bottles.—Increase of 1,821 litres, with a surplus in value of Rs. 4,160. France and Portugal show decreases, but an increase is noted from Spain.

Sherry in Casks.—Shortage of 150 hectolitres, with a less value of Rs. 11,343. Portugal shows a falling off of Rs. 12,281 and from Spain there is a slight increase.

Vermouth in Casks.—Shortage of 11 hectolitres, with a less value of Rs. 7,184, chiefly from France.

Vermouth in Bottles.—Increase of 16,963 litres, with a surplus in value of Rs. 15,844, from France.

White, in Casks.—Decrease both in measure of 630 hectolitres and in value of Rs. 20,681. France and Spain provided for a less value of Rs. 19,896 and 1,184 respectively. A few hectolitres were received from Australia, Cape Colonies, and Algeria in 1903. The United Kingdom and Germany supplied a small quantity in 1902, against nil in 1903.

Wood.

Board and Planks.—Decrease of 1,621 cubic metres in quantity, but with an increase in value of Rs. 1,158. The United Kingdom provided for a more value of Rs. 91,673. Decreases are noted from Continental India (Rs. 30,644), Singapore (Rs. 68,713), Seychelles, United States, and Sweden (Rs. 46,651). Australia provided in 1903 for Rs. 59,704, against nil in the previous year.

Shingles.—Decrease of 698,675 in number, with a shortage in value of Rs. 36,261. Continental India shows a decrease of Rs. 37,766, and from Singapore there is a slight increase.

Shooks.—Shortage of 15,062 bundles with a decline in value of Rs. 71,246. From the United Kingdom there is a decrease of Rs. 80,067, and from Continental India an increase of Rs. 8,821.

Timber.—The imports for 1903 show the large decrease of 5,641 cubic metres, with a shortage of Rs. 394,973 in value. The decreases are from the United Kingdom, Cape Colonies, Singapore, Australia, Continental India, United States, to the amount of Rs. 86,464, Rs. 29,646, Rs. 8,564, Rs. 47,982, Rs. 217,629, and Rs. 6,233 respectively. From the Argentine Confederation a supply amounting to Rs. 1,146 was received in 1903, against nil in the previous year.

Woodenware.

Decrease in value of Rs. 4,882, chiefly from the United Kingdom, France, and Seychelles, and from Germany there is a slight increase.

Woollen Manufactures.

Mixed with Cotton and Silk.—Compared with 1902, the imports for last year measured 9,725 metres less, with a falling off of Rs. 3,749 in value. Decreases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 11,015) and from France. Increases are noted from Germany (Rs. 6,936), Continental India, and Belgium.

Woollen Shawls.—The imports under this head show a shortage of 5,254 in number and a falling off of Rs. 6,623 in value.

Decreases are noted from the United Kingdom, Continental India, Switzerland, France, and Germany.

POSTAL PARCELS.

Decreases from Rs. 231,994 in 1902 to Rs. 224,885 in 1903. The shortage is, therefore, Rs. 7,109.

EXPORTS.

12. The principal articles exported from Mauritius are sugar, rum, molasses, cocoanut oil, aloe fibre, and vanilla—the produce of the Colony. The quantities and values exported in the last five years are shown hereunder:—

Articles.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Sugar—					
Kilos	164,911,833	174,765,785	157,016,976	150,305,678	170,416,541
Rupees	24,419,886	30,566,536	27,961,583	30,598,229	34,495,795
Rum—					
Litres	1,468,104	1,970,226	791,123	171,908	45,453
Rupees	160,221	231,930	91,494	28,952	10,345
Molasses—					
Kilos	12,681,205	14,929,157	19,613,200	15,378,066	11,412,425
Rupees	1,377,647	532,889	337,008	1,144,021	402,052
Cocoanut Oil—					
Hecto.	1,265	2,643	1,664	5,280	4,462
Rupees	31,622	51,825	16,811	142,658	122,197
Aloe Fibre—					
Kilos	2,249,809	3,105,341	1,242,998	2,144,609	1,518,684
Rupees	588,671	978,049	353,444	937,877	551,234
Vanilla—					
Kilos	3,709	4,553	3,358	4,787	3,486
Rupees	221,011	212,276	149,002	137,224	110,239

The quantity and value of the principal minor exports are shown below :—

Articles.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Vacoa bags—					
Number	14,575	251,056	268,950	57,625	42,847
Rupees	1,092	18,841	7,477	3,973	1,835
Salted Fish—					
Kilos	28,013	68,816	24,710	27,224	18,526
Rupees	10,807	21,078	10,331	11,204	5,030
Hides, Raw and salted—					
Kilos	73,369	53,410	25,167	11,562	37,695
Rupees	32,821	21,938	11,544	4,960	18,043
Horns—					
Number	1,300	5,145	4,000	1,425	2,120
Rupees	400	621	2,000	48	312
Soap—					
Kilos	26,532	3,911	467	655	202
Rupees	6,062	1,216	135	151	154
Tea—					
Kilos	2,685	281	4	288	261
Rupees	3,900	451	6	312	498
Machinery and Millwork—					
Kilos	8,662	109,504	92,516	55,319	100,194
Rupees	6,305	293,655	61,422	40,826	65,196

13. The countries to which the principal products have chiefly been exported, with the quantities shipped, are shown below:—

Countries.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Sugar—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India	81,675,459	104,261,386	91,202,235	92,645,867	121,386,848
Cape Colonies	25,573,377	29,858,872	32,244,866	26,611,758	18,505,947
Ceylon	1,669,848	120,307	54,523	72,164	116,722
Australia	11,130,557	10,367,690	8,791,547	6,512,595	4,888,497
United States of America	33,928,421	16,289,215	6,517,851	—	—
United Kingdom	6,415,260	9,300,962	15,227,507	16,618,750	18,681,580
France	986,813	1,964,796	225	150	—
Delagoa Bay	1,168,670	—	—	—	—
Hong Kong	925,733	478,302	1,013,922	7,433,620	4,800,558
Natal	130,153	774,831	1,415,926	61,857	1,525,052
Aden	558,016	122,487	82,469	7,377	31,367
Egypt	18,716	—	—	—	—
Seychelles	227,870	242,730	232,127	201,093	238,307
Zanzibar	345,342	678,708	73	—	—
Madagascar	—	—	—	1,790	—
St. Helena	43,927	—	—	—	—
Mombassa	—	121,758	21,287	12,757	—
Sumatra...	—	—	434	—	—
Beira	—	115,540	5,187	—	—
Singapore	—	—	120,085	24,705	113,707
Straits Settlements	—	—	—	12,091	—
Glorieuse Islands	594	1,543	—	—	—
Pondicherry	40,675	—	11,999	—	—

Cochin China	—	—	—	—	37,538
Italy	—	—	—	—	150
Rum—	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.
United Kingdom	1,336,818	1,892,877	724,389	71,486	—
Madagascar	451	—	—	—	—
Seychelles	77,515	59,425	57,337	66,703	30,255
Hong Kong	16,813	—	—	—	—
Aden	6,320	16,965	6,489	14,545	15,198
Continental India	24,516	—	—	—	—
Cape Colonies	—	—	2,882	—	—
France	—	—	26	18,009	—
Australia	2,421	—	—	—	—
Glorieuse Islands	736	959	—	1,165	—
Singapore	2,965	—	—	—	—
Molasses—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India	12,681,080	14,928,650	19,611,200	15,311,666	11,207,800
United Kingdom	125	507	2,000	—	—
Ceylon	—	—	—	58,000	25
Cape Colonies	—	—	—	8,400	—
Hong Kong	—	—	—	—	204,600
Cocoanut Oil—	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.
Réunion...	—	—	88.16	—	—
Natal	—	24	—	—	7.20
Cape Colonies	63.25	—	—	209.84	—
United Kingdom	1,201.66	2,619.34	1,575.75	4,563.04	4,454.50
France	—	—	—	500.60	—
Aloe Fibre—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
United Kingdom	1,970,779	2,456,205	1,110,154	1,253,999	964,864

The Countries to which the principal products have chiefly been exported, with the quantities shipped, are shown below—*continued.*

Countries.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Aloe Fibre—*cont.*	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
France	42,250	273,356	11,922	890,610	553,820
Australia	—	—	112,547	—	—
Germany	146,180	209,130	7,500	—	—
Continental India	30,600	—	875	—	—
Holland	60,000	166,650	—	—	—
Vanilla—					
France	472	119	1,300	1,665	2,047
United Kingdom	3,237	4,417	2,052	3,085	1,405
Australia	—	—	—	32	34
Natal	—	16	—	—	—
Cape Colonies	—	—	—	5	—

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in Mauritius, and although there are workshops there are none that could be properly called manufactories. Nevertheless, rum, vinegar, and soap are made in the Colony. There are tea and aloe fibre factories, and a large quantity of fibre is exported annually to Great Britain and France.

The fisheries are protected by special laws and by the creation of Crown reserves as well as by the establishment of private barachois, by the creation of a close season and by the prohibition of the capture of an illegal size of fish and the prohibition of illegal nets.

There are 11 private barachois or enclosures communicating with the sea, duly registered under Ordinance No. 42 of 1881. These private barachois are walled ponds or "fish paddocks" which, by permission, may be replenished from Government reserves.

Certain parts of the coast are set apart which are called "reserves," and in which no fishing can take place except by rod and line or by basket net. The protection of these reserves is left to the Inland Revenue Branch of the Receiver General's Department, consisting of one superintendent, five inspectors, and twenty-five guards. The police have also concurrent jurisdiction in detecting contraventions under the Fishery Laws.

The fisheries of the Colony, in so far as the food supply is concerned, have in no way improved during the year. Mauritius is still almost entirely dependent on the islands, dependencies of the Colony, and on British and foreign countries and Colonies for the supply of dried, salted, and pickled fish.

The exports of fish and fishing products are chiefly restricted to the "Bambara" or sea slugs, which are not consumed in the Colony, but sent to Hong Kong and Singapore. This industry is chiefly in the hands of Chinamen.

The imports in 1903 amounted to kilos. 913,950 of a value of Rs. 207,012 (exclusive of charges and exchange), and the exports to kilos. 18,526 of the value of Rs. 5,030.

BOTANIC GARDENS.

The Botanical Gardens are divided into three sections, viz., the Pamplemousses, the Curepipe, and Le Réduit Gardens.

The most important are the Royal Botanical Gardens, Pamplemousses, which are used not only as public gardens but also as a nursery and acclimatization garden. Large numbers of forest and fruit trees as well as economic and ornamental plants are propagated there and sent all over the Island. The most important ones are the following:—

Casuarina equisetifolia, eucalyptus, camphor, mahogany, ficus, vitex, &c.

Letchis, artocarpus, spondias dulcis, avocado pear, mangoes, citrus, &c.

Coffee, nutmegs, cocoa, kola, coca, allspice, rhea, ceara rubber, pandanus, &c.

Palms, roses, crotons, aralia, canna, ipomea, cissus, &c.

Réduit Gardens.

These form part of the Réduit domain, the residence of the Governor of the Colony. Part of the ground is under forest plantation and the trees provide a large quantity of seeds, which are used for reafforestation purposes.

Curepipe Gardens.

These gardens are a very important forest nursery for plants that cannot be successfully grown at Pamplemousses owing to the climate.

These three gardens are at different altitudes and have distinct climates. They are well suited, therefore, to the purposes of experimental acclimatization.

Large numbers of seedling exotic plants are raised yearly at the Curepipe Gardens, such as juniperus, pinus sinensis, eucalyptus, eugenias, &c., which are either sold to the public or used for planting up the Government lands all over the Colony.

LAND GRANTS.

Lands are granted by the Government by lease and by sale. Lands which are situated on the sea coast beyond the limits of Port Louis, known as Pas Géométriques, can only be leased by public auction, except those forming part of villages which have been proclaimed such. The sales are invariably made by public auction. There is, however, an exception to this rule in cases where lands are desired for charitable, religious, or educational purposes.

No sales of Crown land took place during 1903. Two free grants were made to the War Department for military purposes, and a grant, at a nominal price, of a small portion of land at Rodrigues to the widow of a public servant.

The following is a return showing the Crown lands and barachois in Mauritius and its dependencies, except Seychelles and Rodrigues, in charge of the Public Works Department under lease for one year or more during 1903 or paying rent without lease, with rents due or amount received; also arrears of rent for 1903 and previous years still outstanding on the 31st December, 1903.

Mauritius and Dependencies.	Number of leases.	Nature of land under lease and area in arpents.								Arrears of rent due on 31st December, 1903.	Rent due in 1903.	Receipts to 31st December, 1903, arrears (in column 4).	Receipts to 31st December, 1903 (Column 5.)	Arrears due for 1903 and previous years on 31st December, 1903.	Rent struck off as irrecoverable.
		Lease in bare land.	Land with buildings.	Pasturage.	Pas Géométriques.	Docks and patent ships.	Islands adjacent to coast and Dependencies.	Barachois.	All other lands.						
	No.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Port Louis	186	62.8	—	—	—	13.05	—	2.25	—	2,992.71	7,004.50	1,265.25	5,995.50	1,844.69	891.77
Pamplemousses ...	50	131.63	—	—	401.42	—	—	—	—	942.00	1,630.50	763.00	1,249.75	499.75	60.00
Rivière du Rempart	135	195.71	—	10.00	991.36	—	261.64	320.72	—	1,331.39	3,244.50	1,189.00	2,627.50	759.16	.23
Flacq	104	184.85	—	73.40	963.63	—	—	108.21	—	2,726.70	3,235.00	2,036.50	1,716.50	2,207.75	.95
Grand Port	100	236.98	—	—	873.81	—	72.00	—	—	678.50	4,993.50	600.50	4,324.00	747.50	—
Savanne	140	184.85	—	—	595.98	.05	—	—	—	4,891.04	5,996.25	2,351.00	8,225.75	4,943.50	337.04
Black River	116	28.43	—	—	1,255.84	—	100.00	—	—	695.86	1,996.55	447.11	1,352.99	867.31	25.00
Plaines Wilhems ...	8	311.69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	110.94	559.94	47.94	527.94	95.00	—
Moka	9	8.21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	255.00	379.00	153.00	132.00	349.00	—
Dependencies ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	375.75	—	—	—	777.00	—	777.00	—	—
Total ...	854	1,345.17	—	83.40	5,082.04	13.10	809.39	431.18	—	14,624.14	29,816.74	8,853.30	21,928.93	12,313.66	1,314.99

SHIPPING.

The following tables exhibit the shipping of the five years, 1899-1903:—

Exclusive of Coasting Trade (Dependencies).

—	1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared—	485	664,101	467	656,043	512	782,008	469	746,517	442	767,977
(*a.*) Total No. and Tonnage of British Vessels ...	293	440,876	301	439,174	356	558,968	324	546,155	306	539,542
Total No. and Tonnage of Foreign Vessels ...	192	223,225	166	216,869	156	223,040	145	200,362	136	228,435
(*b.*) Total No. and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels ...	216	140,493	173	125,966	174	115,366	134	88,957	101	65,308
Total No. and Tonnage of Steam Vessels ...	269	523,608	294	530,077	338	666,642	335	657,560	341	702,669

Coasting Trade (Dependencies).

—	1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
2. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared—	62	12,455	67	14,897	62	16,990	63	11,351	63	11,802
(*a.*) Total No. and Tonnage of British Vessels ...	54	10,407	65	14,373	58	15,642	57	10,721	63	11,802
Total No. and Tonnage of Foreign Vessels ...	8	2,048	2	524	4	1,348	6	810	—	—
(*b.*) Total No. and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels ...	62	12,455	64	13,656	59	12,881	63	11,351	62	11,607
Total No. and Tonnage of Steam Vessels ...	—	—	3	1,241	3	4,109	—	—	1	195

The first table is a return of all vessels entered and cleared, excluding the Coasting Trade vessels, *i.e.*, vessels trading with the Dependencies, which are exclusively dealt with in the second table.

The number of vessels entered and cleared during 1903 shows a reduction of 27 in number but an increase in tonnage of 21,460, as compared with the figures for 1902.

Compared with 1902 the following differences are exhibited: Sailing vessels—shortage of 33 in number and of 23,649 in tonnage; steam vessels—increase of 6 in number and of 45,109 in tonnage; British vessels—shortage of 18 in number and of 6,613 in tonnage; Foreign vessels—shortage of 9 in number but an excess of 28,073 in tonnage.

Of the 442 vessels which entered and cleared during 1903, 5 steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 10,784, called at this port exclusively for the purpose of coaling, showing a difference of 16 less in number and of 31,793 less in tonnage as compared with 1902.

Coasting Trade—Dependencies.

The number of vessels entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies during 1903 is 63, the same number as for 1902 but with an excess of 451 in tonnage.

Only one steam vessel of 195 tons cleared for the Dependencies in 1903, whilst there were none in 1902.

British vessels show an increase of 6 in number and of 1,081 in tonnage as compared with 1902.

No foreign vessels entered from, or cleared for, the Dependencies in 1903, against 6 of an aggregate tonnage of 810 for 1902.

SHIPPING INWARDS and OUTWARDS FOR THE YEARS 1899–1903.

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1899 ...	90	52,874	4	1,195	94	54,069	35	17,688	7	2,023	44	19,711	125	70,562	11	3,218	136	73,780
1900 ...	86	53,379	6	1,649	92	55,028	34	13,849	1	1,595	25	15,444	110	67,228	7	3,244	117	70,472
1901 ...	86	48,671	5	1,821	91	50,492	23	13,065	7	1,869	30	14,934	109	61,736	12	3,690	121	65,426
1902 ...	66	33,700	3	1,301	69	35,001	19	11,140	8	2,143	27	13,283	85	44,840	11	3,444	96	48,284
1903 ...	66	30,335	2	361	68	30,696	8	6,623	5	1,220	13	7,843	74	36,958	7	1,581	81	38,539

Steamers—Entered.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1899 ...	59	132,913	19	57,801	78	170,714	54	87,094	4	5,781	58	92,875	113	220,007	23	43,582	130	263,589
1900 ...	72	140,718	18	34,105	90	174,823	52	82,842	7	9,697	59	92,539	124	223,560	25	43,802	149	267,362
1901 ...	85	172,770	35	65,944	120	238,714	47	90,306	4	6,960	51	97,266	132	263,076	39	72,904	171	335,980
1902 ...	98	199,928	22	42,240	120	242,168	44	78,352	5	9,210	49	87,562	142	278,280	27	51,450	169	329,730
1903 ...	105	223,302	11	23,385	116	246,687	47	89,562	8	16,749	55	106,311	152	312,864	19	40,134	171	352,998

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1899 ...	65	20,902	33	36,387	98	57,289	32	15,228	12	6,651	44	21,879	97	36,130	45	43,038	142	79,168
1900 ...	66	23,366	30	30,562	96	53,928	12	4,331	12	10,891	24	15,222	78	27,697	42	41,453	120	69,150
1901 ...	64	25,472	20	22,420	84	47,892	10	3,008	18	11,921	28	14,929	74	28,480	38	34,341	112	62,821
1902 ...	65	25,772	9	12,676	74	38,448	16	5,294	11	8,462	27	13,756	81	31,066	20	21,138	101	52,204
1903 ...	59	21,243	11	10,153	70	31,396	7	4,023	5	2,957	12	6,980	66	25,266	16	13,110	82	38,376

Steamers—Cleared.

Years.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1899 ...	62	137,167	15	32,044	77	169,211	29	50,405	27	40,403	56	90,808	91	187,572	42	72,447	133	260,019
1900 ...	68	131,116	20	38,652	88	169,768	35	53,040	25	41,148	60	94,188	103	184,156	45	79,800	148	263,956
1901 ...	81	157,917	38	79,595	119	237,512	35	65,595	16	31,664	51	97,259	116	223,512	54	111,259	170	334,771
1902 ...	78	153,002	40	88,257	118	241,259	43	76,959	5	9,612	48	86,571	121	229,961	45	97,869	166	327,830
1903 ...	80	163,523	35	79,042	115	242,565	46	90,267	10	17,034	56	107,301	126	253,790	45	96,076	171	349,866

Statement of Number and Tonnage of British and Foreign Sailing Vessels and Steamers, entered and cleared for 1902 and 1903:—

Entered.

—	1902.		1903.		Difference. + Increase, — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	96	48,284	81	38,539	—15	— 9,745
Steamers ...	169	329,730	171	352,998	+ 2	+ 23,268
Total ...	265	378,014	252	391,537	—13	+ 13,523

Cleared.

—	1902.		1903.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	101	52,204	82	38,376	—19	— 13,828
Steamers ...	166	327,830	171	349,866	+ 5	+ 22,036
Total ...	267	380,034	253	388,242	—14	+ 8,208

VESSELS WITH CARGOES.

The tonnage of vessels entered at this port with cargoes during the year 1903 amounted to 343,983 and the tonnage cleared to 273,094, as against 317,488 entered and 255,128 cleared for 1902.

The aggregate tonnage of the Coasting Trade—Dependencies —amounts to 5,839 tons entered and 5,963 tons cleared, against 5,632 tons entered and 5,899 tons cleared in 1902, showing slight increases.

The nationality and description of the vessels are shown in the following statements:—

Statement showing the classification of Shipping by Nationalities.

Entered.

Nationality.	1902.		1903.		Difference + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamer...	120	242,168	116	246,687	— 4	+ 4,519
Sailing ...	69	35,001	68	30,696	— 1	— 4,305
French—						
Steamer...	39	74,219	45	90,187	+ 6	+ 15,968
Sailing ...	6	2,431	3	3,510	— 3	+ 1,079
German—						
Steamer...	8	10,703	9	15,058	+ 1	+ 4,355
Sailing ...	6	2,666	—	—	— 6	- 2,666
Norwegian—						
Steamer...	1	1,065	1	1,066	—	+ 1
Sailing ...	8	4,026	5	2,080	-- 3	— 1,946
Italian—						
Steamer...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing ...	2	882	4	1,968	+ 2	+ 1,086
Danish—						
Steamer...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing ...	3	1,171	1	385	— 2	— 786
American—						
Steamer...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing ...	2	2,107	—	—	— 2	— 2,107
Dutch—						
Steamer...	1	1,575	—	—	— 1	- 1,575
Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Cleared.

Nationality.	1902.		1903.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamer...	118	241,259	115	242,565	— 3	+ 1,306
Sailing ...	74	38,448	70	31,396	— 4	— 7,052
French—						
Steamer...	38	73,228	46	91,177	+ 8	+ 17,949
Sailing ...	5	2,296	3	3,510	— 2	+ 1,214
German—						
Steamer...	8	10,703	9	15,058	+ 1	+ 4,355
Sailing ...	6	2,666	—	—	— 6	- 2,666

Cleared—continued.

Nationality.	1902.		1903.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Norwegian—						
Steamer...	1	1,065	1	1,066	—	+ 1
Sailing ...	9	4,634	5	2,080	— 4	— 2,554
Italian—						
Steamer...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing ...	2	882	3	1,005	+ 1	+ 123
Danish—						
Steamer...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing ...	3	1,171	1	385	— 2	— 786
American—						
Steamer...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing ...	2	2,107	—	—	— 2	— 2,107
Dutch—						
Steamer...	1	1,575	—	—	— 1	— 1,575
Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

SUEZ CANAL.

The number and tonnage of steam vessels which entered and cleared from and to all countries, *viâ* Suez Canal, and the value of goods (including Bullion and Specie) imported and exported by that canal into and from Mauritius are shown in the following table:—

Years.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared.		Value of Goods (including Bullion and Specie).	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.
					Rs.	Rs.
1899	36	68,863	26	48,860	1,786,440	666,351
1900	37	72,122	28	51,780	2,835,100	449,911
1901	38	74,012	24	49,040	3,868,350	892,320
1902	26	50,849	27	52,242	3,887,611	2,189,981
1903	32	65,515	27	53,431	6,542,071	2,483,481

The value of goods imported through the Suez Canal in 1903 amounts to Rs. 6,542,065, showing Rs. 2,655,064 in excess of the value for 1902. This large difference is due to the importation of tramway materials.

Goods exported from Mauritius through the said canal amount to Rs. 2,483,480 against Rs. 2,189,980 for 1902, an increase of Rs. 293,500.

TRANSPORTS AND MEN OF WAR.

The number of Transports and Men of War which visited the Island in 1903 amounts to 13 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 47,193, all being His Majesty's vessels.

No Foreign Man of War called at this port during 1903 against one in 1902.

III.—LEGISLATION.

There were 54 Ordinances passed during the 1903 Session of the Council of Government. Many of them were of an unimportant nature introducing small amendments in existing legislation. The Ordinance which occupied the greatest attention was the Municipality Consolidation Ordinance No. 23 of 1903. The principal provisions of this Bill are the division of the town into Wards, the substitution of the election of the Councillors by the scrutin d'arrondisement instead of the scrutin de liste, the lowering of the franchise and the exclusion of the salaried class, and the audit by the Government of the accounts of the Municipality.

The other Ordinances which require to be noticed are:—

Nos. 3, 6, and 15 of 1903, providing for the construction of the Bois Chéri, Nouvelle France Light Railway, the Black River Railway, and the Port Louis Tramway.

No. 2 of 1903—To regulate the giving of Boiler Certificates.

No. 8 of 1903—To amend the law relating to the exportation of arms, ammunition, and military stores.

No. 16 of 1903—To declare Victoria Day a Bank and Office Holiday.

No. 17 of 1903—To amend the Law of Quarantine.

No. 26 of 1903—To amend Ordinance No. 12 of 1878 relative to Immigration and the Labour Law.

No. 33 of 1903—To regulate the erection and use of stations and machinery for the purpose of wireless telegraphy.

No. 49 of 1903—To authorise the raising of a loan of £40,500 to meet the costs of Drainage and Water Works.

This last Ordinance was introduced by the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to raise a loan of £40,500 of which £17,000 is to provide plant and to execute other works for the purification of the Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Supply and £23,500 for the execution of further drainage works in the town of Port Louis.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

There were 155 Primary Schools in Mauritius in 1903. The annual average number of pupils on roll was 16,759, and the average number in attendance 11,588.

In the Primary Government and Grant-in-Aid Schools, pupils are taught in six standards in the subjects, English, French, and arithmetic; many of the schools take besides one extended programme in some or all of the subjects English, French, arithmetic, geography, elementary science (for boys), needlework (for girls).

Examinations are conducted annually by the Inspectors of Schools, who besides pay frequent visits to the schools during the year.

All the schools are open, without payment of any fee, to pupils of all classes and creeds between the ages of 5 and 16, or in some cases 18.

Religious instruction is imparted to the pupils in both Government and Grant-in-Aid Schools, at hours specially set apart in the curriculum of each school for the purpose by the clergy of their various denominations.

The number of Government Schools was 68.

The number of Grant-in-Aid Schools was 87. Of these, 66 were Roman Catholic, 18 were Church of England, 2 were Presbyterian, 1 was Mahomedan.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Royal College and Schools in connexion.

Secondary Education is given at the Royal College with its two preparatory schools, the schools associated to the Royal College and the girls' schools working under the scheme for the Higher Education of Girls.

The numbers of pupils at the Royal College and its two schools in December were:—

College Proper	190
Curepipe School	105
Port Louis School	77
Total	372

There were 233 paying, and 139 free, pupils.

The free pupils belong to the following classes: —

(1) Indigent pupils whose fees have been paid for two years (Art. 13 of the Regulations)	11
(2) Holders of Eleemosynary Scholarships ...	26
(3) Scholars and Exhibitioners from Primary Schools	45
(4) Scholars and Exhibitioners from Primary Schools whose free tuition has been extended	26
(5) Holders of Scholarships and Exhibitions won at the College and Associated Schools ...	31
Total	139

In the Royal College pupils are prepared for the London Matriculation and the Cambridge Senior Local Examinations, the passing of which examinations qualifies them for entering the highest classes of the College on the Classical and Modern Sides respectively.

For the London Matriculation Examination 9 pupils were presented, of whom 2 passed in the First Division and 4 in the Second Division. For the Senior Cambridge 79 pupils presented themselves, of whom 12 were outsiders; 39 passed, including 2 outsiders.

In each of the highest classes a scholarship is annually given of the value of about £1,000 to enable students to follow some special course of study in general at some institution in the United Kingdom.

Numerous small scholarships, exhibitions, and other rewards are given in the other classes.

The preparatory schools of the College and the associated schools, of which there are 25 in number, prepare students for the classes of the College proper.

Religious Instruction is imparted in the College and its two preparatory schools, and annual examinations held in it.

GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

The Girls' Schools in the scheme for the Higher Education of Girls provide a course of study suitable for girls of age from about 11 to 17. The subjects mainly taught are English, French, history, geography, mathematics, latin, music, needlework, religious instruction.

Annual examinations are held in all these schools, on the results of which prizes and certificates are awarded and grants are paid to the Managers of the Associated and Girls' Schools.

The number of schools working in connexion with the Schools Department and earning grants from Government on the results of examination was 32, the examinations being, however, open to all the girls in the Colony, except those attending the Government and Aided Primary Schools.

The number of girls competing was 260 of whom 148 obtained Honours and Pass Certificates.

INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

Under this head several new schemes were put into operation in 1903.

Provision has been made for the establishment of Government and Grant-in-Aid Training Schools for Teachers, and a Government School for men was opened in January and one for women in October.

Three of the men obtained certificates at the August examinations. The women have not yet competed.

A scheme for the training of mechanical engineers in the theory and practice of their work in connection with the Government railway works was put into operation in January, 1903. The scheme seems to be working well. Many of the students appear to be interested and steady and show promise.

A similar scheme for horticultural apprentices, started at the same time, has not so far given equal satisfaction.

Arrangements were made to establish Civil Engineering Scholarships in connexion with the Surveyor General's Department. At the examination held in 1903, the first in connexion with the scheme, no scholar was elected as no one succeeded in satisfying the examiners.

A scheme for the teaching of Agricultural Science at the Station Agronomique has been prepared and submitted to the Committee of that Institution. The scheme is now before that Committee.

Regulations were made for teaching handicrafts in the Primary Government and Grant-in-Aid Schools, and at a few of the schools carpentry classes were started in 1903. There has hardly been time so far to judge of the success of this scheme

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

The number of hospitals and asylums has remained unchanged during 1903.

The following statement gives the number of patients admitted, treated, who died, and who were discharged in each of them:—

Hospitals.	Remaining on January 1st, 1903.	Admitted.	Treated.	Died.	Discharged.
Civil Hospital ...	175	6,062	6,237	520	6,095
Port Louis Prisons	16	1,121	1,137	11	1,130
Long Mountain ...	10	761	771	38	752
Poudre d'Or ...	20	1,194	1,214	48	1,187
Flacq	49	1,966	2,015	105	1,983
Mahebourg... ...	23	1,523	2,323	133	2 295
Savanne	33	2,300	1,556	92	1,516
Barkly Asylum ...	106	3,635	3,741	246	3,640
Lunatic Asylum ...	31	481	512	30	487
Beau Bassin Prisons	8	1,009	1,017	23	1,004
Reformatory ...	—	104	104	—	101
Moka	18	711	729	31	722
Total ...	489	20,867	21,356	1,277	20,912

The sanitary state of the Island cannot be said to have been as satisfactory as in 1902. Malaria, influenza, dysentery, and worst of all, plague, have been on the increase; but few cases of measles were detected and typhoid fever showed a marked decrease.

The death rate has risen from 34·0 in 1902 to 39·9 per mille in 1903, giving an increase of 5·9.

The number of admissions in the different hospitals and asylums of the Colony amounted to 20,867, showing an increase of 2,993 over the figure for 1902. The case mortality was 5·98 per cent. against 5·57 per cent. for the previous year.

38,420 different pauper patients applied at the dispensaries for medical care and comfort.

Malarial fever accounts for the greater number of admissions into the various hospitals; 4,833 patients were treated for that complaint in 1903 against 3,387 in 1902, showing an increase of 1,446. The disease at the same time assumed a more virulent character, as the case mortality, 1·94 per cent., will show when compared with that of 1902, which stood at 1·03 per cent., and that of 1901, which was 1·64 per cent. The non-occurrence of cyclones, an equally distributed rain-fall and a high and constant degree of humidity have favoured the multiplication of mosquitoes, and offered suitable conditions to which may be ascribed the high increase in the number of cases of malarial fever which have come under treatment.

834 cases of dysentery were admitted during the year under review. The increase over the figure of the previous year, viz., 161, once more proves that the incidence of dysentery is concomittant with that of malaria. It is, however, satisfactory to notice that the case mortality has been almost stationary, as this year it was 12·7 per cent. compared with 12·17 per cent., the rate for 1902.

The admission for influenza numbered 1,055 against 772 for 1902. The case mortality was 2·9 per cent. The increase above the preceding year is probably due to the greater number of rainy days, to a lower average temperature and to the increased humidity.

Enteric fever has been less prevalent in 1903 than in the previous year. The number of cases admitted into the hospitals was only 15, against 36 in 1902, the case mortality, 25 per cent., remaining almost the same.

Tuberculosis is answerable for 1,110 admissions, giving an increase of 23 over the number of the previous year. The spread of this disease is favoured in this Colony by the ignorance and fatalistic notions of a not inconsiderable part of the population, and above all by the increasing poverty of a large proportion of the inhabitants, who are not in a position to procure a substantial dietary, and are besides compelled to live in insanitary dwellings, where the evils arising from overcrowding are added to existing ones.

The epidemic visitation of plague has been more severe in 1903 than in any year since the first outbreak in 1899, as may be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
			Per cent.
1899...	1,416	1,117	78·9
1900...	796	593	74·5
1901...	1,093	805	73·6
1902...	506	386	76·3
1903...	1,395	1,035	74·2

The epidemic began in July and was at its height in October when every district in the Island was attacked. The chief agent in the propagation of the scourge is the rat, and the number of these rodents found in town was considerable in 1903.

Surra, which was epizootic in 1902, continued to prevail through 1903; it again considerably hampered the regular performance of the night soil service, but happily a general collapse was avoided, the contractors having recourse to the railway and to traction engines as means of conveyance. The experiments which have been carried out in connection with this disease have demonstrated that it may remain latent for a long time, and that the period of infectivity among bullocks is a protracted one. These experiments have also confirmed the fact that bovines affected with Surra do, in a large proportion of cases and under favourable conditions, apparently recover from the disease and are able to render good services as draught animals.

POOR LAW RELIEF AND ASYLUMS.

There are no poor houses, in the English sense, in Mauritius, but relief, both indoor and outdoor, is extensively given to the poor. The indoor relief is given at the public hospitals of the Colony, at the Barkly Asylum, for the aged and infirm poor, and at various convents, infirmaries, and dispensaries. The outdoor relief consists of grants of food, money, clothes, and medicines.

The expenditure of the Poor Law Department for the year 1903 amounted to Rs. 195,303. The number of pauper patients treated at the several hospitals was 16,635, and the number of paupers who received outdoor relief was 2,417.

64 pauper orphans were maintained in convents at the expense of the Poor Law Commission, and 828 infirm paupers in infirmaries.

The number of sick paupers who applied at the public dispensaries and who received either medicines or medical treatment was 38,420.

The following table shows the total number of persons who received indoor and outdoor relief in 1903:—

(*a*) Recipients of indoor relief—	
Sick in Country District Hospitals ...	11,921
Sick in Civil Hospital	4,481
Sick in Convent Hospital, Canal Street	233
Inmates of Barkly Asylum	892
Lepers at St. Lazare	146
Inmates of Lunatic Asylum	466
Orphans in Convents	64
Inmates of Branch Infirmaries... ...	828
(*b*) Recipients of outdoor relief—	
Alimentary and pecuniary	2,417
Medical (sick at dispensaries) ...	38,420
	59,868

There is also a Leper Asylum (St. Lazare) in Port Louis into which 146 pauper lepers were admitted last year, and a Lunatic Asylum at Beau Bassin where there were 237 males and 152 females, making a total of 390 inmates under treatment in 1903.

REFORMATORY.

There were 231 boys committed to the Reformatory in 1903, which shows a slight decrease on 1902, when 248 were admitted. The results in the Industrial School have been good during the year. This is due to an increased amount of Government work sent to the Reformatory in consequence of the trades at the prisons having been thrown open to the public. The trades taught are carpentering, tinsmith, basket making, shoemaking, and gardening. The earnings amounted to Rs. 5,472 against Rs. 4,145 in 1902, showing an increase of Rs. 1,326. The total cost of maintaining and guarding the boys in 1903 was Rs. 14,141 as compared with Rs. 15,643 in the previous year, and the average cost per boy was Rs. 228 against Rs. 234 in 1902.

SAVINGS BANK.

The savings deposited at the Government Savings Bank, at 3 per cent. interest, amounted to Rs. 2,723,594 on the 30th June, 1903, as compared with Rs. 2,797,380 on the same date in 1902, showing a decrease of Rs. 73,786.

The following return shows the number of depositors and the amount standing to the credit of the general and the Indian population at the end of the years 1901-2 and 1902-3:—

—	1901–2.		1902–3.	
	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
General Population	15,119	1,612,876	15,284	1,584,996
Indian Population	10,613	1,184,380	10,384	1,138,598
Total	25,732	2,797,256	25,668	2.723,594

The financial position of the bank on the 30th June, 1903, was as follows:—

	Rs.
Investments	3,127,295.37
Cash in hand	7,701.51
Receiver General	79,498.58
	3,214,495.46
Liabilities due to Depositors	2,905,357.41
Balance in favour of Bank	309,138.05

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE, PRISONS AND CRIMINAL.

The total effective strength of the police force on the 31st December, 1903, was 714; the actual strength, however, was 710.

The force comprised ten nationalities, but 530 were natives of Mauritius. 118 constables were enlisted during the year and 17 were dismissed. Sixty-three sub-officers and constables resigned or were discharged on pension or gratuity.

Detection and Repression of Crime.

The total number of offences of every description known, or reported, to the police throughout the Colony in 1903 was 22,870, in connection with which 12,779 persons were apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.

The following return shows the nature of the offences:—

Nature of Offences.	No. of cases.	No. of persons charged.
Serious offences reported to, or detected by, the Police, in which persons were charged.	2,336	3,003
Serious offences reported to or detected by the Police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged	9,477	370°
Minor offences reported to or detected by the Police, in which persons were charged.	4,475	6,640
Minor offences reported to, or detected by, the Police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged.	3,816	—
Other offences against the Labour Law . .	1,228	1,228
Vagrancy	1,538	1,538
Total	22,870	12,779

° Arrested on suspicion only.

CASES of CRIMES in which PERSONS were CHARGED.

Offences.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons Charged.	Number of Persons Convicted or Committed to Assizes.	Amount of Property Stolen.	Amount of Property Recovered.	
					By all Agencies.	By Police Only.
				Rs. c	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Murder, including parricide, infanticide, wife murder, &c., and poisoning causing death.	14	24	20	—	—	—
Attempt at foregoing murder and poisoning not causing death	8	22	18	—	—	—
Manslaughter, including wounds and blows causing death	11	19	11	—	—	—
Rape, including attempt upon chastity	16	27	18	—	—	—
Larceny at night by breaking, or with violence to the person	91	148	97	4,594.55	686.22	578.55
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	31	37	27	—	685.07	620.02
Prædial and other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement and swindling.	1,192	1,384	1,133	15,068.63	5,919.18	3,945.56
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	297	351	248	—	3,531.61	3,291.79
Arson and other malicious injuries to property	30	46	38	—	—	—
All other offences not included above	646	945	625	—	—	—
Total	2,336	3,003	2,235	19,663.18	10,822.08	8,435.92

It will be observed that of serious offences reported to, or detected by, the police there were 2,336 cases, for which 3,003 persons were charged and 2,235, or 74·43 per cent., either convicted or committed to Assizes.

The amount of property declared to have been stolen was Rs. 19,663.18, of which Rs. 10,822.08, or 55·04 per cent., was recovered by "All Agencies," including police, and Rs. 8,435.92, or 42·90 per cent., by "Police only."

The following return records all serious offences reported to, or detected by, the police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged:—

Offences.	No of cases.	No. of persons arrested on suspicion.	Amount of Property alleged to have been stolen.	Amount of Property recovered.	
				By all Agencies.	By Police only.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Murder, including parricide, wife murder, and poisoning causing death	—	—	—	—	—
Attempt at foregoing murder, and poisoning not causing death	4	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the person	5,790	30	—	—	—
Larceny at night by breaking, or with violence to the person	337	46	27,860.93	3,953.31	3,920.31
Prædial and other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement and swindling ...	3,024	265	89,278.36	21,260.15	4,080.72
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property	28	12	—	119.33	70.11
Arson and other malicious injuries to property	41	12	—	—	—
Other offences against property...	238	3	—	—	—
All other offences not included above	15	—	—	—	—
Total	9,477	370	117,139.29	25,332.79	8,071.14

The total number of fires which formed the subject of police investigation in 1903 was 348, and the total estimated value of property destroyed was Rs. 99,026.

Prisons.

There are two prisons in Mauritius, the Central Prison at Beau Bassin and the Port Louis Prison, which is used for untried prisoners as well as for certain prisoners whom it is considered desirable to retain in town, either for sanitary or other reasons.

The total number of prisoners admitted to prison after conviction during the year was 5,643 males and 212 females. These numbers show an increase of 1,086 males and a decrease of 55 females as compared with the returns of 1902.

The number committed under the different headings compares with the previous year as follows:—

Year.	Debt.	Non-payment of fine and costs.	Safe custody till trial or for want of security.	Purposes of penal imprisonment.
1903 ...	4	1,503	2,409	4,348
1902 ...	6	1,616	1,826	4,182

The average daily number of prisoners under detention as compared with 1902 shows an increase of 110.

The total cost of housing, guarding, and maintaining the prisoners was Rs. 124,669 in 1903 against Rs. 120,958 in 1902.

The total cost per head was Rs. 137 as compared with Rs. 152 in 1902.

The gross earnings amounted to Rs. 122,726 in 1903 against Rs. 118,320 the year previous, and the total earnings per head were Rs. 137 against Rs. 152 in 1902.

The prisoners are employed as carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, basket and rattan makers, mat and mattress makers, also at stone breaking.

Criminal Statistics.

The following table gives the judicial statistics for 1903:—

Informations in the Supreme, District, and Stipendiary Courts of Mauritius.

How case tried ended.	Total.	Murder, other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter.	Attempt at murder.	The numbers include attempt to commit the several offences.												
					Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Child murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injuries to property.	Robbery with violence.	Prædial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Vaccination.	Miscellaneous offences.
Judgment for the Crown	16,790	—	3	2	1	—	1	—	9	2	766	159	42	283	1,249	2	14,271
Judgment for the prisoner	1,519	2	—	13	1	1	—	—	2	—	414	31	23	22	297	—	713
Prisoners found insane	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
Cases which fell through for want of prosecution, including cases which the Procureur General declined to take at the Assizes.	3,209	7	10	4	—	—	—	—	5	—	268	11	21	11	1,121	—	1,751

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population on the 1st January, 1903, was ...		376,260
The number of births registered in 1903 was	12,306	
The number of births unregistered owing to death intervening before registration was made, was	1,305	
Total births	13,611	
The number of deaths registered was ...	15,034	
Showing a decrease of		1,423
		374,837
Arrivals in the Island	5,587	
Departures from the Island	5,780	
Difference in favour of departures		193
Total Civil Population		374,644
Military stationed in the Island		2,720
Total population of the Island		377,364
Estimated population of Dependencies and out-lying Islands		5,119
Estimated total population of the Colony ...		382,483

The crews of non-colonial shipping in the harbour have not been included in the above estimate.

The Indian population included in the above numbered 262,770, composed of 144,538 males and 118,232 females, showing an increase of 1,438 males and 2,246 females on the census of 1901.

The general population (excluding Indians) numbered 111,874, of which 56,946 are males and 54,928 females, thus showing a decrease of 494 males and 557 females.

It will be noticed that, while the Indian population of the Island is rapidly increasing, the general population shows a falling off year after year.

The following is an abstract of marriages, births, and deaths in 1903:—

Districts.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Total Population.			General Population.			Indian Population.		
	On Population on 1st January, 1903.	On Population on 1st January, 1903.	Marriages	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.
Port Louis	29.6	60.4	359	1,557	3,178	265	842	1,673	94	715	1,505
Pamplemousses ...	31.4	42.5	66	1,217	1,645	26	223	308	40	994	1,337
Rivière du Rempart	40.3	33.8	83	1,129	945	21	164	141	62	965	804
Flacq	39.0	38.1	93	2,206	2,154	40	499	417	53	1,707	1,737
Grand Port	38.4	43.5	104	1,949	2,207	37	532	506	67	1,417	1,701
Savanne	35.6	31.7	73	1,282	1,143	28	297	205	45	985	938
Plaines Wilhems ...	38.2	33.4	212	2,446	2,138	103	877	757	109	1,569	1,381
Moka	38.0	27.2	64	1,384	991	22	230	139	42	1,154	852
Black River	32.3	46.4	38	441	633	21	180	184	17	261	449
Total	36.1	39.9	1,092	13,611	15,034	563	3,844	4,330	529	9,767	10,704

The following statement shows the different classes of occupations of the population*:—

Employments.	General Population.		Indo-Mauritians.		Other Indians.		Grand Total		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Class I.— Professional	3,225	624	712	29	373	19	4,310	672	4,982
Class II.— Domestic	2,874	3,087	5,183	1,047	1,656	192	9,713	4,326	14,039
Class III.— Commercial	5,681	110	3,744	473	3,350	369	12,775	952	13,727
Class IV.— Agricultural	3,605	157	41,069	3,779	27,675	1,606	72,349	5,542	77,891
Class V.— Industrial...	18,211	3,269	1,824	227	756	33	20,791	3,529	24,320
Class VI.— Indefinite and Non-productive...	22,856	48,238	50,438	90,353	6,320	17,859	79,614	156,450	236,064
Total	56,452	55,485	102,970	95,908	40,130	20,078	199,552	171,471	371,023

* From the Census of 1st April, 1901.

Births.

There were 13,611 births registered during the year. The birth rate in the general population was 34·2 per 1,000 and in the Indian population 37·0.

Deaths.

15,034 deaths occurred during the year. The death rate was, in the general population, 38·5 per 1,000, and in the Indian population, 40·5. The deaths consequently exceeded the births by 1,423.

Marriages.

There were 1,092 marriages celebrated during the year. Of these mariages 563 belonged to the general population and 529 to the Indian population.

The sanitary condition of the Colony has been unsatisfactory. Malaria, influenza, dysentery, and plague have been on the increase and the mortality increased from 34·0 per 1,000 in 1902 to 39·5 in 1903.

The following return shows the mortality for the last five years:—

Year.	Mortality.	Rate per 1,000.
1899	13,222	34·8
1900	13,691	34·8
1901	14,971	40·3
1902	12,716	34·0
1903	15,034	39·5

The water supply has remained exactly the same during the past year. The management and supervision of the water works and supplies, except Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems District, have been entrusted, by Ordinance 35, of 1902, to District Boards and the Surveyor General's Department. Time enough has not elapsed for the results of this altered state of matters to show themselves, but it is expected that the change will prove beneficial to the inhabitants of the Colony.

CLIMATE.

General.

Mauritius lies between the meridians of 57°18′ and 57°49′ E. longitude, and the parallels of 19°58′ and 20°32′ S. latitude. To the north extends the equatorial belt of calms and variable winds with its hot, damp, and rarified atmosphere; and to the south the sub-tropical belt of high pressure from which a current of air blows nearly continuously, in a curved path, towards the equator, being deflected to the west by the rotation of the earth.

The migrations of these belts north and south with the sun produce the seasonal varitations of weather at Mauritius. With the system in its most southerly position the Island is under the influence of the belt of low pressure, and in its most northerly position the influence of the high pressure belt is felt; so that in the summer months—December to April—the atmospheric pressure is below the average, and the weather is hot and sultry with occasional very heavy rain, produced principally by the cyclones which form to the north east of Mauritius and travel usually on a south-westerly course, passing sometimes to eastward and sometimes to westward, but seldom immediately over the Island.

The mean atmospheric presure varies from 29·919 ins. in February to 30·202 ins. in August, and the mean temperature of the air from 79° in January to 68° in July. (At Curepipe, a town situated on the Central Plateau 1,800 feet above sea level, the temperature varies from 74° in January to 62° in July.) The mean wind direction varies from east in December and January to S.E. by E. in June; its velocity varies from 10 miles per hour in March to 12·4 miles per hour in August. The rainfall is very variable in different parts of the Island; the wettest station is Cluny, in Grand Port, with a mean annual rainfall of 145 ins.; the driest is Albion, on the west coast, with a mean rainfall of 31 ins. The mean monthly rainfall for the whole Island decreases from 12 ins. in March to 2·6 ins. in September and October.

In addition to the annual variation there is a marked diurnal variation in all elements amounting to 0·070 ins. in atmospheric pressure, from 12° in winter to 17° in summer in air temperature, from 25 to 50 per cent. in relative humidity, seven miles an hour in wind velocity, 20° in wind direction and 0·07 in. in rainfall

Special Features in 1903.

The atmospheric pressure showed a persistent increase, relatively to the normal; the quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October December.
Ins. 0.042	Ins. 0.018	Ins. 0.011	Ins. 0.008

The return to normal in 1903 October completed the largest negative wave on record; the next largest occurred from 1875 August to 1876 February.

The air temperature showed a general decrease during the year, relatively to the normal; the quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
+ 0.6°	+ 0.5°	0.0°	– 1.9°

The relatively cold months, September to December, depressed the mean annual temperature 0·2° below the average.

In relative humidity the quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. + 3.5	Per cent. – 1.1	Per cent. – 3.7	Per cent. – 0.7

The wind velocity increased generally; relatively to the normal, from February to October, with, however, a marked interruption in March from cyclonic disturbances. The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
M.p.h. – 2.0	M.p.h. – 0.7	M.p.h. 0.0	M.p.h. + 0.4

The corresponding departures from average on the wind direction, counting from south, were +3·7°, +2·7°, +0·7°, and –4·3°.

The rainfall was above the average in January, April, June, September, and October; in the remaining 7 months it was below. The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. — 2.20	Ins. — 0.30	Ins. — 1.22	Ins. — 2.62

Means and Extremes of Meteorological Elements.

The means and extremes of the various meteorological elements for the year 1903 are given below:—

—	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.
Atmospheric Pressure ...	Ins. 30.055	Ins. 30.358	Ins. 29.573
Air Temperature	73.3°	89.0°	55.1°
Relative Humidity ...	Per cent. 75	Per cent. 97.6	Per cent. 38.0
Wind Velocity	M.p.h. 10.4	M.p.h. 31.9	—
Wind Direction	S 74° E	—	—
Total Rainfall	—	Ins. 41.70	—

Results of Magnetic Observations.

The magnetographs were at work throughout the year and absolute values of the magnetic elements determined, as a rule, four times a month. The following are the mean results for 1903:—

Declination (west)	9°15′95
Declination (south)	53°59′39
Horizontal Force (C.G.S. units) ...	0·23680
Vertical Force (C.G.S units)	0·32585
Total Force (C.G.S. units)	0·40281

The largest magnetic disturbances occurred on February 8, August 22, 26; October 11-14; October 29-November 1, December 13-14. The disturbance of October 29-November 1 was the largest on record since 1882.

MISCELLANEOUS WORK.

Actinometric observations were taken on those days on which the sky was free from cloud in the neighbourhood of the sun at or near apparent noon.

92 earthquakes were recorded by the Milne Seismograph during the year. The ordinates of the seismograms were measured at every hour of Greenwich civil time, for the study of diurnal changes of level.

The sun was observed on 306 days, on 86 of which no spots were seen; 498 photographs were taken.

Rainfall returns were collected from 50 stations in different parts of the Island. The mean rainfall for the whole Island during the year was 68·64 ins., as compared with an average of 77·08 ins.

Observations made on board vessels trading with Mauritius were tabulated and detailed accounts of gales and hurricanes recorded. From observations thus obtained daily synoptic charts were prepared for the hurricane months, from which it appeared that during the year, 1903, seven cyclones occurred in the South Indian Ocean, 3 in January, 3 in February, and 1 in March.

Daily normals of the principal meteorological elements were completed during the year, and copies of the results distributed to other Observatories.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

The gross receipts of the post and telegraphic offices in 1903 were Rs. 125,810.72; the gross expenditure was Rs. 155,718.86, showing a deficit of Rs. 29,908.14.

The contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company was renewed in 1903 for another year, for a four-weekly service between Mauritius and Colombo. There was also a four-weekly service by these steamers to and from South Africa. Besides the British India Steamers, our mails to and from the East were conveyed by other British and French steamers.

The Messageries Maritimes Company Mail Packets continued their bi-monthly voyages from Marseilles to Mauritius and *vice versâ*, calling at Aden, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Réunion. The mails for, and from, South African ports were conveyed by the Union Castle Steamers, Clan Line Steamers, and British India Steamers.

The recommendations of the Postal Commission are in full working operation and, as was anticipated, the many reforms recommended have proved of advantage to the Colony.

The following statement shows the letters, post cards, newspapers, and parcels which passed through the Post Office during 1903.

—	Internal.	Mail packets.				Private ships.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	From	To	
Express Delivery	2,328	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,328
Post Cards	140,816	849	1,128	1,014	1,975	474	615	594	1,425	148,890
Paid Letters	1,246,971	36,212	85,021	107,215	127,180	6,519	15,014	42,513	133,113	1,799,758
Unpaid Letters	25,134	497	174	7,877	11,317	499	417	4,217	1,892	52,024
Registered Letters	36,169	86,121	9,206	10,013	12,005	1.527	3,951	2,691	12,274	173,957
Service Letters...	195,841	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,009	1,595	198,445
Newspapers	1,510,417	105,172	57,315	198,110	127,767	4,197	7,233	28,213	26,115	2,064,539
Postal Parcels	25	4,137	692	7,616	1,219	—	—	—	—	13,689

TELEGRAPH.

The wires, although some of them are very old (the Midland and North Line wires were put up by Mr. Eaton, the Electrical Engineer, in 1867), continued to work pretty satisfactory. Some delays in the transmission of messages were experienced, but, in many cases, the delays were unavoidable owing to the heavy traffic and the want of additional wires.

The telegraph system, in Mauritius, is along the railway lines and work both for the Railway and Postal Departments. One wire is given to the railway and one is affected to the public service—except on the Savanne Line, where there is one wire only for the whole work. An additional wire will be put up as soon as the finances of the Colony will permit of the expenditure.

The number and length of telegraph wires in 1903 were increased by 13½ miles, viz.:—

New Wires.	Length.
	Miles.
Terre Rouge to Montagne Longue	3¼
Poudre d'Or Railway Station to Poudre d'Or Village	2
Argy to Central Flacq	1¼
Mahebourg to Old Grand Port Telephone Line	7
Total	13½

The following are the telegraph and telephone wires in Mauritius:—

Wires.	Length.
	Miles
North Line (2 wires); 14 stations are connected on these wires and terminate at Grand River, S.E.—31 miles, making the length of both wires	62
A third wire from the Signal Mountain, Port Louis, passing through Central Railway Telegraph Office, Central Post Office Telegraph Office, direct to the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses (1¼ miles from Railway Station at Pamplemousses)	12
At Mapou, on the North Line, 10 miles from Port Louis, two wires leave the Railway Station, one runs to Canonniers Point, passing through Grand Bay	7
And the other to Butte aux Sables Signal Station	9
(These two wires communicate direct to Port Louis, by means of a switch).	
On the Midland Line, two wires extend from Port Louis to Mahebourg (36 miles)	72

Telegraph and Telephone Wires—cont.

Wires.	Length.
	Miles.
One from Port Louis to Curepipe for the use of the Military Department	16
One from Port Louis to Chemin Grenier (Savanne)	41
Two Moka-Flacq Line wires from Port Louis through Rose Hill and terminate at Rivière Seche on the North Line	72
At Petite Rivière, 5 miles from Port Louis, a wire goes to Bambous	5
New lines	13½
Total	309½

Out of which seven miles of telephone wire.

There is also a telephonic service in Port Louis which is the property of a private company.

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The troops in the Colony at the end of 1903 numbered 2,720 of all ranks. The following statement shows the Military Expenditure during the year, towards which the Colony contributed £29,856 6*s.* 11*d.*:—

Particulars.	Amount.
	£
Pay, &c., of the Army	76,718
Medical Establishments	4,803
Transport and Remounts	10,148
Provisions, Forage, &c.	39,009
Clothing Services	2,823
Warlike and other Stores	1,822
Works, Buildings and Repairs	11,160
Military Works Loan...	17,274
Establishments for Military Education	392
Miscellaneous Effective Services	143
Army Non-Effective Services	643
Total	164,935

RAILWAYS.

There was an exceptional increase of traffic during the year due to the "Surra" epidemic and to an unprecedented sugar crop. Most of the draught animals in the Colony died and the result was that planters and traders who formerly found it cheaper and more convenient to use carts, had to depend, to a much greater extent than before, on the railway for the transport of their goods and produce.

The effects of the "Surra" were naturally much more felt in districts through which the railway did not pass, and in order to give all possible assistance to the inhabitants of places which were practically without means of communication with the other parts of the Island, the Government had to consider the construction of several branch lines and light railways as well as numerous sidings on the existing lines to facilitate the loading and unloading of goods.

Two branch lines have been constructed and are open to traffic, the Long Mountain extension passing through the Long Mountain valley and connecting with the North Line at Terre Rouge Station; and the Bois Chéri, Nouvelle France-Rivière du Poste extension, starting from Rivière du Poste Station, on the Savanne Line, to Bois Chéri with a branch line from Pont Colville to Nouvelle France. A third line—the Black River extension—branching off the Midland Line at Richelieu, half a mile from Coromandel Station, and terminating close to "Tamarin" Estate in the Black River valley, is also being constructed. This line was begun in July, 1903, and will probably be completed and opened to traffic at the end of August, in time for this year's crop. Schemes were brought forward for other branch lines, but they have been postponed.

The railway earnings for 1903 show a marked increase on those of the previous year. The comparative figures for 1902 and 1903 are as follows:—

	Rs.
1902	2,065,295.89
1903	2,380,143.00
giving an increase of ...	314,847.11, or 15·25%.

These figures do not include the Government traffic, which is not paid, and which amounts to Rs. 126,000.

The percentage of working expenses to the earnings was 58·63 per cent. for 1902 and 73·37 per cent. for 1903, showing an increase of 14·74 per cent., caused by the number of night trains which had to be run during the crop season.

RODRIGUES.

The Island of Rodrigues is a Dependency of Mauritius administered by a magistrate.

The revenue for 1903 was Rs. 12,122 as against Rs. 12,303 in 1902.

The expenditure was Rs. 33,580 as against Rs. 26,277 in 1902.

The population on the 31st December, 1903, consisted of 1,953 males and 1,665 females, making a total of 3,681, mostly of African descent.

The ratio of revenue to population is 3·35 per head and the expenditure 7·55 per head.

The spiritual needs of the population are supplied by a Roman Catholic Priest, and the health of the people is cared for by a Government Medical Officer.

There is a Hospital and two Dispensaries.

The industries are tobacco growing, cattle rearing, and fishing.

X.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The general observations contained in the report on the Blue Book for 1902 were written at such a late period of last year, *i.e.*, 12th October—in consequence of the delay of the printer in the publication of the Blue Book--that very little remains to be added.

As was anticipated, the crop has been a record one, the production being 225,000 tons, but owing to the fall in the price of sugar, the high cost of labour and the considerable expense to which the planters had been put in providing mechanical transport and in constructing the necessary earthworks where the plant had not been provided under the Mechanical Transport Ordinance, No. 34, of 1902, the profits on the year's transactions have been considerably reduced. In fact, except in a few cases, the planters have been unable to meet their liabilities to the Government and, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, they have been allowed a delay of one year to pay the instalments of their loans under the Advances in Aid Ordinance, No. 43, of 1902. The delay thus granted affords further evidence of the kindly sympathy which His Majesty's Government entertains towards the sorely tried people of the Island.

Surra is still prevalent in the Colony and the larger number of the draught animals imported, from time to time, die after they have been at work for a few months; so the extension of the system of tramways on estates must be proceeded with, and additional rolling stock provided, if the canes are to be brought to the mill at a reasonable cost. Branch lines of railway have been constructed, or are in course of construction, in the rural districts, and a Commission has been appointed to consider what further assistance can be given to small planters. In the town of Port Louis a tramway has been built connecting the public quays with the docks, the Central Railway Station, and the stores of the merchants and traders of the place.

The report for 1902 gave the price of sugar up to September last. The folowing table brings these prices up to date:—

Year.	Month.	Price.
		Rs.
1903	September ...	9.50
"	October ...	8.60
"	November ...	8.15
"	December ...	8.10
1904	January ...	7.90
"	February ...	7.80
"	March	8.00
"	April	8.00
"	May	8.50

It will be noticed that since September there has been a gradual reduction in prices, which, in the month of February, fell as low as Rs. 7.80 per cwt.

This year has been, on the whole, a dry year and the crop will certainly not exceed 160,000 tons. If prices are good—and there is reasonable ground for hoping that a considerable rise will take place—the planters may be able to tide over their financial difficulties, otherwise I am afraid their position will not materially improve.

An important change has taken place in the administration of the Colony. Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G., quitted the Government on the 29th October on the expiration of his term of office as Governor, which had been extended at the request of the Elected Members of the Council of Government. He received, on leaving, farewell addresses from every class of the community, in recognition of the services rendered by him to the Colony during his tenure of office as Governor.

Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G., has been appointed by His Majesty the King to succeed Sir Charles Bruce. He is expected by the Messageries Maritimes Mail Steamer due on the 20th August next, and he will, I feel convinced, receive a hearty welcome from all classes on his arrival.

F. A. GIBSON,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

27th July, 1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
410	Malta	1902–1903
411	St Lucia...	1902
412	Mauritius	"
413	British Guiana	1902–1903
414	Jamaica	"
—	Bahamas (Printed separately as [Cd 1985]) ...	1902
415	Falkland Islands	1903
416	Leeward Islands	1902-1903
417	British Honduras	1903
418	Bermuda...	"
419	Weihaiwei	"
420	St. Helena	"
421	Hong Kong	"
422	Gibraltar...	"
423	Sierra Leone	"
424	Gambia	"
425	Ceylon	"
426	Gold Coast	"
427	Lagos	"
428	Bahamas...	1903–1904
429	Gold Coast : Northern Territories	1903

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 473.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1904.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 430.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1905.

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No. 473.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 430.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. BOYLE to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Mauritius,
August 18, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1904, together with a copy of the usual report thereon, prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
CAVENDISH BOYLE.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1904.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the financial year 1903-4 amounted to Rs. 9,473,112, as shown by the following comparative statement:—

Revenue.

	Heads of Revenue.	1902-3.	1903-4.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Customs	2,980,574.36	3,575,826.01	595,251.65	—
2	Port, Harbour, Wharf, and Lighthouse Dues.	201,134.18	236,528.32	35,394.14	—
3	Licenses, Excise and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	2,606,777.82	2,624,936.45	18,158.63	—
4	Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	237,865.79	238,865.86	1,000.07	—
5	Post Office and Telegraphs	148,151.07	140,971.41	—	7,179.66
6	Government Railways ...	2,377,494.64	1,890,104.18	—	487,390.46
7	Rent of Government Property.	50,824.94	57,088.36	6,263.42	—
8	Interest	518,697.44	634,660.99	115,963.55	—
9	Miscellaneous Receipts ...	99,664.12	74,041.88	—	25,622.24
10	Land Sales	416.00	88.84	—	327.16
	Total	9,221,600.36	9,473,112.30	772,031.46	520,519.52

The increase of revenue, as compared with the previous year, was mainly due to the operation of Ordinance 21 of 1904 (to provide additional ways and means); to an abundant sugar crop, and to the receipt of certain interest from planters under the Mechanical Transport Loan.

Expenditure.

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure for the years 1902-3, 1903-4:—

	Heads of Expenditure.	1902-3.	1903-4.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Public Debt	836,940.22	945,578.76	108,638.54	—
2	Pensions	540,185.87	553,070.25	12,884.38	—
3	Governor and Legislature	96,618.67	80,653.44	—	15,965.23
4	Colonial Secretary... ...	60,660.59	69,063.77	8,403.18	—
5	Receiver General	136,357.61	146,944.71	10,587.10	—
6	Auditor General	58,683.70	59,256.67	572.97	—
7	Customs	260,901.83	228,675.19	—	32,226.64
8	Port and Marine	246,303.18	458,706.96	212,403.78	—
9	Observatory...	21,886.86	21,667.97	—	218·89
10	Museum	10,597.01	12,067.11	1,470.10	—
11	Registrar General	23,609.76	29,098.66	5,488.90	—
12	Receiver of Registration Dues.	53,133.31	52,227.28	—	906.03

Expenditure—cont.

No.	Heads of Expenditure.	1902-3.	1903-4.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
13	Post Office	159,595.69	167,851.37	8,255.68	—
14	Woods and Forests ...	127,347.87	133,505.29	6,157.42	—
15	Judicial Departments ...	485,805.54	500,167.23	14,361.69	—
16	Ecclesiastical	143,636.00	143,635.96	—	.04
17	Education	527,201.70	573,356.55	46,154.85	—
18	Medical and Health ...	738,237.07	735,855.13	—	2,381.94
19	Quarantine	66,911.09	18,435.84	—	48,475.25
20	Poor Law Commission ...	185,160.59	214,470.46	29,309.87	—
21	Police	539,831.49	540,309.21	477.72	—
22	Prisons	153,583.15	158,193.03	4,609.88	—
23	Storekeeper General ...	34,286.85	42,167.54	7,880.69	—
24	Immigration	123,604.27	109,997.63	—	13,606.64
25	Dependencies	54,536.00	52,791.93	—	1,744.07
26	Crown Agents	16,083.27	18,104.69	2,021.42	—
27	Writers and Copyists ...	6,766.20	6,716.70	—	49.50
28	Transport	8,609.01	13,257.60	4,648.59	—
29	Miscellaneous	307,227.30	307,848.74	621.44	—
30	Charitable Allowances ...	16,953.45	16,646.77	—	306.68
31	Interest and Exchange ...	209,913.72	204,723.89	—	5,189.83
32	Military Contribution ...	466,864.66	431,853.92	—	35,010.74
33	Railways	1,883,483.73	2,407,057.30	523,573.57	—
34	Surveyor General	63,214.21	73,228.20	10,013.99	—
35	Public Works, Recurrent...	520,446.95	549,713.86	29,266.89	—
36	Do., Extraordinary ...	100,721.25	144,206.75	43,485.50	—
37	Loan Commission	14,194.93	14,148.00	—	46.93
38	Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.	50,878.76	62,422.37	11,543.61	—
39	Drainage Works	19,537.57	23,488.03	3,950.46	—
40	Secret Service	7,450.00	805.00	—	6,645.00
41	Plague Service	197,221.20	342,146.20	144,925.00	—
		9,575,182.13	10,664,115.96	1,251,707.22	162,773.41

The increase in expenditure was due to a temporary addition to the public debt under Ordinance 43 of 1902 (Advances in Aid to Planters), to the payment of the first instalment of the cost of a new dredger to improve the harbour, the continuation of the light railway extensions undertaken the previous year, including the creation of a tramway in Port Louis consequent on a surrah epidemic, and to plague.

The expenditure of the year, therefore, exceeded the revenue by no less a sum than Rs. 1,191,003, and the Treasury balances at the end of the year had to be written down to Rs. 82,246. Further investigation, however, proved that even this calculation was a too sanguine one, and that at the close of the year 1903-4 a debit balance against the Treasury really existed. As on the estimates for 1904-5 a deficit of Rs. 418,251 had been budgeted for, the financial condition and prospects of the Colony became somewhat alarming in the early months of the new year. By transferring certain Public Works expenditure to Loan Account and increasing slightly the import and excise duties, measures were taken in December last to put the finances on a more satisfactory basis, and it is hoped that after providing a clean balance sheet, the accounts for 1904-5, when they are made up, will show a reconstitution of the Reserve Fund with a sum of about Rs. 250,000 to its credit.

POSITION OF THE COLONY AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1903-4.

	Rs.
At the close of the year 1903-4, the balance in favour of the Treasury was shown as ...	82,246
At the close of 1902-3, it was	1,263,430
Showing a decrease in 1903-4 of ...	1,181,184

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years, and the Treasury balances at the close of each year, were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	c.
1899	9,066,314	8,407,227	1,077,715	00
1900	9,179,968	8,568,923	1,704,421	00
1901-2	9,140,754	9,043,066	1,834,669	00
1902-3	9,221,600	9,575,182	1,263,430	00
1903-4	9,473,112	10,664,115	82,246	62

the difference between the revenue and expenditure of 1903-4—Rs. 1,191,003—being met from Treasury balances.

Assets and Liabilities on 30*th June*, 1904.

1. Commissioners of Currency:—

	Rs.
Assets	7,000,136
Liabilities	6,876,250
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...	123,886

2. Government Savings Bank:—

	Rs.
Assets	3,141,650
Liabilities	2,832,512
Balance in favour of Bank	309,138

3. Curatelle:—

	Rs
Assets	468,866
Liabilities	468,866

4. Treasury proper:—

	Rs.
Assets	5,619,712
Liabilities	5,537,466
Balance in favour of the Treasury ...	82,246

5. Public Debt:—

The Public Debt stood as follows on the 30th June, 1904:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
(1) Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings ...	38,893	10	0
(2) Moka Railway 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	700	0	0
(3) Consolidated 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	53,800	0	0
(4) Mauritius Inscribed Stock, under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887, including loan made for Mare-aux-Vacoas (£34,000)	482,390	16	0
(5) Hurricane Loan 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock, under Ordinance 4 of 1892	600,000	0	0
(6) Mechanical Transport Loan, under Ordinance No. 34 of 1902	200,000	0	0
	£1,375,784	6	0

For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock, the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the trustees on the 30th June, 1904, amounted to £181,114, the amount duly provided as required by law.

The sum at the credit of the sinking funds on 30th June, 1904, showed an increase of £12,663 on the previous year.

Currency.

Amount of currency notes on 31st December, 1904:—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents)...	483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,639	0	0
	£4,122	16	5

Rupee notes, under Ordinance 28 of 1876:—

	Rs.
1. In the Commissioners' vault	2,714,000
2. In the hands of the public (including the banks and financial officers)	4,162,250
	6,876,250

CHANGES IN TAXATION.

1. On the 29th day of December, Ordinance 41 of 1903 was passed in Council to amend and consolidate the laws dealing with the imposition of licences. Certain of the more important licences were increased, and a number of small licences were reduced to R. 1 per annum each, the custom of granting free licences to poorer members of the Indian population, on the recommendation of the Protector of Immigrants, being abolished. A new feature in the Ordinance is a proviso levying a surcharge of 5 per cent. between the ninth and fifteenth day after fhe expiry of a licence—should the licencee not have renewed it before that period.

2. In December the duty on rum was raised from R. 1.45 to R. 1.67 per litre of 23 degrees strength (Cartier), with an additional duty of R. 0.08 per litre for every degree above 23 degrees (*i.e.*, an increase of .02c. per litre on the previous taxation).

At the same time, the duty of Rs. 8.42 per hectolitre of wine of local manufacture was raised to Rs. 9.18, the additional duty of R. 1.45 per degree or fraction of a degree of alcohol per hectolitre and a proportional duty per fraction of a degree above 16 degrees according to Gay Lussac's Alcoholometer contained in such wine, being raised to R. 1.67.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Municipality of Port Louis for the year ended 31st December, 1904:—

	Rs.
Balance in hand 1st January, 1904 ...	26,522.29
Revenue during the year	*557,683.42
	584,205.71
Expenditure	*571,263.03
Balance in hand on 31st December, 1904	12,942.68

The following is a comparative statement of the normal revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1900	435,264.53	433,351.95
1901	442,854.46	448,214.52
1902	442,825.20	472,875.39
1903	†422,351.45	451,345.77
1904	501,365.27	502,601.14

Statement of the debts of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis on 31st December, 1904, showing provision for payment in 1905:—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1905.
	£	£
Conversion Loan	123,500	1,500
	Rs.	Rs.
Colonial Loan	39,000.00	7,800.00
Grand River Bridge Loan	14,000.00	2,000.00
Manure Establishment Loan	24,000.00	2,000.00
Government Hurricane Loan	95,880.00	5,766.60
Flood Loan	16,666.72	4,167.00
Municipality Loan	28,000.00	2,000.00
Total	217,546.72	23,733.60

Provision for payment of capital and interest on the above loans has been duly made in the annual budget of the Corporation.

---

* Including advances, deposits, &c.

† Not including a loan of Rs 30,000 for the purchase of the buildings of the Gas Company and of a traction engine for scavenging purposes.

Besides the Municipal Council of Port Louis, which is an elective assembly, there are three township boards—

Curepipe,
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill,
Quatre Bornes,

appointed annually by the Governor to administer the affairs of those places.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR CUREPIPE.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	Half Year, 1st Jan. to 30th June, 1903.	New Financial Year, 1903-4. 1st July, 1903, to 30th June, 1904.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	59,759.18	115,590.13	121,322.70	35,536.20	82,771.72
Expenditure...	57,108.48	88,426.58	120,286.57	34,261.02	81,158.12

Debt of the Board of Curepipe.

	Rs.	Rs.
1. Amount of debentures issued in 1901 and 1902 for the construction of the Town hall, in virtue of Ordinance No. 39 of 1900	70,000	
Amount paid off in 1902, 1903, and 1904	7,500	
		62,500
2. Government special loan repayable in 10 annuities		25,000
3. Balance of sale price of a piece of land purchased by the Board		4,000
Total		91,500

Provision is made annually for repayment.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	22,705.09	28,252.08	29,342.81	29,270.19	29,345.61
Expenditure...	25,377.09	27,520.54	33,133.34	29,235.29	26,260.19

Debt.—A loan of Rs. 20,000 was made by Government to the Board on its creation to permit of the work of repairing and draining the streets and lanes of the township being undertaken without delay. This amount is refunded by annual instalments of Rs. 2,000, and the debt is now reduced to Rs. 6,000.

A further loan of Rs. 5,000 was made to the Board in 1901 to be reimbursed after complete settlement of the loan of Rs. 20,000.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF QUATRE BORNES.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	10,060.70	12,827.14	13,627.55	15,460.80	12,724.51
Expenditure ...	11,418.02	10,148.32	13,454.95	14,000.25	13,274.16

Debt—Rs. 615.—This represents the share to be paid to Government by the Board for re-metalling a main road in the township. Provision has been made in the estimates to pay off this debt.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statements show in a comparative form the value of the imports and exports for the year 1904.

VALUE of IMPORTS (exclusive of charges and exchange) and EXPORTS (exclusive of shipping charges), classified according to Circular of December, 1901, of the Secretary of State.

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	12,135,759.91	12,554,922.31	33,047,233.00	38,908,449.47	201,493.78	136,493.01	33,248,726.78	39,044,942.48
2. Raw Materials :—								
1. Textile ...	7,637.00	11,448.70	530,032.50	603,383.71	2,000.00	654.20	532,032.50	604,037.91
2. Metal... ...	5,527.50	—	—	—	—	1,454.00	—	1,454.00
3. Other... ...	1,869,467.98	1,839,536.54	19,030.50	21,163.74	2,859.00	21,080.40	21,889.50	42,244.14
3. Manufactured Articles :—								
1. Textile ...	1,571,903.86	2,589,309.20	50.00	1,180.00	18,253.65	34,062.49	18,303.65	35,242.49
2. Metal... ...	4,110,605.70	1,554,990.85	66,876.00	18,170.00	41,167.52	70,255.15	108,043.52	88,425.15
3. Other... ...	3,666,347.03	3,991,016.52	16,719.35	10,578.50	192,355.41	338,413.39	209,074.76	348,991.89
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	3,243,365.10	1,633,705.60	—	—	1,532,526.71	1,840,336.00	1,532,526.71	1,840,336.00
Total ...	26,610,614.08	24,174,929.72	33,679,941.35	39,562,925.42	1,990,656.07	2,442,748.64	35,670,597.42	42,005,674.06

VALUE of IMPORTS (exclusive of charges and exchange) and EXPORTS (exclusive of shipping charges), classified according to Circular of December, 1901, of the Secretary of State.

Coastwise.

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	461,787.94	412,959.54	24,338.18	21,051.72	223,725.36	213,377.53	248,063.54	234,429.25
2. Raw Materials :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	—	—	400.75	293.50	400.75	293.50
2. Metal... ...	—	—	—	—	24.12	—	24.12	—
3. Other... ...	9,346.25	12,148.00	1,030.40	1,745.00	11,273.80	9,594.24	12,304.20	11,339.24
3. Manufactured Articles :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	7.00	35.00	10,567.13	70,646.15	10,574.13	70,681.15
2. Metal ...	3.00	—	573.00	350.20	29,326.08	21,100.13	29,899.08	21,450.33
3. Other... ...	18,861.95	14,681.00	2,719.11	4,629.65	139,828.16	57,395.64	142,547.27	62,025.29
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	—	—	—	—	—	12,345.00	—	12,345.00
Total ...	489,999.14	439,788.54	28,667.69	27,811.57	415,145.40	384,752.19	443,813.09	412,563.76

CUSTOMS.

The following statements show the value of goods imported into and exported from Mauritius during the year 1904:—

Imports.

Countries.	Value in Rupees of the Total Imports, exclusive of Charges and of Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	6,125,877.19	4,982,836.56	11,108,713.75
British Possessions	14,000,321.66	3,500,148.55	17,500,470.21
Foreign Countries	4,048,730.87	2,758,709.18	6,807,440.05
Grand Total... ...	24,174,929.72°	11,241,694.29	35,416,624.01

° Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion imported (Rs. 1,633,705.60).

Exports.

Countries.	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Shipping Charges on Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	5,958,989.16	364,304.36	329,861.03	6,653,154.55
British Possessions.	32,748,929.56	2,112,993.04	1,952,324.46	36,814,247.06
Foreign Countries	855,006.70	62,348.77	160,563.15	1,077,918.62
Grand Total...	39,562,925.42	2,539,646.17	2,442,748.64	44,545,320.23*

* Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion exported (Rs. 1,840,336.00).

TRADE OF MAURITIUS.

The total value of imports into and exports from the Colony (exclusive of duty free goods to and from the Dependencies) for the year ending 31st December, 1904, compared with 1903, can be thus summarized:—

—	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	39,269,847.24	35,416,624.01
Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	35,670,597.42	42,005,674.06
Total	74,940,444.66	77,422,298.07

Accounted for as under:—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	10,307,582.12	11,108,713.75	4,348,861.03	6,288,850.19
British Possessions.	18,424,040.90	17,500,470.21	30,812,120.83	34,701,254.02
Foreign Countries.	10,538,224.22	6,807,440.05	509,615.56	1,015,569.85
Total ...	39,269,847.24	35,416,624.01	35,670,597.42	42,005,674.06

The total value of imports and exports, from and to the Dependencies, per coast sufferances, is as follows:—

—	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	489,999.14	439,788.54
Exports	443,813.09	412,563.76
Total	933,812.23	852,352.30

The aggregate value of trade is, therefore, as under:—

—	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	39,759,846.38	35,856,412.55
Exports	36,114,410.51	42,418,237.82
Total	75,874,256.89	78,274,650.37

Excluding the value of exports to and imports from the Dependencies, the rate of trade, per head of population (*i.e.*, for 1903, 379,763 souls, and for 1904, 383,864 souls) was:—

—	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	103.40	92.26
Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	93.95	109.42

The difference in the rate of trade for imports is due to less importation of bullion and specie and of tramway materials, to the amount of Rs. 1,840,049 and Rs. 4,577,746 respectively.

The value of specie and bullion, imported and exported, is as follows:—

—	1903.			1904.		
	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	3.243,365.10	230,389.46	3.473,754.56	1,633,705.60	362,387.14	1,996,092.74
Exports	1,532,526.71	—	1,532,526.71	1,759,336.00	—	1,759,336.00
Total	4,775,891.81	230,389.46	5,006,281.27	3,393,041.60	362,387.14	3,755,428.74

Deducting specie and bullion, the declared value of imports and exports is as follows:—

—	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	35,796,092.68	33,420,531.27
Exports	34,138,070.71	40,246,338.06
Total...	69,934,163.39	73,666,869.33

The amount of duty collected during the years (1st January to 31st December) 1903 and 1904 is as under:—

—	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.
On Imports...	2,683,370.89	3,146,871.92
On Exports...	546,835.20	636,041.64
Amount collected ...	3,230,206.09	3,782,913.56

The 4 per cent. surcharge produced:—

	Rs.
In 1903	102,897.06
„ 1904	119,613.26

The additional 16 per cent. surcharge levied from the 2nd December, 1904, produced (from 2nd to 31st December, 1904) Rs. 33,310.62.

POSTAL PARCELS.

The declared value of the parcels imported and exported during the past five years is as under:—

—	1900.	1901	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imported ...	183,425.50	214,534.60	231,993.73	224,885.17	297,804.73
Exported ...	18,940.26	19,388.42	20,628.64	28,624.83	33,467.35
Total ...	202,365.76	233,923.02	252,622.37	253,510.00	331,272.08

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of imports and exports for the last five years is as under:—

Year.	Imports, including Charges and Exchange	Exports, including Shipping Charges.
	Rs.	Rs.
1900	31,427,401.72	33,550,973.74
1901	31,679,842.99	30,842,305.66
1902	30,738,778.11	38,341,695.55
1903	39,269,847.24	37,794,226.75
1904	35,416,624.01	44,545,320.23

Comparative statement of the value of the chief imports and exports (exclusive of charges and exchange):—

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1903.		1904.	
	1903.	1904.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	956,965	425,680	—	—	—	2,000
Apothecary Wares ..	114,536	77,386	20	4,056	5	1,885
Apparel, Wearing.. ..	88,967	90,744	—	2,305	20	18,865
Bags and Pockets.. ..	621,129	812,399	1,835	16,184	1,160	7,548
Bicycles	13,705	8,501	—	—	—	—
Brass and Copper Wares	27,988	42,875	—	17,053	—	55,189
Coals	874,825	1,083,607	—	—	—	75
Clocks, Watches and Jewellery.	35,736	58,352	—	55	—	485
Corn, Grain, Meal.. ..	8,213,481	8,868,883	174	48,724	118	24,082
Cotton Manufactures ..	907,545	1,022,622	—	8,426	—	970
Earthen and China Wares	27,850	42,822	63	474	1	647
Fibre, Aloe	—	—	530,033	—	603,384	—
Glass and Glasswares ..	36,430	49,896	—	388	—	399
Haberdashery	347,721	466,566	—	3,882	—	3,176
Hardware and Cutlery ..	653,091	568,956	1,680	7,848	30	7,179
Hats	31,969	62,475	—	5	—	15

Comparative Statement of the Value of the Chief Imports and Exports—cont.

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1903.		1904.	
	1903.	1904.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Leather, Wrought and Unwrought.	175,368	180,307	21,312	2,934	10,962	482
Machinery for Agricultural purposes.	2,753,774	237,604	—	—	—	—
Machinery, Mill work ..	140,833	162,890	65,196	10,254	18,140	1,160
Manures and Fertilizers	1,075,106	890,386	—	11	—	300
Malt Liquors, Wines and Spirits.	810,872	743,198	9,998	2,370	21,708	1,832
Matches	44,526	35,861	—	3,739	—	1,058
Molasses	—	—	287,180	—	477,811	—
Meat, Fresh and Frozen	158,575	60,000	—	37,500	—	—
Oils of all kinds	1,053,856	991,786	109,654	61,893	108,797	74,485
Painters' Colours	46,726	50,107	—	1,938	—	4,200
Paper, Cigarette	12,124	14,244	—	—	—	479
Provisions, Preserved ..	1,169,052	1,215,437	8,105	36,739	2,988	15,678
Seeds of all sorts	48,382	35,864	270	691	176	186
Soap	176,622	152,019	62	93	18	1,110
Stationery	131,435	139,051	12	9,645	—	16,104
Sugar	502	638	32,543,203	—	38,219,304	—
Timber and Woodenware	308,484	431,829	463	20,593	100	26,715
Tobacco	233,891	223,367	—	732	—	281
Toys	27,755	47,362	—	268	—	487
Umbrellas and Parasols..	31,323	26,282	—	3	—	25
Vanilla	—	11,483	88,191	—	70,453	10,402
Woollen Manufactures ..	102,267	147,190	—	—	—	72
Miscellaneous	1,851,055	2,727,419	12,490	130,701	27,750	291,375
Baggage and Postal Parcels.	262,793	335,136	—	28,625	—	33,467
Total	23,367,249	22,541,224	33,679,941	458,129	39,562,925	602,413
Bullion and Specie	3,243,365	1,633,706	—	1,532,527	—	1,840,336
Total .. .. Rs.	26,610,614	24,174,930	33,679,941	1,990,656	39,562,925	2,442,749

IMPORTS.

Dealing with the articles and their values according to the entries for 1903 and 1904 the following results are noticeable:—

Acids.

Phosphoric.—This article is exclusively received from the United Kingdom, and the imports show an increase of kilos. 41,724 in weight and of Rs. 5,426 in value.

Ammonia Sulphate.

The imports for 1903 amounted to kilos. 3,983,785, valued at Rs. 897,383, exclusively received from the United Kingdom, against for 1904, kilos. 4,305,252, valued at Rs. 918,856, imported from the following countries:—

Countries.	Quantity.	Value.
	Kilos.	Rs.
United Kingdom	2,771,691	807,616
Australia	508,000	104,622
France	25,561	6,619

The total increase is, therefore, kilos. 321,467 in weight and Rs. 21,463 in value—the United Kingdom showing a falling off of kilos. 21,294 in weight and of Rs. 89,772 in value.

Animals.

Asses.—301 head of the value of Rs. 28,096 were received in the preceding year against 314 of the value of Rs. 41,423 in 1904. The increase in value is Rs. 13,327. Aden supplied 90, with a value of Rs. 3,267 in 1903, against nil in 1904. The Argentine Confederation provided 109 less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 7,236 in 1904. From Continental India 4, valued at Rs. 726, were imported in 1903, against 123, valued at Rs. 20,534 in 1904. Seychelles supplied 3 in 1903, against nil in the past year.

Horses.—661 less were imported in 1904, with a decrease in value of Rs. 481,065. The decrease in number is chiefly from Continental India, the Argentine Confederation, and the Sandalwood Islands, which supplied 345, 392, and 352 less head, with a decrease in value of Rs. 737,664, Rs. 266,073, and Rs. 39,957 respectively, as compared with the previous year.

Mules.—774, valued Rs. 337,903, were imported in 1903, against 1,216, of the value of Rs. 314,320 in 1904, showing an increase in number but a decrease in value. The Argentine Confederation supplied 228 head more in 1904, but with a shortage in value of Rs. 85,945. Continental India provided 43, valued at Rs. 30,326, in 1904, against 3, valued at Rs. 1,209 for the previous year. From Australia 174, of the value of Rs. 33,245, were received in 1904, against nil in the preceding year.

Sheep and Goats.—Only one sheep, valued Rs. 44, was received in 1904, against 192 sheep, valued Rs. 3,253, in 1903. This is due to the ports of India and South Africa being closed on account of the prevalence of the disease amongst animals in those countries.

Apothecaries Wares.

This item shows a decrease of Rs. 59,871, due chiefly to less imports from the United Kingdom (Rs. 8,085), France

(Rs. 64,384), and China. Small increases are to be noted from Australia, Continental India, Germany, and Spain.

Apparel, Wearing.

The value of the imports for 1903 amounted to Rs. 128,646, against Rs. 139,356 for 1904, showing an increase, therefore, of Rs. 11,110 in value. The increase is from the United Kingdom, China, France and Pondichery, although there is a decrease noticeable under Continental India, Germany, and Japan.

Areca Nuts.

Dry.—Kilos. 14,710, of the value of Rs. 3,691, were imported in 1904, against kilos. 67,551, valued Rs. 14,006, shewing a large decrease in weight of kilos. 52,841, and in value of Rs. 10,315, due principally to shortage in imports from Continental India.

Automobiles.

In 1904 four automobiles were received from the United Kingdom of the value of Rs. 31,131, and four from Germany of the value of Rs. 25,474, giving a respective average of Rs. 7,742 and Rs. 6,491 per machine. In 1903 seven, valued Rs. 10,648, were received exclusively from France, giving an average of Rs. 1,521 per machine. This low value is due to the articles being mostly second-hand ones.

Bacon and Hams.

Kilos. 3,866 more were received in 1904, with a shortage of Rs. 1,512 in value. This difference is due to increased imports from Australia of frozen supplies, thus causing a falling off from the United Kingdom.

Bags.

Gunny.—247,251 more bags were received in 1904, giving an increase in value of Rs. 88,228 over the imports for 1903. The bags were almost exclusively imported from Continental India.

Straw.—Madagascar supplied 72,000 bags less than in 1903, and a shortage in value of Rs. 19,115, due to the reduced crop.

Bark and Dyewood.

Australia supplied kilos. 110,701, valued at Rs. 14,577, in 1904, against kilos. 48,768, valued at Rs. 7,374, in 1903, showing an increase in weight of kilos. 61,933 and in value of Rs. 7,183. These articles are exclusively imported from Australia.

Beef, Salted.

The imports for 1904 amounted to kilos. 365,155, of the value of Rs. 164,892, against (for 1903) kilos. 285,083, of the value of Rs. 3,386. An increase is noticeable in the imports of the United States, and a falling off in those from the United Kingdom during 1904.

Beer and Ale.

In Casks.—Exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom, which provided hectolitres 2,921 more in 1904, with a corresponding surplus in value of Rs. 65,263.

In Bottles.—The imports for last year show a decrease, both in measure of 25,068 litres and in value of Rs. 16,086, due to less imports from the United Kingdom, France, and Germany.

Boats.

Six boats, valued Rs. 5,139, were received from the United Kingdom and Germany in 1904, against three from the United Kingdom, of the value of Rs. 877, in the previous year. An increase, therefore, of three in number, with a surplus in value of Rs. 4,262.

Books, Printed.

The imports for 1904 were valued at Rs. 45,492, against Rs. 56,327 in the previous year.

Bran.

Compared with 1903, the imports for 1904 show a substantial decrease of kilos. 274,996 in weight and of Rs. 221,935 in value, chiefly due to less imports from Continental India, and on account of the prevalence of surra.

Bricks and Tiles.

This article is exclusively supplied by the United Kingdom, and the imports for 1904 show an increase of 20,001 in number, but with a short value of Rs. 7,429.

Bullion.

In 1904 kilos. 515, of the value of Rs. 32,802, were received against, for 1903, kilos. 160.459 grs., of the value of Rs. 13,787. There is accordingly a surplus, both in weight of kilos. 354.541 grs. and in value of Rs. 19,015.

Imported exclusively from Continental India.

Butter.

The imports for 1904 amounted to kilos. 66,379, of the value of Rs. 122,900, against kilos. 36,057, of the value of Rs. 76,040, for the previous year, showing an increase both in weight of kilos. 30,322 and in value of Rs. 56,521. The increase is due to more supplies from Denmark (Rs. 42,201), France (Rs. 2,356), United Kingdom, Continental India and the United States. Small decreases are noticeable from Australia and Italy.

Bicycles.

In 1904, 107 bicycles, valued Rs. 14,962, were imported, against 155, valued Rs. 47,488, in 1903. There is a decrease of 48 in number and of Rs. 9,138 in value. The United Kingdom and France were represented by smaller imports to the value of Rs. 4,414 and Rs. 3,443 respectively. Germany supplied none in 1904, against 10, valued Rs. 1,535, in the preceding year.

Cabinet and Upholstery Wares.

The declared value of these articles imported in 1904 amounted to Rs. 77,165, against Rs. 47,488 in the previous year. There is an increase of Rs. 29,677, chiefly due to more imports from the United Kingdom, Austria, Continental India, and the United States. France and Germany show small decreases.

Candles.

Composition.—Increase of kilos. 29,350 in weight and of Rs. 6,741 in value as compared with the previous year, chiefly due to more imports from France, Rs. 9,057, and also from Belgium. Small decreases are noticeable under the United Kingdom, Continental India, China, and Holland.

Caoutchouc and India-rubber.

Manufactured.—The imports for 1904 amounted to kilos. 4,124, valued Rs. 22,610, against, for 1903, kilos. 2,347, valued at Rs. 15,138, showing an increase both in weight of kilos. 1,777 and in value of Rs. 7,472, chiefly due to more supplies from the United Kingdom.

Cement.

Kilos. 1,195,825, valued at Rs. 41,794, were received in 1904, against kilos. 597,465, valued at Rs. 24,919, in 1903. There is an increase both in weight of kilos. 598,360 and in value of Rs. 16,875, principally due to more imports from the United Kingdom (Rs. 8,929), and also from France, Belgium and Holland. Germany provided for Rs. 1,371 in 1903, against nil in the past year.

Cheese.

The imports for 1904 show an increase of kilos. 8,009 in weight and of Rs. 3,661 in value, as compared with 1903. The United Kingdom shows a falling off of Rs. 8,275, while from Australia and Holland respective increases of Rs. 6,718 and Rs. 5,608 are noted.

Chocolate and Cocoa.

The imports for 1904 amounted to kilos. 21,109, of the value of Rs. 30,433, against, for 1903, kilos. 11,979, of the value of Rs. 18,418, showing an increase of kilos. 9,130 in weight and of Rs. 12,015 in value, due principally to more imports from the United Kingdom, France, and Belgium.

Clocks and Watches.

The value of the imports for 1904 amounted to Rs. 30,644, against Rs. 20,817 for the preceding year. There is, therefore, an increase of Rs. 15,827 in value. Increases are from France (Rs. 8,317), Switzerland (Rs. 6,202), Germany, and the United Kingdom. Small decreases are noticeable from the United States, China, and Continental India.

Coals.

This item shows the large increase of 15,705 tons, with a surplus in value of Rs. 563,660, as compared with the imports for the previous year. The United Kingdom and Australia supplied an excess of 11,128 tons and 5,557½ tons in weight, with a surplus in value of Rs. 378,378 and Rs. 225,938 respectively. Continental India provided for a surplus of 235 tons, but with a falling off in value of Rs. 32,326. France and Belgium supplied none in 1904, against 80½ tons and 135 tons respectively for the previous year.

Coffee.

There is a decrease, both in weight of kilos. 181,313 and in value of Rs. 73,903. Decreases are principally from Aden, Ceylon, Brazil, Pondichery, Singapore, Natal, and the Argentine Confederation. Increases are noticeable from Continental India, Seychelles, and the United States.

Confectionery.

The value of the imports for 1904 amounted to Rs. 77,946, against Rs. 68,691 for the previous year. The increase is of Rs. 9,255. Australia and France show increases of Rs. 5,003 and Rs. 5,647 respectively, while the United Kingdom shows a decrease of Rs. 1,066.

Copperah or Poonac.

This article is exclusively supplied from Continental India, which supplied kilos. 295,727 less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 11,566 as compared with 1903.

Copper.

Sheets and Nails (*red*).—There is an increase both in weight of kilos. 3,774 and in value of Rs. 4,623, chiefly due to more imports from the United Kingdom.

Sheets and Nails (*yellow*).—These articles are exclusively received from the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos. 10,330 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 17,660 as compared with 1903.

Cordage.

Hemp.—The imports for 1904 amounted to kilos. 36,801 of the value of Rs. 18,465, against kilos. 50,513 of the value of Rs. 25,196, showing a falling off of kilos. 13,712 in weight, and of Rs. 7,731 in value. The decrease is from Continental India and also from Hong Kong, the last port providing for Rs. 5,855 in the previous year, against nil in 1904. The United Kingdom shows a small increase.

Cordials and Liquors.

Compared with the preceding year, the imports for 1904 show a decrease of litres 948 in measure and of Rs. 4,313 in value, due to less imports, principally from France.

Corks and Bungs.

There is an increase of 5,314,541 in number and of Rs. 9,176 in value, principally due to more imports from France amounting to Rs. 9,269.

Corn, Grain, Meal.

Beans.—Compared with 1903, the imports for 1904 show an increase of kilos. 46,281 in weight and of Rs. 13,512 in value. The United Kingdom, China, France, and Réunion provided for surplus values of Rs. 1,566, Rs. 631, Rs. 17,832, and Rs. 1,686, respectively. Continental India and Madagascar show decreases of Rs. 4,509 and Rs. 3,948.

Dholl.—Decrease both in weight of kilos. 115,688 and of Rs. 27,840 in value as compared with 1903.

Gram.—Increase in weight of kilos. 225,039 and in value of Rs. 13,211.

Lentils.—Decrease of kilos. 539,200 in weight and of Rs. 62,001 in value.

Dholl, gram, and lentils are exclusively imported from Continental India.

Maize.—In 1904, this article was exclusively received from Continental India, which supplied kilos. 7,500 of the value of Rs. 582.50. In 1903, Continental India and the Argentine Confederation supplied kilos. 54,600 and kilos. 19,576 in weight valued Rs. 3,351 and Rs. 1,086, respectively. Aden and Natal also provided small quantities. The decrease is of kilos. 67,926 in weight and of Rs. 3,908 in value.

Oats.—Compared with the previous year the imports for 1904 show an increase in weight of kilos. 498,781, but with a falling off in value of Rs. 4,805. Australia, Continental India, and the Argentine Republic supplied kilos. 1,494, kilos. 2,848,674, and kilos. 140,976, of the value of Rs. 172, Rs. 264,029, Rs. 8,252 in 1903, against, in 1904, kilos. 1,321,151, kilos. 1,536,180, and kilos. 46,710, of the value of Rs. 84,430, Rs. 138,807, and Rs. 869, respectively.

In 1904 Cape Colony supplied kilos. 585,254, valued Rs. 43,545, against nil in the preceding year.

Rice.—Compared with 1903, the imports for the past year show an increase of kilos. 8,486,679 in weight and of Rs. 830,24[illegible] in value, with the following result:—

Continental India.—Excess of kilos. 7,327,784, with a surplus of Rs. 637,794.

China.—Shortage of kilos. 35,185, and of Rs. 10,005.

Cochin China.—None in 1904, against kilos. 337,500, valued Rs. 50,692, in 1903.

Madagascar.—Shortage of kilos. 2,670, and of Rs. 700.

Straits Settlements.—None in 1903, against kilos. 1,601,250, valued Rs. 243,522, for 1904.

Singapore.—Excess of kilos. 33,000, with a surplus in value of Rs. 10,327.

Wheat.—Compared with 1903, there is an increase of kilos. 145,392 in weight and of Rs. 9,931 in value, due principally to more imports from Continental India. Cape Colony provided for Rs. 3,977 in 1903, against nil in 1904, while supplies amounting to Rs. 2,133 were received from Australia in 1904, against nil in 1903.

Wheat Flour.—The imports for last year show an increase of kilos. 1,998,337 in weight and of Rs. 334,463 in value over 1903, with the following result as to weight and value:—

Value.

Australia.—Increase in weight of kilos. 1,046,898 and in value of Rs. 181,435.

Continental India.—Increase in weight of kilos. 1,112,557 and in value of Rs. 188,203.

Argentine Republic.—None in 1904, against kilos. 114,730, valued Rs. 20,069, in 1903.

China.—Shortage in weight of kilos. 44,715 and in value of Rs. 8,584.

Cotton Manufactures.

Coloured.—The imports for 1904 show a decrease in value of Rs. 7,335 as compared with 1903. The United Kingdom, Continental India, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Holland, and China show decreases of Rs. 34,332, Rs. 7,265, Rs. 6,695, Rs. 11,681, Rs. 861, Rs. 849, and Rs. 77, respectively. France, Pondichery and Switzerland show increases of Rs. 28,196, Rs. 3,928, and Rs. 19,129.

Cotton Hosiery.—Compared with 1903, the value of the imports for 1904 shows an increase of Rs. 5,335—principally due to Germany which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 7,878. Small decreases are noticeable under the United Kingdom and France.

Cotton, plain.—There is an increase in value of Rs. 170,904 as compared with 1903, chiefly due to more imports from the United Kingdom and France to the amount of Rs. 151,765 and Rs. 25,477, respectively. Continental India shows a falling off of Rs. 6,146.

Cotton thread for sewing.—Increase both in weight of kilos. 1,861 and in value of Rs. 5,616, chiefly due to more supplies from the United Kingdom.

Cotton Wool.—The imports for 1903 amounted to the value of Rs. 5,724, and were provided by the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,277) and Continental India (Rs. 3,447). For 1904, the United Kingdom provided for Rs. 1,074, none being received from Continental India.

Earthen and China Wares.

Compared with 1903, the imports for 1904 show an increase in value of Rs. 28,850. The increase is from the United Kingdom (Rs. 8,111), Continental India (Rs. 1,891), Austria (Rs. 2,254), China (Rs. 1,005), France (Rs. 6,135) and Germany (Rs. 9,170).

Fireworks.

The imports for 1904 show an increase of Rs. 6,452, due chiefly to supplies from China which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 4,004, and to small increases from the United Kingdom, Germany, and Singapore.

Fish.

Dried or salted.—There is an increase both in weight of kilos. 222,219 and in value of Rs. 82,030. The increase is from Cape Colony (Rs. 105,660), Continental India (Rs. 46,156), Seychelles (Rs. 2,579), and China (Rs. 1,873); but decreases are noted under the United Kingdom (Rs. 9,756), Madagascar (Rs. 62,298), and Canada (Rs. 563).

Pickled.—There is a decrease both in weight of kilos. 158,441 and in value of Rs. 37,075. The United Kingdom and Nova Scotia show a shrinkage of Rs. 26,235 and Rs. 22,135, respectively. From Canada kilos. 69,840, valued Rs. 11,300, were received in 1904 against nil in 1903.

Fruit.

Cocoanuts.—302,672 cocoanuts less were received in 1904, with a shortage in value of Rs. 6,896, due to less imports from Seychelles.

Glass.

Window.—Metres 5,209 more with a surplus in value of Rs. 7,974 were received in 1904. Belgium provided for a surplus value of Rs. 8,391, but France shows a small decrease.

Glassware.

The imports for 1904, compared with 1903, show that 113,669 pieces more with a surplus in value of Rs. 13,623 were received in 1904. The United Kingdom, France, and Germany provided the surplus.

Grease.

Cart.—This article is almost exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom, and the imports for 1904 show a decrease both in weight of kilos. 24,546 and in value of Rs. 6,302 as compared with the imports for the previous year.

Haberdashery.

The value of the imports for 1904 amounted to Rs. 747,963, against Rs. 560,495 for 1903, showing a surplus of Rs. 187,468. The United Kingdom, Continental India, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Japan, and Switzerland provided for surplus values of Rs. 107,644, Rs. 13,343, Rs. 3,489, Rs. 2,680, Rs. 457, Rs. 728, Rs. 1,052, and Rs. 1,994, respectively. Decreases are noticeable under Germany (Rs. 7,487), Holland (Rs. 8,779), and Pondichery.

Hardware and Cutlery.

The imports show a falling off of Rs. 157,455 as compared with last year. The decrease is chiefly from the United Kingdom (Rs. 19,854), Belgium (Rs. 18,455), France (Rs. 31,970), and Germany (Rs. 91,189). Small increases are noticeable under Ceylon, Continental India, and the United States.

Hats.

Felt.—The imports for 1904 amounted to 23,126 in number and to Rs. 30,747 in value, against 12,333 in number and Rs. 15,640 in value for the past year, showing an increase of 10,793 in number and of Rs. 15,107 in value. The United Kingdom, Austria, France, and Italy provided for surplus values to the amount of Rs. 4,726, Rs. 2,018, Rs. 3,065, and Rs. 5,021, respectively.

Hay and Straw.

There is an increase of Rs. 5,469 in value as compared with 1903, due principally to more imports from Australia.

Hemp.

Undressed.—Kilos. 6,600 more were imported in 1904, with a surplus in value of Rs. 5,872, due to more imports from the United Kingdom.

Hides.

Tanned.—The imports for 1904 show an increase of kilos. 4,100 in weight and of Rs. 5,294 in value. The United Kingdom provided for a surplus value of Rs. 2,469. Pondichery supplied hides to the value of Rs. 17,248 against nil in 1903, and from Continental India imports amounting to Rs. 2,784 were received in 1903 against nil in 1904.

Hulls of Vessels.

Abandoned.—There is an increase of Rs. 4,000 as compared with last year—one valued Rs. 450 in 1903 against two valued Rs. 4,450 for the last year.

Iron.

Bars.—There is a notable decrease of kilos. 605,637 in weight and of Rs. 64,231 in value. The United Kingdom shows a falling off of Rs. 74,612, while an increase of Rs. 10,383 is noticeable from Belgium.

Nails.—Increase both in weight of kilos. 55,128 and in value of Rs. 13,189 as compared with the previous year. The increase is from the United Kingdom (Rs. 9,199), Continental India, Belgium, and Germany. There is a slight decrease from France.

Sheets.—Increase both in weight of kilos. 311,649 and in value of Rs. 48,136—due principally to more imports from the United Kingdom. Belgium supplied kilos. 1,580 of the value of Rs. 227 in 1904 against nil for the previous year.

India-rubber Wares.

The imports for 1904 amounted to Rs. 18,210 in value against Rs. 10,918 for 1903, showing an increase of Rs. 7,308. The United Kingdom shows an increase of Rs. 10,817, but from France there is a falling off of Rs. 3,678.

Jewellery.

The imports for 1904 amounted to Rs. 72,819 in value against Rs. 45,899 for 1903, showing an increase of Rs. 26,920. The United Kingdom, Austria, Continential India, China, France, Pondichery, Germany, and Switzerland provided for surplus values of Rs. 989, Rs. 818, Rs. 1,837, Rs. 12, Rs. 18,906, Rs. 2,992, Rs. 1,773, and Rs. 165, respectively.

Lard.

Decrease both in weight of kilos. 3,810 and in value of Rs. 7,172. The United Kingdom, Continental India, and China provided for less values of Rs. 720, Rs. 16,701, and Rs. 21,014, respectively. France and the United States provided for surplus values of Rs. 4,628 and Rs. 13.003. Austria and Denmark sent kilos. 21,320 and kilos. 998 of the value of Rs. 16,497 and Rs. 1,058, respectively, in 1904, against nil in the previous year.

Leather.

Wrought. Boots and Shoes.—The imports for 1904, as compared with those for the preceding year, show that 20,699 pairs less were received, giving a shortage in value of Rs. 20,277. The decreases are in respect of imports from Continental India (Rs. 26,799) and France (Rs. 11,710). The United Kingdom, however, supplied 3,794 pairs more with a surplus in value of Rs. 19,931.

Sole.—Increase both in weight of kilos. 3,899 and in value of Rs. 7,519. The increase is chiefly from Australia, which supplied an increased value of Rs. 8,856. Singapore supplied kilos. 1,425 of the value of Rs. 1,260 in 1903, against nil in 1904.

Wrought. Other sorts.—The imports for 1904 show an increase in value of Rs. 22,875, principally due to France, the United Kingdom and Australia, which exported surplus values of Rs. 19,866, Rs. 3,771, and Rs. 740, respectively.

Lime.

Phosphate.—60,000 kilos., valued Rs. 7,919, were received in 1903 against none in 1904 from the United Kingdom. From France kilos. 50,000, valued Rs. 6,800, were received in 1904 against nil in the previous year.

Superphosphate.—The imports for 1904 show an increase both in weight of kilos. 311,680 and in value of Rs. 14,269. From the United Kingdom kilos. 208,250 more were received, with a surplus in value of Rs. 9,200. France supplied in 1904 kilos. 103,400 of the value of Rs. 5,770, against nil in the previous year.

Linen Manufacture.

Canvas.—The imports for 1904, as compared with the previous year, show an increase both in weight of kilos. 6,485 and in value of Rs. 5,651. The increase is due to more imports from the United Kingdom.

Machinery and Millwork.

Machinery for mill work.—The imports for 1904 amounted to kilos. 540,344 of the value of Rs. 294,831, against, for 1903, kilos. 507,661 of the value of Rs. 256,731, showing an increase in weight of kilos. 32,683 and in value of Rs. 32,093.

—	1903.		1904.		I. = Increase, or D. = Decrease.	
	Weight.	Value.	Weight.	Value.	Weight.	Value.
	Ks.	Rs.	Ks.	Rs.	Ks.	Rs.
United Kingdom.	329,844	170,598	524,943	279,190	I. 195,099	I. 108,595
Germany ...	8,848	5,702	1,316	1,372	D. 7,532	D. 3,730
Belgium ...	24,669	5,703	—	—	D. 24,669	D. 5,703
France ...	144,300	74,738	11,929	12,459	D. 132,371	D. 62,279
Holland ...	—	—	2,456	1,810	I. 2,456	I. 1,810

The rates of importation for British and French goods under this head with regard to weight and value for the two years 1903 and 1904 are as follows:—

—	1903.		1904.	
	Weight.	Value.	Weight.	Value.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
British	64·97	66·44	97·14	94·09
French	28·42	29·11	2·15	4·22

Machinery, consisting of Locomobiles, Tramway materials, Wire rope, &c., for Agricultural purposes.

The imports, consisting of tramway materials, locomotives, traction engines, accessories for tramways, wire rope, &c., for agricultural purposes, amounted in 1903 to kilos. 22,344,489, of the value of Rs. 5,007,809, against, for 1904, kilos. 2,833,885, of the value of Rs. 430,063. There is accordingly a noticeable decrease, both in weight of kilos. 19,460,604 and in value of Rs. 4,577,746. The material imported in 1903 was principally for the construction of the new branch railways and for the light railways on the estates, and a falling off in the succeeding year was to be expected. It should also be noted that material for the latter purpose was admitted free of Customs duty in 1903 after the outbreak of surra among the beasts of burden. As beasts of burden have since been imported in sufficient quantity to supply agricultural requirements, machinery is not in such demand as in 1903, the quantity required being only for repairs and for slight extensions on estates.

The following table is a comparative statement of the amount imported from each country, with the rate of importation for the two years 1903 and 1904.

In 1903 the importation was mainly from Belgium; in 1904 German goods head the list.

Comparative Statement.

—	1903.		1904.	
	Value.	Rate.	Value.	Rate.
	Rs.	Per cent.	Rs.	Per cent.
Belgium	2,257,371	45·6	67,347	15·7
Germany	1,270,984	25·3	258,866	60·2
United Kingdom	1,113,970	22·2	33,712	7·8
France	277,770	5·4	7,240	1·7
Holland	87,613	1·5	62,897	14·6

The Countries to which the principal products have chiefly been exported, with the quantities shipped, are shown below:—

Countries.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Sugar—					
Continental India.	104,261,386	91,202,235	92,645,867	121,386,848	115,490,180
Cape Colonies	29,858,872	32,244,866	26,611,758	18,505,947	38,144,051
Ceylon ...	120,307	54,523	72,164	116,722	176,485
Australia ...	10,367,690	8,791,547	6,512,595	4,888,497	3,546,594
United States of America.	16,289,215	6,517,851	—	—	—
United Kingdom.	9,300,962	15,227,507	16,618,750	18,681,580	26,409,059
France ...	1,964,796	225	150	—	—
Delagoa Bay...	—	—	—	—	3,658,915
Hong Kong...	478,302	1,013,922	7,433,620	4,800,558	1,450,830
Natal ...	774,831	1,415,926	61,857	1,535,052	7,353,090
Aden ...	122,487	82,469	7,377	31,367	38,195
Seychelles ...	242,730	232,127	201,093	238,307	267,916
Zanzibar ...	678,708	73	—	—	—
Madagascar...	—	—	1,790	—	—
Mombassa ...	121,758	21,837	12,757	—	—
Sumatra ...	—	434	—	—	—
Beira ...	115,540	5,187	—	—	—
Singapore ...	—	120,085	24,705	113,707	—
Straits Settlements.	—	—	12,091	—	—
Glorieuse Island.	1,543	—	—	—	—
Pondichery ...	—	11,999	—	—	1,476
Cochin China	—	—	—	37,538	15,068
Philippine Islands.	—	—	—	—	2,152
Barbados ...	—	—	—	—	1,177,645
Italy... ...	—	—	—	150	—
Rum—	*Litres.*	*Litres.*	*Litres.*	*Litres.*	*Litres.*
United Kingdom.	1,892,877	724,389	71,486	—	—
Seychelles ...	59,425	57,337	66,703	30,255	51,881
Hong Kong...	—	—	—	—	32,005
Aden ...	16,965	6,489	14,545	15,198	12,392
Cape Colonies	—	2,882	—	—	—
France ...	—	26	18,009	—	—
Glorieuse Island.	959	—	1,165	—	—
Molasses—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India.	14,928,650	10,611,200	15,311,666	11,307,800	17,723,400
United Kingdom.	507	2,000	—	—	—
Ceylon ...	—	—	58,000	25	—
Cape Colonies	—	—	8,400	—	3,720
Hong Kong...	—	—	—	204,600	677,520

EXPORTS.

The principal articles exported from Mauritius are sugar, rum, molasses, cocoanut-oil, aloe fibre, and vanilla, the produce of the Colony. The quantities and values exported in the last five years are shown hereunder:—

Articles.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Sugar—					
Kilos. ...	174,765,785	157,016,976	150,305,678	170,416,541	197,825,666
Rupees ...	30,56[illegible],536	27,961,583	30,598,229	34,495,795	40,512,462
Rum —					
Litres ...	1,970,226	791,123	171,908	45,453	96,278
Rupees ...	231,930	91,494	28,952	10,345	22,468
Molasses—					
Kilos. ...	14,929,157	19,613,200	15,378,066	11,412,425	18,404,540
Rupees ...	532,889	347,008	1,144,021	402,052	668,935
Cocoanut Oil—					
Hecto. ...	2,643	1,664	5,280	4,462	3,848
Rupees ...	51,825	16,811	142,658	122,197	121,309
Aloe Fibre—					
Kilos. ...	3,105,341	1,242,998	2,144,609	1,518,684	1,920,078
Rupees ...	978,049	353,444	937,877	551,234	627,519
Vanilla—					
Kilos. ...	4,553	3,358	4,787	3,486	3,305
Rupees ...	212,276	149,002	137,224	110,239	88,066

The quantity and value of the principal minor exports are shown below :—

Articles.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Vacoa bags—					
Number	251,056	268,950	57,625	42,847	11,600
Rupees	18,841	7,477	3,973	1,835	1,160
Salted Fish—					
Kilos.	68,816	24,710	27,224	18,526	4,705
Rupees	21,078	10,331	11,204	5,090	1,865
Hides, Raw and salted—					
Kilos.	53,410	25,167	11,562	37,695	19,121
Rupees	21,938	11,544	4,960	18,043	7,107
Horns—					
Number	5,145	4,000	1,425	2,120	499
Rupees	621	2,000	46	312	10
Soap—					
Kilos.	3,911	467	655	202	137
Rupees	1,216	135	151	154	18
Tea—					
Kilos.	281	4	288	361	25
Rupees	451	6	312	498	50
Machinery and Millwork—					
Kilos.	109,504	92,516	55,319	100,194	22,795
Rupees	293,655	61,422	40,826	66,196	18,140

Varnish.

The imports for 1904 amounted to hectolitres 74, valued Rs. 9,622, against hectolitres 19 of the value of Rs. 2,380 for 1903. The increase is, therefore, of hectolitres 55 in measure and of Rs. 6,742 in value. The United Kingdom and France provided for surplus values of Rs. 1,157 and Rs. 6,084, respectively.

Wine.

Claret in casks.—Increase of hectolitres 2,425 in measure and of Rs. 82,040 in value. France supplied hectolitres 3,075 more with a surplus in value of Rs. 100,132; from Spain, hectolitres 1,211 less were received, with a shortage in value of Rs. 35,117. Algeria supplied hectolitres 576 of the value of Rs. 17,389 in 1904, against nil in the previous year.

Pontac in casks.—Hectolitres 5 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 3,117 were received in 1904. This article is exclusively supplied from Cape Colony.

Port in casks.—Hectolitres 30 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 2,507 were received in 1904. Portugal provided 68 hectolitres more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 4,484. Spain, hectolitres 45 less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 2,749. France supplied in 1904 hectolitres 52 of the value of Rs. 4,182, against nil in the preceding year.

Port in bottles.—2,531 litres more, with an excess in value of Rs. 3,579 were received in 1904. Portugal provided litres 168 more, with an excess in value of Rs. 5,384. Spain supplied 487 litres less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 1,427.

Sherry in casks.—Hectolitres 54 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 3,089 were received in 1904. Spain supplied 12 hectolitres less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 275, but from Portugal there is an excess both in measure of hectolitres 70 and in value of Rs. 3,232.

Vermouth in casks.—Hectolitres 80 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 3,787 for 1904.

Vermouth in bottles.—Litres 27,196 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 25,228.

Vermouth is exclusively imported from France.

White Wine in bottles.—The imports for 1904 show an increase in measure of litres 11,198, and in value of Rs. 3,867—from France 1,350 litres more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 4,092, were received in the past year.

China provided a surplus value of Rs. 4,711, while slight decreases are shown under the United Kingdom, Continental India, and Hong Kong.

Tin

Slabs.—Increase both in weight of kilos. 3,920 and in value of Rs. 10,607 as compared with 1903. Increases are from the Straits Settlements (Rs. 7,957), the United Kingdom, Continental India, and Singapore.

Tobacco.

Manufactured.—Compared with the imports for the previous year there is a shrinkage of kilos. 2,859 in weight, and of Rs. 18,676 in value. From the United States there is a falling off of kilos. 8,415 in weight, and of Rs. 18,911 in value. Réunion exhibits an increase of kilos. 5,833 in weight, and of Rs. 1,015 in value.

Cigars.—Kilos. 866 more with a surplus in value of Rs. 5,745 were imported in 1904. The increases are from Continental India, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

Unmanufactured.—Decrease both in weight of kilos. 4,822 and in value of Rs. 11,292 as compared with 1903. Continental India provided a less value of Rs. 11,262.

Toys.

The value of the imports for 1904 amounted to Rs. 77,212, against for 1903, Rs. 45,840, showing an excess of Rs. 31,372. The United Kingdom, Continental India, China, France, and Germany provided surplus values of Rs. 4,177, Rs. 1,282, Rs. 657, Rs. 8,472, and Rs. 16,673, respectively.

Umbrellas and Parasols.

Twelve thousand eight hundred and seventeen less were received in 1904, giving a shortage in value of Rs. 10,718. Decreases are seen under the United Kingdom (Rs. 5,540), Continental India (Rs. 788), and France (Rs. 4,422).

Vanilla.

Kilos. 748.453 grs. of the value of Rs. 12,230 were received in 1904, against nil in the previous year. From Seychelles the imports amounted to kilos. 748.203 grs. of the value of Rs. 12,229.

Stationery.

The value of the imports for 1904 amounted to Rs. 137,437, against for 1903 Rs. 133,610, showing an increase of Rs. 3,827, due to more supplies from the United Kingdom (Rs. 8,469), Germany (Rs. 3,006), and Belgium. Decreases are noticeable under France (Rs. 3,914), Continental India (Rs. 1,958), Ceylon, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, and the United States.

Sulphur.

Common.—There is a large decrease amounting to kilos. 42,543 in weight and of Rs. 118,320 in value. France shows a shrinkage of Rs. 119,674, while a small increase is noticeable under the United Kingdom.

Tallow.

Decrease both in weight of kilos. 12,993 and in value of Rs. 7,977, due to the United Kingdom and Australia, which provided less values of Rs. 1,339 and Rs. 9,229, respectively. There is a slight increase from Continental India. France provided for Rs. 1,072 in 1904, against nil in 1093; while imports amounting to Rs. 164 were received in 1903 from Natal, against nil for the past year.

Tamarinds.

This article is exclusively received from Continental India, which supplied kilos. 56,223 less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 7,916, as compared with the previous year.

Tarpaulins.

Sixty-five, valued Rs. 6,996, were received in 1904 from the United Kingdom, against nil in the preceding year.

Tea.

The imports for 1904 amounted to kilos. 45,113 of the value of Rs. 56,500, against for 1903, kilos. 52,864 of the value of Rs. 44,013, showing a decrease in weight of kilos. 8,851, but with an overvalue of Rs. 12,457. This excess in value is due to the higher price of the tea imported from Ceylon in 1904.

Soda.

Nitrate of.—Exclusively received from Chili, which supplied kilos. 1,578,151 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 245,198, as compared with the previous year.

Specie.

Gold.—The United Kingdom supplied in 1904 a less value of Rs. 28,371, as compared with the previous year.

Paper Currency.—The United Kingdom forwarded in 1904 Rs. 831,325, against Rs. 201,240 in 1903, difference Rs. 630,085.

Silver.—In 1904 Continental India, Singapore, and Straits Settlements supplied us with silver to the value of Rs. 1,040,000, Rs. 2,076, and Rs. 9,901, aggregating Rs. 1,051,977, against for 1903 Rs. 3,151,367, of which Rs. 3,151,200 were from Continental India and Rs. 167 from France. The imports for 1904 show, therefore, a falling off of Rs. 2,099,390 in value.

Spices.

Chilies.—The imports for 1904 show a decrease both in weight of kilos. 32,015 and in value of Rs. 6,340. This article is exclusively supplied from Continental India.

Spirits.

Brandy.—In 1903, litres 38,006 of the value of Rs. 76,479 were imported, against, for the year 1904, litres 51,546, of the value of Rs. 94,541. The increase is of litres 13,540 in measure and of Rs. 42,995 in value. The United Kingdom and France supplied in 1903 litres 890, valued at Rs. 1,028 and litres 37,026 valued Rs. 75,332, against for 1904 litres 2,624 valued Rs. 4,413 and litres 48,832 valued Rs. 90,014, showing increases of litres 1,734 and litres 11,806, with surplus values of Rs. 3,385 and Rs. 15,682 respectively.

Rum.—There is an increase in measure of litres 55,305 and in value of Rs. 16,626, principally due to more imports from Réunion, which supplied litres 55,162 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 16,125.

Whisky.—This article is exclusively received from the United Kingdom, which supplied litres 11,431 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 13,801.

Starch.

There is a decrease both in weight of kilos. 82,338 and in value of Rs. 14,658, chiefly due to short supplies from China and Singapore, which provided for less values of Rs. 9,110 and Rs. 4,599 respectively.

chiefly due to more imports from the United Kingdom, Continental India, China, and France (Rs. 8,136).

Plague Serum.

An increased importation, to the extent of Rs. 14,031 in 1904, from the United Kingdom.

*Pockets.**

Empty.—Continental India supplied 1,482,000, of the value of Rs. 274,075 in 1904, against 555,000, of the value of Rs. 90,255 in 1903, showing a large increase of 932,000 in number and of Rs. 183,820 in value.

Pork, Salted.

Compared with the previous year, the imports for 1904 show an increase of kilos. 7,137 in weight and of Rs. 3,792 in value. From the United Kingdom there is a decrease in value of Rs. 2,120, but from the United States there is an increase of Rs. 5,488.

Postal Parcels.

The value of dutiable articles imported from various countries amounted in 1904 to Rs. 297,805, against Rs. 224,885 in 1903, showing an increase of Rs. 72,920.

Potash.

Nitrate of.—There is a decrease in weight of kilos. 23,511, but with a surplus in value of Rs. 83,195, as compared with 1903, due chiefly to imports from Continental India.

Sulphate of.—Compared with 1903, there is an increase both in weight of kilos. 119,850 and in value of Rs. 22,140. The United Kingdom supplied an excess of kilos. 89,450 in weight and of Rs. 16,463 in value, and from France kilos 30,400, of the value of Rs. 5,677, were received in 1904, against nil in the previous year.

Potatoes.

The imports for 1904 show an increase both in weight of kilos. 356,547 and in value of Rs. 33,423. Australia, Continental India, and France provided surplus values of Rs. 5,429, Rs. 16,094, and Rs. 36,513 respectively. Réunion shows a falling off of Rs. 26,696.

Prints and Engravings.

There is an increase in value of Rs. 4,778, due principally to more imports from France and Germany.

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* Small sugar bags.

Of other sorts.—347 hectolitres more with a surplus in value of Rs. 26,097 were received in 1904. The increase is chiefly from the United States and Continental India. Germany shows a decrease of Rs. 5,430.

Onions and Garlic.

The imports for 1904 show a decrease of kilos. 151,661 in weight and of Rs. 13,113, in value chiefly due to less imports from France (Rs. 9,874) and Continental India (Rs. 9,914). Small increases are noted from China, Réunion and Australia.

Opium.

Crude.—Kilos. 751.286 grs. more were received in 1904, with a surplus in value of Rs. 18,039, exclusively received from Continental India.

Painters', Dyers', Colours and Materials.

Compared with the previous year, the imports for 1904 show an increase in value of Rs. 5,036; the increase is from the United Kingdom, Continental India, France, Germany, Austria, and the United States. Small decreases in respect of Switzerland and China.

Paper, Cigarette.

The imports for 1904 amounted to kilos. 5,417 in weight and to Rs. 29,342 in value, against kilos. 4,222 and value Rs. 25,133 for 1903, showing an increase in weight of kilos. 1,195 and in value of Rs. 4,211. Comparing the imports for 1903 and for 1904 with those for 1902 the decrease in weight is kilos. 2,739 and kilos. 1,644 respectively.

Paper.

Packing.—There is a decrease in value of Rs. 15,605, accountable to less imports from France (Rs. 13,917). Belgium provided for Rs. 1,892 in 1903, against nil in the past year.

Printing.—Compared with 1903, the value of the imports for 1904 shows a decrease of Rs. 9,848, due principally to less supplies from the United Kingdom to the amount of Rs. 6,057. Belgium and Germany supplied goods to the value of Rs. 1,997 and Rs. 1,509 respectively in 1903, against nil in the previous year.

Perfumery.

The value of the imports for 1904 amounted to Rs. 93,299, against Rs. 81,974 for 1903, showing an increase of Rs. 11,325,

Goods Imported by the Military Authorities.

The imports for 1904 amounted to Rs. 1,663,811, against Rs. 1,312,314 for 1903, showing an increase of Rs. 351,497, due chiefly to more supplies from the United Kingdom and especially from Continental India.

Musical Instruments.

There is a large decrease of Rs. 90,234, as compared with the previous year. The decrease is apportioned to France (Rs. 89,572), the United Kingdom, and Germany. There is a small increase from the United States.

Oil.

Castor.—Decrease both in weight of kilos. 140,191 and in value of Rs. 33,896, principally from Continental India, which provided a less value of Rs. 33,677.

Cocoanut.—868 hectolitres more were received in 1904, but with a decrease in value of Rs. 5,758; from Seychelles there is a falling off both in measure of 878 hectolitres and in value of Rs. 30,031; from Continental India, hectolitres 1,905 of the value of Rs. 24,277 were received in 1904, against 15 litres in 1903.

Gingeley.—A decrease both in weight of kilos. 41,880 and in value of Rs. 17,055 is noted for 1904. The decrease is from Continental India (Rs. 16,517) and Pondichery.

Mustard.—This article is exclusively received from Continental India, and the imports for 1904 show an increase both in weight of kilos. 140,716 and in value of Rs. 37,223.

Olive in Cases.—Decrease both in quantity and in value. France exclusively supplied this article, and provided 429 cases less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 6,070.

Petroleum.—The imports for 1904 amounted to 29,583 hectolitres of the value of Rs. 513,824, against, for 1903, hectolitres 22,617 of the value of Rs. 395,379, showing an increase both in measure of hectolitres 6,966 and in value of Rs. 118,445. The United States provided a surplus value of Rs. 68,788. Russia shows a shrinkage of Rs. 69,051. Sumatra supplied in 1904 hectolitres 7,481, of the value of Rs. 151,353, against nil in the previous year.

Pistachio.—There is a decrease both in weight of kilos. 335,812 and in value of Rs. 126,362, due to less imports from Continental India (Rs. 97,269), Pondichery (Rs. 21,428), and China (Rs. 7,666).

Manure.

Guano.—The imports for 1904 show an increase in weight of kilos. 586,345 and in value of Rs. 10,840. Seychelles provided a surplus value of Rs. 19,600. Glorieuse Island supplied in 1903 guano to the value of Rs. 15,733 against nil in 1904, and the Argentine Republic guano to the value of Rs. 6,975 against nil in the previous year.

Of other sorts.—Increase in weight of kilos. 1,064,936 and in value of Rs. 97,945. Increases are from Australia (Rs. 2,975), France (Rs. 40,708), Continental India (Rs. 35,207), Ceylon (Rs. 15,537), and Germany (Rs. 4,488). Belgium supplied kilos. 50,490, of the value of Rs. 8,321, against nil in 1903. Decreases are noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 4,501) and the Argentine Republic (Rs. 5,190).

Margarine.

The imports for 1904 show an increase both in weight of kilos. 11,245 and in value of Rs. 12,980, principally due to more imports from Holland. Small decreases are noticeable under the United States, France, and Denmark.

Matches.

8,759 gross less were imported in 1904, with a short difference in value of Rs. 7,803. Japan shows a decrease of Rs. 16,615. A small increase is noted from Sweden, and Germany provided for Rs. 6,903 in 1904, against Rs. 345 in 1903.

Meat.

Fresh-Frozen.—This article is exclusively supplied by Australia, and the imports for 1904 show a decrease of Rs. 192,311, detailed as hereunder:—

—	Value.		Increase=I., or Decrease=D.
	1903.	1904.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Carcasses of Cows and Oxen ...	286,208	23,739	D. 262,469
Sheep	832	68,322	I. 67,490
Swine	21,071	23,739	I. 2,668

Now that a regular supply of live oxen is obtainable from Madagascar, frozen meat is not in great demand.

TRANSPORTS AND MEN-OF-WAR.

Six British transports and men-of-war visited this port during the past year:—

The	"Assaye"	of	a	registered tonnage of	7,376
"	"Clive"	"	"	"	1,701
"	"Crescent"	"	"	"	7,700
"	"Brighton"	"	"	"	2,273
"	"Clive"	"	"	"	1,701
"	"Forte"	"	"	"	4,360

One French gun-boat, the "Capricorn," of 485 tons, touched at this port but did not enter.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-nine Ordinances were passed during the Session of 1904, most of them being short amending Ordinances.

The following, however, deserve to be mentioned:—

Nos. 1, 21, and 25 amend the Customs tariff with a view to increase the import duties on certain articles.

No. 2 was passed in view of the depressed state of the sugar industry, to authorise a postponement of the re-payment of the advances made to planters and others, under Ordinance No. 43 of 1902.

No. 4 deals with the administration of the lesser Dependencies.

No. 13 is the last of a series of Ordinances passed within the last few years for the correction of errors in the text of our local laws.

No. 18 has for its object to give immediate effect to resolutions of the Council of Government relating to Customs and Excise duties, in anticipation of the passing of the necessary Ordinance.

No. 20 contains some important amendments in the provisions of the Pension laws relating to the manner in which the pensions of certain officers are to be computed.

No. 22 amends the law as to oaths administered in Courts of Justice to persons who are Hindus or Mahomedans or whose religious belief prevents them from taking the ordinary oath.

No. 23 enables the shareholders of anonymous companies and others to obtain copies of the articles of association and of the list of shareholders of anonymous companies.

SHIPPING INWARDS and OUTWARDS FOR THE YEARS 1900–1904.

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1900 ...	86	53,379	6	1,649	92	55,028	34	13,849	1	1,595	35	15,444	110	67,228	7	3,244	117	70,472
1901 ...	86	48,671	5	1,821	91	50,492	23	13,065	7	1,869	30	14,934	109	61,736	12	3,690	121	65,426
1902 ...	66	32,700	3	1,301	69	35,001	19	11,140	8	2,143	27	13,283	85	44,840	11	3,444	96	48,284
1903 ...	66	30,335	2	361	68	30,696	8	6,623	5	1,220	13	7,843	74	36,958	7	1,581	81	38,539
1904 ...	57	26,754	1	519	58	27,273	16	12,026	3	1,039	9	13,065	73	38,780	4	1,558	72	40,438

Steamers—Entered.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1900 ...	72	140,718	18	34,105	90	174,823	52	82,842	7	9,697	59	92,539	124	223,560	25	43,802	149	267,362
1901 ...	85	172,770	35	65,944	120	238,714	47	90,306	4	6,960	51	97,266	132	263,076	39	72,904	171	335,980
1902 ...	98	199,928	22	42,240	120	242,168	44	78,352	5	9,210	49	87,562	142	278,280	27	51,450	169	329,730
1903 ...	105	223,302	11	23,385	116	246,687	47	89,562	8	16,749	55	106,311	152	312,864	19	40,134	171	352,998
1904 ...	97	221,342	21	44,482	118	265,824	44	92,031	5	9,971	49	102,002	141	313,373	26	54,453	167	367,826

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities:—

Cleared.

Nationality.	1903		1904		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	115	242,565	118	266,495	+ 3	+ 23,930
Sailing ...	70	31,396	56	25,693	—14	— 5,703
French—						
Steamers	46	91,177	42	91,367	— 4	+ 190
Sailing ...	3	3,510	1	1,774	— 2	— 1,736
German—						
Steamers	9	15,058	3	3,969	— 6	— 11,089
Sailing ...	—	—	1	664	+ 1	+ 664
Norwegian—						
Steamers	1	1,066	1	2,104	—	+ 1,038
Sailing ...	5	2,080	10	4,430	+ 5	+ 2,350
Danish—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,489	+ 1	+ 2,489
Sailing ...	1	385	1	965	—	+ 580
Dutch—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	1,235	+ 1	+ 1,235
Italian—						
Sailing ...	3	1,005	5	4,285	+ 2	+ 3,280
American—						
Sailing ...	—	—	1	365	+ 1	+ 365

Cleared.

—	1903.		1904.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	82	38,376	75	38,176	— 7	— 200
Steamers ...	171	349,866	166	367,659	— 5	+ 17,793
Total ...	253	388,242	241	405,835	—12	+ 17,593

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities:—

Entered.

Nationality.	1903.		1904.		Difference + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	116	246,687	118	265,824	+ 2	+ 19,137
Sailing ...	68	30,696	58	27,272	—10	— 3,423
French—						
Steamers	45	90,187	42	91,367	— 3	+ 1,180
Sailing ...	3	3,510	2	3,228	— 1	— 282
German—						
Steamers	9	15,058	3	3,969	— 6	— 11,089
Sailing ...	—	—	1	664	+ 1	+ 664
Norwegian—						
Steamers	1	1,066	2	2,942	+ 1	+ 1,876
Sailing ...	5	2,080	10	4,430	+ 5	+ 2,350
Danish—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,489	+ 1	+ 2,489
Sailing ...	1	385	1	965	—	+ 580
Dutch—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	1,235	+ 1	+ 1,235
Italian—						
Sailing ...	4	1,868	4	3,413	—	+ 1,545
American—						
Sailing ...	—	—	1	365	+ 1	+ 365

Four steamers, of an aggregate tonnage of 780, entered and cleared from and to the dependencies in 1904, against one of 195 tons, which cleared for the dependencies in the previous year.

The coasting trade was exclusively performed by British vessels during 1903 and 1904.

SUEZ CANAL.

The value of goods imported through the Suez Canal in 1904 amounts to Rs. 3,149,917.43, showing a shortage of Rs. 3,392,148 as compared with 1903. This large difference is accountable for the large importation of tramway materials in 1903.

Goods exported from Mauritius through the said canal amount to Rs. 234,010 for 1904, against Rs. 2,483,480 for the previous year, a decline of Rs. 2,249,470.

VESSELS WITH CARGOES.

The tonnage of vessels entered with cargoes during 1904 amounted to 345,514, and the tonnage cleared to 271,353, as against 343,983 entered and 273,093 cleared for 1903.

The aggregate tonnage of the coasting trade—dependencies—amounted to 6,639 tons entered and 6,206 tons cleared, against 5,839 tons entered and 5,963 tons cleared for the previous year.

VESSELS TOUCHING AT THIS PORT WITHOUT ENTERING THE HARBOUR.

Ten British steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 23,454, three French steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,099, and one Italian sailing vessel of 521 tons touched at this port without entering the harbour during the year 1904.

Statement showing number and tonnage of British and foreign sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for 1903 and 1904:—

Entered.

—	1903.		1904.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	81	38,539	77	40,338	— 4	— 1,799
Steamers ...	171	352,998	167	367,826	— 4	— 14,828
Total ...	252	391,537	244	408,164	— 8	+ 16,627

The number and tonnage of steam vessels which entered and cleared from and to all countries *viâ* the Suez Canal, and the value of goods (including bullion and specie), imported into and exported by that canal into and from Mauritius are shewn in the following table:—

SUEZ CANAL.

Years.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared.		Value of Goods (including Bullion and Specie).	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.
					Rs.	Rs.
1900	37	72,122	28	51,780	2,835,100	449,911
1901	38	74,012	24	49,040	3,868,350	892,320
1902	26	50,849	27	52,242	3,887,611	2,189,981
1903	32	65,515	27	53,541	6,542,071	2,483,481
1904	32	71,428	20	42,717	3,149,920	234,010

The first table is a return of all vessels entered and cleared, excluding the coasting trade vessels, *i.e.*, vessels trading with the dependencies which are exclusively dealt with in the second table.

In the table I, the total number of vessels entered and cleared during 1904 show a falling off of 17 in number but an excess of 33,177 in tonnage, as compared with the figures for 1903.

Compared with 1903 the following differences are noted:—

Sailing Vessels.—Shortage of 5 in number, but an excess of 1,141 in tonnage.

Steam Vessels.—Shortage of 12 in number, but an excess of 32,036 in tonnage.

British Vessels.—Shortage of 16 in number, but an excess of 33,898 in tonnage.

Foreign Vessels.—Shortage of 1 in number, but an excess of 279 in tonnage.

Of the 425 vessels which entered and cleared during 1904, five steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 13,866, called at this port exclusively for the purpose of coaling, showing a difference of 3,082 less in tonnage as compared with 1903.

Coasting Trade—Dependencies.

The number of vessels entered and cleared from and to the dependencies during 1904 was 60, with a tonnage of 12,845, against, during 1903, 63, with a tonnage of 11,802, showing a shortage of three in number but a surplus of 1,043 in tonnage.

SHIPPING.

The shipping for the five years 1900-1904 can be thus summarised:—

Exclusive of Coasting Trade (Dependencies).

—	1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared—	467	656,043	512	782,008	469	746,517	442	767,977	425	801,154
2. Total No. and Tonnage of British Vessels	301	439,174	356	558,968	324	546,155	306	539,542	290	572,440
3. Total No. and Tonnage of Foreign Vessels	166	216,869	156	223,040	145	200,362	136	228,435	135	228,714
4. Total No. and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels	173	125,966	174	115,366	134	88,957	101	65,308	96	66,449
5. Total No. and Tonnage of Steam Vessels	294	530,077	338	666,642	335	657,560	341	702,669	329	734,705

Coasting Trade (Dependencies).

—	1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared—	67	14,897	62	16,990	63	11,351	63	11,802	60	12,845
2. Total No. and Tonnage of British Vessels	65	14,373	58	15,642	57	10,721	63	11,802	60	12,845
3. Total No. and Tonnage of Foreign Vessels	2	524	4	1,348	6	810	—	—	—	—
4. Total No. and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels	64	13,656	59	12,881	63	11,351	62	11,607	56	12,065
5. Total No. and Tonnage of Steam Vessels	3	1,241	3	4,109	—	—	1	195	4	780

Mauritius and Dependencies.	Number of leases.	Nature of land under lease and area in arpents.								Arrears of rent due on 31st December, 1903.	Rent due in 1904.	Receipts to 31st December, 1904, for arrears (in column 0).	Receipts to 31st December, 1904 for rent due in 1904 (Column 1.)	Arrears due for 1904 and previous years on 31st December, 1904.	Rent struck off as irrecoverable.
		Lease in bare land.	Land with buildings.	Pasturage.	Pas Géométriques.	Docks and patent slips.	Islands adjacent to coast and Dependencies.	Barachois.	All other lands.						
	No.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Port Louis	181	75.65	—	—	—	13.05	—	2.25	—	1,844.69	11,298.50	1,109.88	8,696.00	3,070.69	267.17
Pamplemousses ...	43	131.80	—	—	484.88	—	—	—	—	499.75	1,658.61	318.75	1,098.42	741.19	—
Rivière du Rempart	142	196.57	—	—	992.04	—	381.64	820.72	—	789.16	3,826.22	636.00	2,574.50	881.88	48.00
Flacq	107	184.61	—	78.40	1,019.68	—	—	110.96	—	2,207.75	3,699.00	1,112.00	1,452.50	3,208.00	34.25
Grand Port	99	260.38	—	—	869.81	—	82.00	36.50	—	747.50	5,185.00	457.00	4,380.50	1,095.00	—
Savanne	148	184.85	—	—	600.78	.05	—	—	—	4,948.50	6,613.12	3,701.29	8,482.52	4,848.88	78.98
Black River	118	27.11	—	—	1,268.80	—	100.00	—	—	867.81	2,105.68	316.81	889.76	1,528.87	243.00
Plaines Wilhems ...	8	811.69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	95.00	557.94	64.00	171.44	417.50	—
Moka	9	9.81	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	849.00	397.00	158.00	305.00	102.00	186.00
Dependencies ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	376.75	—	—	—	779.00	1.00	776.50	1.50	—
Total ...	856	1,871.47	—	78.40	5,236.53	13.10	819.89	470.48	—	12,813.66	36,520.02	7,868.68	28,777.14	15,885.46	852.40

Countries to which Principal Products have chiefly been Exported—cont.

Countries.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Cocoanut Oil—	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.
Réunion ...	—	88.16	—	—	—
Natal ...	24.	—	—	7.20	6.93
Cape Colonies	—	—	209.84	—	—
United Kingdom.	2,619.34	1,575.75	563.04	4,454.50	3,245.19
France ...	—	—	500.60	—	—
Continental India.	—	—	—	—	596.
Aloe Fibre—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
United Kingdom.	2,456,205	1,110,154	1,253,999	964,864	1,544,409
France ...	273,356	11,922	890,610	553,820	364,515
Australia ...	—	112,547	—	—	11,154
Germany ...	209,130	7,500	—	—	—
Continental India.	—	875	—	—	—
Holland ...	166,650	—	—	—	—
Vanilla—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
France ...	119	1,300	1,665	2,047	83
United Kingdom.	4,417	2,052	3,085	1,405	3,123
Australia ...	—	—	32	34	54
Natal ...	16	—	—	—	12
Cape Colonies	—	—	5	—	34
Continental India.	—	—	—	—	3

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in Mauritius. Sugar, of course, rum, vinegar, and soap are manufactured in the Colony. There is a small quantity of tea grown, and there are several factories for the extraction of fibre from the aloe plant, which grows abundantly in the Colony. There does not appear to have been any special incident of interest in connection with local manufactures during the year under review.

The fisheries are protected by special laws and by the creation of Crown reserves, as well as by the establishment of private barachois, by the creation of a close season, and by the prohibition of the capture of an illegal size of fish and the prohibition of illegal nets.

There are 11 private barachois or enclosures communicating with the sea, duly registered under Ordinance No. 42 of 1881. These private barachois are walled ponds or "fish paddocks,"

The following is another classification of the offences reported:—

Offences against the person	8,954
Prædial larceny	271
Offences against property other than prædial larceny	4,380
Other offences	10,391
	23,996

Prisons.

At the end of the year there were three prisons in Mauritius, the Central Prison at Beau Bassin, the Port Louis Prison, and a District Prison at Souillac in the District of Savanne.

Beau Bassin and Port Louis.

The total number of prisoners admitted to prison after conviction during the past year was 4,629 males and 215 females.

These numbers show a decrease of 1,014 males and an increase of 3 females as compared with the returns for 1903, and is for males the lowest on record for the past two years.

2. The numbers committed under the different headings, compare with the previous year as follows:—

Year.	Debt.	Non-payment of fine and costs.	Safe custody till trial or for want of security.	Purposes of penal imprisonment.
1904 ...	8	1,438	2,113	3,398
1903 ...	4	1,503	2,409	4,348

3. There is a decrease of 158 prisoners previously convicted as compared with the number so convicted in 1903.

Under the classification of "Duration of Sentences," a decrease is to be noticed under all headings except:—

Under sentences of five years or more—

1904	22
1903	19
Increase of	3

compared with 1903.

It will be observed that of serious offences reported to, or detected by, the police, there were 2,121 cases, for which 2,682 persons were charged, and 1,894, or 70·62 per cent., either convicted or committed to Assizes.

The amount of property declared to have been stolen was Rs. 19,328.24, of which Rs. 10,332.89, or 53·46 per cent., was recovered by "All Agencies," including police, and Rs. 8,659.30, or 44·81 per cent., by "Police only."

The following return records all serious offences reported to, or detected by, the police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged:—

Offences.	No of cases.	No. of persons arrested on suspicion.	Amount of Property alleged to have been stolen.	Amount of Property recovered.	
				By all Agencies.	By Police only.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Murder, including parricide, wife murder, and poisoning causing death ...	1	2	—	—	—
Attempt at foregoing murder, and poisoning not causing death	8	44	—	—	—
Other offences against the person	6,252	67	—	—	—
Larceny at night by breaking, or with violence to the person	310	58	26,783.29	566.80	216.75
Praedial and other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement and swindling ...	2,546	274	82,409.25	12,158.89	5,056.22
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property	23	8	—	205.56	68.25
Arson and other malicious injuries to property	30	14	—	—	—
Other offences against property...	270	4	—	—	—
All other offences not included above	25	2	—	—	—
Total	9,465	473	109,192.54	12,931.25	5,341.22

The total number of fires which formed the subject of police investigation in 1904 was 298, and the total estimated value of property destroyed was Rs. 54,025.86.

The results in the Industrial School have been, unfortunately, very unsatisfactory in comparison with 1903. This was almost entirely due to an insufficiency of orders for the carpenters, tinsmiths, and basket makers, the shoemakers alone being constantly employed. The trades taught were the same as in 1903. The earnings amounted to Rs. 3,561, against Rs. 5,472 in 1903, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,911. The total cost of maintaining and guarding the boys in 1904 amounted to Rs. 13,563, as compared with Rs. 14,141 in the previous year, and the average cost per boy was Rs. 263, against Rs. 228 in 1903, showing an increase of Rs. 35 per head for 1904.

SAVINGS BANK.

The savings deposited at the Government Savings Bank, at 3 per cent. interest, amounted to Rs. 2,886,780 on the 30th June, 1904, as compared with Rs. 2,723,594 on the same date in 1903, showing an increase of Rs. 163,186.

The following return shows the number of depositors and the amount standing to the credit of the general and the Indian population at the end of the years 1902-3 and 1903-4:—

—	1902-3.		1903-4.	
	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.
General Population	15,284	1,584,996	15,946	1,664,198
Indian Population	10,384	1,138,598	10,545	1,222,582
Total	25,668	2,723,594	26,491	2,886,780

The financial position of the bank on 30th June, 1904, was as follows:—

	Rs.
Investments	3,127,295.37
Cash in hand	14,354.57
Receiver-General (interest due by Treasury for 1903-4)	79,911.93
	3,221,561.87
Liabilities due to depositors	2,912,423.82
Balance in favour of Bank	309,138.05

POOR RELIEF.

There is one alms house in the Colony (the Barkly Asylum) and several infirmaries and orphanages. Indoor relief is given at the public hospitals, at the Barkly Asylum (for the aged and infirm poor, and at several convents, infirmaries, and dispensaries. Outdoor relief is given in money, food, clothes, and medicines.

The expenditure of the Poor Law Department for the year 1904 amounted to Rs. 208,256. The number of pauper patients treated at the several hospitals was 14,175, and the number of paupers who received outdoor relief was 2,933. The number of pauper orphans maintained in convents at the expense of the Poor Law Department was 58, and 754 infirm persons were maintained in the several branch infirmaries.

The number of sick paupers who applied at the public dispensaries and who received either medicines or medical treatment was 39,317.

The following table shows the total number of persons who received indoor and outdoor relief in 1904, namely:—

(a.) Recipients of indoor relief:—	
Sick in Country District Hospitals	9,752
Sick in Civil Hospital	4,229
Sick in Convent Hospital, Canal Street, Port Louis	194
Inmates of the Barkly Asylum	725
Lepers at St. Lazare...	146
Inmates of the Lunatic Asylum	479
Orphans in Convents	58
Inmates of Branch Infirmaries	754
(b.) Recipients of outdoor relief:—	
Alimentary and Pecuniary	2,933
Medical (Sick at Dispensaries)	39,317
	58,587

There is a leper asylum in one of the suburbs of Port Louis into which 41 pauper lepers were admitted during 1904, 104 remaining there on the 31st December of the same year; and a lunatic asylum, adjacent to the Barkly Asylum of Beau Bassin, in which 388 patients were under treatment at the end of the year.

REFORMATORY.

There were 154 boys committed to the Reformatory in 1904, which shows a large decrease on 1903, when 231 were admitted.

however, follow, the Medical Director writes, that the disease is on the decrease, as the lower number of admissions is due no doubt to the less severe meteorological conditions which prevailed during the year. The spread of the disease will continue so long as the present conditions hold, *i.e.*, widespread poverty, want of sanitary education, deficiency of adequate lodging accommodation for the poor, besides racial and social prejudices, which tend to aggravate these factors.

A few remarks are desirable on the occurrence of an epidemic of tropical ulcers. Towards the end of 1903 the disease, which had existed in a sporadic form, invaded all the low-lying districts of the island, the outbreak reaching its maximum in March, when 620 cases were recorded. A rapid subsidence followed, and few case of the affection were to be met with towards the end of 1904. Only two cases proved fatal out of the 2,890 cases which were treated in the various hospitals and dispensaries.

Plague, as usual, assumed an epidemic form in the second half of the year. Its spread combated by the usual measures—disinfection, evacuation of the premises, isolation of the sick—the disease did not assume such a virulent character as it did in 1903. The following tables gives the course of the disease since its outbreak in 1899:—

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
			Per cent.
1899...	1,416	1,117	78·9
1900...	796	593	74·5
1901...	1,093	805	73·6
1902...	506	386	76·3
1903...	1,395	1,035	74·2
1904...	568	449	77·3

Special attention was given to rat destruction during the year, with the result that 30,000 rats were caught and killed in Port Louis alone, the figures for the period May to December standing at 27,620.

Surra.—The 1904 epidemic was less severe than the 1903 one. It did not give rise to nearly so much difficulty in regard to transport, and the sanitary services, on account of which the employment of draught animals is necessary, were not appreciably interfered with. The experiments at Grand River North West were continued, and confirmed the opinion already expressed last year as regards the resistance of cattle and their natural recovery from trypanosomiasis.

Malaria, influenza, and dysentery accounted for fewer admissions, while the plague epidemic has been, next to that of 1902, the lowest recorded hitherto.

The number of admissions in the different hospitals of the Colony amounted to 17,492, showing a diminution of 3,375 in the figures of 1903.

The case mortality, 5·42 per cent., also shows a decrease of ·56 as compared with 1903.

Thirty-seven thousand one hundred and sixty-two (37,162) pauper patients applied at the 28 dispensaries for medical care and comfort.

Malarial fever, as usual, was answerable for the greatest number of admissions to hospital. The figure for 1904 stands at 3,039, against 4,788 in 1903, showing a decrease of 749. The case mortality was 1·20, against 1·94 per cent.

During the year two cyclones were felt at Mauritius. The first was not accompanied by the usual amount of rain, while the rainfall due to the second (in March) was very high. On the other hand, the rainfall was not as equally distributed as in 1903, a large number of dry days being recorded in January, February, April and May, so that, with the higher average temperature and lower humidity prevailing, pools quickly dried and mosquitoes did not consequently propagate as rapidly as in 1903, with the good result already noticed.

Five hundred and five (505) cases of dysentery were admitted during 1904. The decrease on the figures for 1903 is 329. The case mortality, however, increased from 12·7 to 17·2, accountable probably by the fact that only the worst cases resorted to hospital for treatment. The lesser prevalence of the disease is due to the meteorological conditions which prevailed, less manured soil finding access to the water supplies owing to the comparatively less heavy rains.

Enteric fever shows an incidence similar to that for 1903 (15), the case mortality being 33·33 per cent. Five patients died, of whom three had been practically admitted "in articulo mortis."

Besides the 15 cases referred to, there occurred in the general population of the island 128 cases (an increase of 62 over 1903). Of these, 26 proved fatal. This total does not, it is feared, represent the extent of the prevalence of typhoid in the island.

Influenza, next to malaria, accounts for the greatest number of admissions, *i.e.*, 1,036 for 1904, against 1,055 for 1903. The case mortality has also decreased from 2·9 to 2·31.

Tuberculosis.—The number of admissions for that complaint, 1013, shows a decrease of 97 over that for 1903. It does not,

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Royal College and Schools in connexion.

Secondary education is given at the Royal College with its two preparatory schools, the schools associated with the Royal College and the girls' schools working under the scheme for the higher education of girls.

The number of pupils at the Royal College and its two schools in December were:—

College Proper	260
Curepipe School	74
Port Louis School	43
Total	377

Of these, 255 were paying and 122 free pupils.

The free pupils belonged to the following classes:—

(1) Indigent pupils whose fees have been paid for two years	11
(2) Holders of eleemosynary scholarships ...	25
(3) Scholars and Exhibitioners from primary schools	32
(4) Scholars and Exhibitioners whose free tuition has been extended	21
(5) Holders of scholarships and exhibitions won at the College and associated schools ...	33
Total	122

In the Royal College pupils are prepared for the London Matriculaltion and the Cambridge Senior Local Examinations.

The passing of these examinations qualifies the successful candidates for entrance to the highest classes of the College on the classical and modern sides, respectively.

For the London Matriculation, 8 pupils were presented and 3 passed in the first and 3 in the second division. For the Cambridge Senior, 66 College pupils and 12 outsiders entered; 28 College pupils and 3 outsiders passed.

In each of the highest classes a scholarship is annually given of the value of about £1,000 to enable students to follow some special course of study abroad, in general at some institution in the United Kingdom.

No. 27 determines the procedure to be followed in cases in which public officers have by law to furnish security by mortgage on immovable property for the due discharge of their functions.

No. 31 provides for the raising of a loan under the provision of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance, 1887, to meet the cost of the Black River Railway Extension and certain drainage, water, and other public works.

No. 36 is an important piece of legislation. It consolidates and amends all our laws on distilleries.

No. 39 gives power to the Governor, on the advice of the Executive Council, to authorise the execution of military manœuvres in the Colony.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

In the year 1904 there were 68 Government and 86 grant-in-aid schools in the Colony.

The average number of pupils on the roll for the year at the Government schools was 8,060, and at the grant-in-aid schools 9,088, the average numbers in attendance being 5,545 at the Government, and 6,568 at the grant-in-aid schools.

Of the grant-in-aid schools, 66 were Roman Catholic, 17 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, and 1 Mahomedan.

In these schools pupils are taught, under six standards, English, French, and Arithmetic, the compulsory subjects for passes in the standards; in addition at the great majority of the schools an extended programme is taught in one or more of the subjects, English, French, Arithmetic, Geography, Elementary Science (for boys), and Needlework (for girls).

Examinations are conducted annually by the Inspectors of Schools, who also pay frequent visits of inspection to the schools during the year.

All the schools are open, without payment of fee, to children of all classes and creeds between the ages of 5 and 16, or in some cases 18.

Religious instruction is imparted to the pupils of Christian creeds in both Government and grant-in-aid schools at hours especially set apart in the curriculum of each school, by the clergy of their various denominations.

Means and Extremes of Meteorological Elements.

The means and extremes of the various meteorological elements for the year 1904 are given below:—

—	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.
Atmospheric Pressure ...	Ins. 30·086	Ins. 30·356	Ins. 29·486
Air Temperature	72·6°	89·9°	50·9°
Relative Humidity ...	Per cent. 74·8	Per cent. 96·9	Per cent. 39·2
Wind Velocity	M.p.h. 9·6	M.p.h. 44·2	—
Wind Direction	S. 77° E.	--	—
Rainfall	Total. 43·11	—	—

Results of Magnetic Observations.

The magnetographs were at work throughout the year and absolute values of the magnetic elements determined, as a rule, four times a month. The following are the mean results for 1903:—

Declination (west)	9° 14' 9"
Dip (south)	53° 54' 4"
Horizontal Force (C.G.S. units) ...	0·23633
Vertical Force (C.G.S. units) ...	0·32419
Total Force (C.G.S. units)	0·40119

The largest magnetic disturbances occurred on May 12th and 13th, June 15th and 16th, August 3rd and 4th, October 21st, and November 25th.

Miscellaneous Work at the Royal Alfred Observatory.

Actinometric observations were taken on those days on which the sky was free from cloud in the neighbourhood of the sun at or near apparent noon.

Sixty-five earthquakes were recorded by the Milne Seismograph during the year. The ordinates of the seismograms were measured at every hour of Mauritius civil time, for the study of diurnal changes of level.

The sun was observed on 328 days, on seven of which no spots were seen; 545 photographs were taken.

Wind Velocity.

The wind velocity decreased generally, relatively to the normal, from October, 1903, to August, 1904, and then increased; completing a minimum corresponding to the maximum in the abnormality curve of barometric pressure, indicating that the centre of action of the + pressure pulse has shifted northward, decreasing the gradient over Mauritius; the quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
M.p.h.	M.p.h.	M.p.h.	M.p.h.
− 0·5	− 1·9	− 2·2	+ 1·0

The corresponding departures from the average of the wind direction, counting from south, were + 11·5°, − 4·1°, + 1·0°, + 6·2°.

Rainfall.

The rainfall abnormality curve rose to a sharp maximum in March and then fell generally to a minimum in December, after a slight rise in July: the quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.
− 3·00	+ 1·24	− 1·85	− 0·97

Sky Glows.

The morning and evening sky glows were not so intense as in 1903.

Zodiacal Light.

The Zodiacal light has also been less noticeable than in former years.

of the year, with, however, a superposed negative wave, culminating in March, due to cyclones in the South Indian Ocean.

The pressure abnormality curve since the end of the year 1901 has been remarkable both for amplitude and regularity: it fell generally from + 0·042 in. in September, 1901, to − 0·090 in. in December, 1902; rose to + 0·062 in. in June, 1904, and then decreased to − 0·036 in. by January, 1905.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–August.	September–December.
Ins. 0·000	Ins. + 0·021	Ins. + 0·026	Ins. + 0·018

Air Temperature.

In the temperature abnormality curve, the gradual approach to a minimum was interrupted by the accentuated depression in October, November, and December, 1903, which created a secondary minimum, the principal minimum occurring in August, 1904.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
− 0·5°	− 1·0°	− 1·3°	− 0·5°

Judging from the curves alone, there is promise of a relatively warm winter in 1905 followed by a still warmer summer in 1905-6.

Relative Humidity.

The departure from normal relative humidity was small during the year, showing no marked wave as in 1902-3; the quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. − 0·2	Per cent. − 0·1	Per cent. − 0·1	Per cent. − 0·6

The daily average of prisoners was 95, and 97 remained in custody at the end of the year. There were 3 deaths from the following causes:—

Dysentery. Phthisis.
Bubonic plague.

The average cost per head during the eight months the prison was open was Rs. 138.51.

The prisoners are employed as follows:—

Outside the prison.—Carting stones for the Public Works Department, cleaning public cells and yards, District Court offices and yards.

Inside the prison.—White-washing cells, wards, and boundary walls, washing prison clothes, cleaning cells and yards, performing latrine services; also as cooks and hospital servants.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
442	Trinidad and Tobago	1903–1904
443	St. Lucia	1903
444	Basutoland	1903–1904
445	Leeward Islands	"
446	St. Vincent	"
447	Bermuda	1904
448	St. Helena	"
449	Falkland Islands	"
450	Weihaiwei	"
451	Hong Kong	"
452	Gambia	"
453	Gibraltar	"
454	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
455	British Honduras	"
456	Seychelles	"
457	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
458	Straits Settlements	"
459	Southern Nigeria	"
460	Sierra Leone	"
461	British Solomon Islands	1903–1905
462	Malta	1904–1905
463	Grenada	1904
464	St. Vincent	"
465	Gold Coast	"
466	Barbados	1904–1905
467	Uganda	"
468	Somaliland	"
469	Trinidad and Tobago	"
470	Lagos	1904
471	Bahamas...	1904–1905
472	British Central Africa Protectorate	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon

X.—GENERAL.

The sugar crop, the mainstay of the Colony, was a short one in 1904, but prices fortunately ruled higher than they have done for a considerable period. They ranged as follows:—

Year.	Month.	Prices.
		Rs.
1904	January ...	7.90
"	February ...	7.80
"	March	8.00
"	April	8.00
"	May	8.50
"	June	9.55
"	July	9.55
"	August ...	8.85
"	September ...	9.90
"	October ...	10.80
"	November ...	11.95
"	December ...	12.15
1905	January ...	12.15
"	February ...	13.30
"	March	13.35
"	April	13.35
"	May	11.10
"	June	11.10

The planter of Mauritius for several years past has had a hard struggle with adversity, his battle at times has been for very existence; but he has been brave in heart and ready in resource, and it is a great pleasure to be able to record now that, for a while at least, fortune smiles again, in a limited measure I may be told, on the sugar industry of the Colony. The crop of 1905, which we have just begun to reap, is an extremely abundant one, and if prices be fair—a question which now agitates the minds of all of us—the year in which I write should be one of prosperity and plenty.

D. C. Cameron,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

July 23rd, 1905.

RODRIGUES.

The Island of Rodrigues, the Magistrate in charge reports, was visited by a somewhat serious cyclone in April, 1904, which did considerable damage to the crops; a severe drought unfortunately followed the cyclone, and agriculture suffered to a large extent in the island during the year under review.

The following statements give in a comparative form the value of the imports and exports, and the revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the last two years:—

Trade.

Year.	Exports.	Imports.
	Rs.	Rs.
1903	176,675	237,346
1904	201,861	226,190

The following were the principal exports:—

—	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.
Horned Cattle	4,380	11,160
Goats	22,020	49,188
Pigs	5,875	9,750
Salt Fish	120,345	97,933
Tobacco...	16,380	27,300

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1903	12,155	33,580
1904	12,122	30,706

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

The contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company was renewed in 1904 for another year, for a four-weekly service between Mauritius and Colombo. There was also a four-weekly service by these steamers to and from South Africa, which ceased on the 6th April, 1904. Besides the British India Steamers, our mails to and from the East were conveyed by the other British and French steamers.

The Messageries Maritimes Company mail packets, interrupted for some months by a strike at Marseilles, continued their bi-monthly voyages from Marseilles to Mauritius, and *vice versâ*, calling at Aden, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Réunion. The mails for, and from, South Africa ports were conveyed by the Union Castle steamers and Clan Line steamers.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 506.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 473.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1906.

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No. 506.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 473.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Mauritius,
30th August, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1905, together with a copy of the usual report thereon, prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. In forwarding this report I desire to say that the financial situation, which is the result of a series of deficits, is now under control, and with a continuance of economical administration may even become prosperous.

3. The present crop promises to be most abundant, and if fair prices are realised, the position of the sugar industry, on which the revenue is dependent, is likely to become more prosperous than it has been for years.

4. The planters have had to contend with one calamity after another, but I am glad to say that the difficulties have been met in a spirit of confidence, and that the sugar industry is now sufficiently equipped to be almost independent of any recrudescence of the surra epizooty.

I have, &c.,

GRAHAM BOWER.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

1125 Wt 23907 11/06 D & S 5 26061

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1905.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the financial year 1904-05 amounted to Rs. 10,399,554 as shown by the following comparative statement:—

Revenue.

	Heads of Revenue.	1903-4.	1904-5.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Customs	3,575,826.01	3,567,495.72	—	8,330.29
2	Port, Harbour, Wharf, and Lighthouse Dues.	236,528.32	206,843.90	—	29,684.42
3	Licenses, Excise and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	2,624,936.45	2,464,920.98	—	160,015.47
4	Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	238,865.86	239,259.88	394.02	—
5	Post Office and Telegraphs	140,971.41	136,720.36	—	4,251.05
6	Government Railways ...	1,890,104.18	2,657,596.00	767,491.82	—
7	Rent of Government Property.	57,088.36	70,752.16	13,663.80	—
8	Interest	634,660.99	908,899.53	274,238.54	—
9	Miscellaneous Receipts ...	74,041.88	146,902.11	72,860.23	—
10	Land Sales	88.84	164.27	75.43	—
	Total	9,473,112.30	10,399,554.91	1,128,723.84	202,281.23

The increase of revenue as compared with the previous year was mainly due to certain repayments by planters under the "advances in aid" and the "mechanical transport" loans, and to the collection of large arrears of railway revenue.

Expenditure.

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure for the years 1903-04 and 1904-05:—

	Heads of Expenditure.	1903-4.	1904-5.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Public Debt	945,578.76	1,022,873.25	77,294.49	—
2	Pensions	553,070.25	560,432.73	7,362.48	—
3	Governor and Legislature	80,653.44	94,156.55	13,503.11	—
4	Colonial Secretary... ...	69,063.77	67,066.92	—	1,996.85
5	Receiver General	146,941.71	148,693.26	1,748.55	—
6	Auditor General	59,256.67	55,306.45	—	3,950.22

Expenditure—cont.

	Heads of Expenditure.	1903–4.	1904–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
7	Customs	228,675.19	233,374.12	4,698.93	—
8	Port and Marine	458,706.96	421,132.17	—	37,574.79
9	Observatory...	21,667.97	23,557.13	1,889.16	—
10	Museum	12,067.11	10,571.08	—	1,496.03
11	Registrar General	29,098.66	20,746.46	—	8,352.20
12	Receiver of Registration Dues.	52,227.28	50.188.54	—	2,038.74
13	Post Office	167,851.37	147,637.23	—	20,214.14
14	Woods and Forests ...	133,505.29	143,258.44	9,753.15	—
15	Judicial Departments ...	500,167.23	495,660.43	—	4,506.80
16	Ecclesiastical	143,635.96	152,635.96	9,000.00	—
17	Education	573,356.55	595,299.19	21,942.64	—
18	Medical and Health Department.	735,855.13	750,569.28	14,714.15	—
19	Quarantine	18,435.84	61,948.43	43,512.59	—
20	Poor Law Commission ...	214,470.46	210,321.23	—	4,149.23
21	Police	540,309.21	533,882.01	—	6,427.20
22	Prisons	158,193.03	169,345.25	11,152.22	—
23	Storekeeper General ...	42,167.54	40,683.76	—	1,483.78
24	Immigration	109,997.63	142,376.74	32,379.11	—
25	Dependencies	52,791.93	70,295.14	17,503.21	—
26	Crown Agents	18.104.69	15,258.69	—	2,845.00
27	Writers and Copyists ...	6,716.70	5,855.22	—	861.48
28	Transport	13,257.60	7,925.98	—	5,331.62
29	Miscellaneous	307,848.74	814,182.10	506,333.36	—
30	Charitable Allowances ...	16,646.77	36,793.31	20,146.54	—
31	Interest and Exchange ...	204,723.89	246,252.45	41,528.56	—
32	Military Contribution ...	431,853.92	433,274.21	1,420.29	—
33	Railways	2,407,057.30	1,872,258.06	—	534,799.24
34	Public Works and Surveys	73,228.20	69,010.90	—	4,217.30
35	Public Works, Recurrent...	549,713.84	546,253.61	—	3,460.23
36	Do., Extraordinary ...	144,206.75	24,433.00	—	119,773.75
37	Loan Commission	14,148.00	14,278.98	130.98	—
38	Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.	62,422.37	44,733.29	—	17,689.08
39	Drainage Works	23,488.03	24,133.32	645.29	—
40	Secret Service	805.60	526.55	—	278.45
41	Plague Service	342,146.20	186,340.01	—	155,806.19
		10,664,115.94	10,563,521.43	836,658.81	937,253.32

The decrease in expenditure may be attributed to the fact that no railway extensions were undertaken in 1904-05, and also to reduction of expenditure under public works (extraordinary) and plague services.

The expenditure of the year, therefore, exceeded the revenue by Rs. 163,967, and as the Treasury balance on 1st July, 1904, amounted only to Rs. 82,247, a deficit balance of Rs. 81,720 was shown on the 30th June, 1905. Against this is to be set a sum of Rs. 881,961 spent on certain public works out of the general revenue in previous years, which is recoverable from the loan raised by the Crown Agents in London in December, 1905, under Ordinance 31, of 1904. By the transfer of this sum from loan account to the credit of revenue, the deficit will be made good, and the reserve fund will be reconstituted with a sum of fund Rs. 800,241 to its credit.

Position of the Colony at the Close of the Year 1904–5.

	Rs.
At the close of the year 1904-05, the balance in favour of the Treasury was shown as ...	82,247
As the expenditure of the 1904-05 exceeded the revenue by	163,967
A deficit balance of	81,720

is, therefore, shown on 30th June, 1905.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years, and the Treasury balances at the close of each year, were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.	Debit Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1900	9,179,968	8,568,923	1,704,424	
1901–2 ...	9,140,754	9,043,066	1,834,669	
1902–3 ...	9,221,600	9,575,182	1,263,430	
1903–4 ...	9,473,112	10,664,115	82,247	
1904–5 ...	10,399,554	10,563,521	—	81,720

The difference between the revenue and expenditure of 1904-05—Rs. 163,967—being met from Treasury balances, and the repayment from loan account as above explained.

Assets and Liabilities on 30*th June*, 1905.

1. Commissioners of currency:—

	Rs.
Assets	7,025,416
Liabilities	6,876,250
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...	149,166

2. Government savings bank:—

	Rs.
Assets	3,138,360
Liabilities	2,837,662
Balance in favour of bank	300,698

3. Curatelle:—

	Rs.
Assets	465,791
Liabilities	465,791

4. Treasury proper:—

	Rs.
Assets	7,276,578
Liabilities	7,358,298
Deficit	81,720

5. Public debt:—

The public debt stood as follows on the 30th June, 1905:—

(1) Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	£37,093	10	0
(2) Moka Railway 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	700	0	0
(3) Consolidated 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	52,000	0	0
(4) Mauritius inscribed stock, under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887, including loan made for Mare-aux-Vacos (£34,000)	482,390	16	0
(5) Hurricane Loan 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock, under Ordinance 4, of 1892	600,000	0	0
(6) Advances-in-aid Loan, under Ordinance No. 43 of 1902	98,800	0	0
	£1,270,984	6	0

For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock, the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the trustees on the 30th June, 1905, amounted to £197,807, the amount duly provided as required by law.

The sum at the credit of the sinking funds on 30th June, 1905, showed an increase of £16,693 on the previous year.

Currency.

Amount of currency notes on 31st December, 1905:—

Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents)	£483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,405	0	0
	£3,888	16	5

Rupee notes, under Ordinance 28, of 1876:—

	Rs.
1. In the Commissioners' vault	...2,699,995
2. In the hands of the public (including the banks and financial officers)... ...	...4,176,250
	6,876,245

CHANGES IN TAXATION.

During the year the imports duties of Customs on tobacco were increased generally by 6 per cent. to cover an equivalent amount of duty levied on cigarette paper, the duty on the latter being converted into an *ad valorem* one.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Statement of the revenue and expenditure of the municipality of Port Louis for year ended 31st December, 1905:—

	Rs.
Balance in hand 1st January, 1905 ...	12,942.68
Revenue during the year	*746,334.88
	759,277.56
Expenditure	*681,563.67
Balance in hand on 31st December, 1905...	77,713.89

The following is a comparative statement of the normal revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1901	442,854.46	448,214.52
1902	442,825.20	472,875.39
1903	†422,351.45	451,345.77
1904	501,365.27	502,601.14
1905	‡548,138.80	492,785.18

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* Including advances, deposits, loan of £10,000, &c.

† Not including a loan of Rs. 30,000 for the purchase of the buildings of the Gas Company and of a traction engine for scavenging purposes.

‡ Not including a loan of £10,000 for Electric Lighting plant of the town.

Statement of the debt of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis on 31st December, 1905, showing provision for payment in 1906:—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1906.
	£	£ s. d.
Conversion Loan	122,000	1,600 0 0
Electric Lighting Loan	10,000	333 6 8
	Rs.	Rs. c.
Colonial Loan	31,200	7,800.00
Grand River Bridge Loan	12,000	2,000.00
Manure Establishment Loan	22,000	2,000.00
Government Hurricane Loan	90,114	5,766.60
Flood Loan	12,500	4,167.00
Municipality Loan	26,000	2,000.00
Total	193,814	23,733.60

Provision for payment of capital and interest on the above loans has been duly made in the annual budget of the Corporation.

Besides the Municipal Council of Port Louis, which is an elective assembly, there are three township boards—

Curepipe,

Beau Bassin and Rose Hill,

Quatre Bornes,

appointed annually by the Governor to administer the affairs of those places.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CUREPIPE.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	Half-year 1903.	1903-04.	1904-05.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	59,759.18	115,590.13	121,322.70	35,536.20	82,771.72	68,933,62
Expenditure ..	57,108.48	88,426.58	120,286.57	34,261.02	81,158.12	67,729.06

Debt of the Board of Curepipe.

—	Amount.	
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Amount of Debentures issued in 1901 and 1902 for the construction of the Town Hall, in virtue of Ordinance No. 39 of 1900.	70,000	
2. Amount paid off in 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1905 ...	10,000	60,000
3. Government Special Loan repayable in 10 Annuities.	25,000	
Amount paid off in 1905	2,500	22,500
Total		82,500

Provision is made annually for repayment.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	22,705 09	28,252.08	29,342.81	29,270.19	29,345.61	26,644.97
Expenditure ..	25,377.09	27,520.54	33,133.34	29,235.29	26,260.19	28,186.97

Debt.—A loan of Rs. 20,000 was made to the Board by Government on its creation to permit of the works of repairing and draining the streets and lanes of the township being undertaken without delay. This amount is refunded by annual instalments of Rs. 1,500, and the debt is now reduced to Rs. 4,500.

A further loan of Rs. 5,000 was made to the Board in 1901 to be reimbursed after settlement of the loan of Rs. 20,000.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF QUATRE BORNES.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	10,060.70	12,827.14	13,627.55	15,460.80	12,724.51	12,549.48
Expenditure ..	11,418.02	10,148.32	13,454.95	14,000.25	13,274.16	12,571.97

Debt. Rs. 615.—This represents the share to be paid to Government by the Board for re-metalling a main road in the township. Provision has been made in the estimates to pay off this debt.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statements show in a comparative form the value of the imports and exports for the year 1905:—

VALUE of IMPORTS (exclusive of charges and exchange) and EXPORTS (exclusive of shipping charges), classified according to Circular of December, 1901, of the Secretary of State.

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	12,554,922.31	10,007,518.86	38,908,449.47	33,081,513.65	136,493.01	123,901.03	39,044,942.48	33,205,414.68
2. Raw Materials:—								
1. Textile ...	11,448.70	6,375.98	603,383.71	543,034.90	654.20	—	604,037.91	543,034.90
2. Metal... ...	—	—	—	—	1,454.00	—	1,454.00	—
3. Other... ...	1,839,536.54	1,847,770.73	21,163.74	29,467.23	21,080.40	8,434.00	42,244.14	37,901.23
3. Manufactured Articles:—								
1. Textile ...	2,589,309.20	2,308,417.39	1,180.00	4,910.50	34,062.49	14,765.99	35,242.49	19,676.49
2. Metal... ...	1,554,990.85	1,018,992.07	18,170.00	28,891.00	70,255.15	106,164.10	88,425.15	135,055.10
3. Other... ...	3,991,016.52	2,747,259.42	10,578.50	5,594.00	338,413.39	574,474.30	348,991.89	580,048.30
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	1,633,705.60	740,568.00	—	—	1,840,336.00	206,891.50	1,840,336.00	206,891.50
Total ...	24,174,929.72	18,676,902.45	39,562,925.42	33,693,411.28	2,442,748.64	1,034,610.92	42,005,674.06	34,728,022.20

VALUE of IMPORTS (exclusive of charges and exchange) and EXPORTS (exclusive of shipping charges), classified according to Circular of December, 1901, of the Secretary of State.

Coastwise.

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	412,959.54	402,108.32	21,051.72	12,385.91	213,377.53	202,543.06	234,429.25	214,928.97
2. Raw Materials :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	—	—	293.50	—	293.50	—
2. Metal... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Other... ...	12,148.00	9,992.25	1,745.00	156.00	9,594.24	1,120.50	11,339.24	1,276.50
3. Manufactured Articles :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	35.00	225.00	70,646.15	156,908.60	70,681.15	157,133.06
2. Metal ...	—	—	350.20	568.30	21,100.13	18,801.15	21,450.33	19,369.45
3. Other... ...	14,681.00	21,601.85	4,629.65	5,984.46	57,395.64	69,379.04	62,025.29	75,363 50
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	—	—	—	—	12,345.00	5,000.00	12,345.00	5,000.00
Total ...	439,788.54	433,702.42	27,811.57	19,319.67	384,752.19	453,751.81	412,563.76	473,071.48

CUSTOMS.

The following statements show the value of goods imported into, and exported from, Mauritius during the year 1905.

Imports.

Countries.	Value in Rupees of the Total Imports, exclusive of Charges and Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	4,368,197.78	2,988,975.88	7,357,173.66
British Possessions	10,656,607.40	2,885,047.29	13,541,654.69
Foreign Countries	3,652,097.27	2,393,473.58	6,045,570.85
Total	18,676,902.45*	8,267,496.75	26,944,399.20

* Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion imported (Rs. 740,568.00).

Exports.

Countries.	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Shipping Charges on Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	2,042,355.71	126,135.73	522,587.94	2,691,079.38
British Possessions.	30,907,777.18	1,943,734.91	356,495.35	33,208,007.44
Foreign Countries	743,278.39	45,153.31	155,527.63	943,959.33
Total ...	33,693,411.28	2,115,023.95	1,034,610.92	36,843,046.15†

† Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion exported (Rs. 206,891.50).

TRADE IN MAURITIUS.

The total value of imports into, and exports from, the Colony (exclusive of duty-free goods to and from the Dependencies) for the year ended 31st December, 1905, compared with 1904, can be thus summarized:—

—	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	35,416,624.01	26,944,399.20
Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	42,005,674.06	34,728,022.20
Total	77,422,298.07	61,672,421.40

accounted for as under:—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	11,108,713.75	7,357,173.66	6,288,850.19	2,564,943.65
British Possessions.	17,500,470.21	13,541,654.69	34,701,254.02	31,264,272.53
Foreign Countries.	6,807,440.05	6,045,570.85	1,015,569.85	898,806.02
Total ...	35,416,624.01	26,944,399.20	42,005,674.06	34,728,022.20

2. The total value of imports and exports, from and to the Dependencies, per coast sufferances, is as follows:—

—	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	439,788.54	433,702.42
Exports	412,563.76	473,071.48
Total	852,352.30	906,773.90

3. The aggregate value of trade is, therefore, as under:—

—	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	35,856,412.55	27,378,101.62
Exports	42,418,237.82	35,201,093.68
Total	78,274,650.37	62,579,195.30

4. Excluding the value of exports to, and imports from, the Dependencies, the rate of trade per head of population (*i.e.*, for 1904—383,364 souls, and for 1905—382,787 souls) was:—

—	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	92.26	70.39
Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	109.42	90.72

5. The value of specie and bullion, imported and exported, is as follows:—

—	1904.			1905.		
	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	1,633,705.60	362,387.14	1.996,092.74	740,568.00	46,968.10	792,936.10
Exports	1,840,336.00	—	1.840,336.00	206,891.50	—	206,891.50
Total	3,474,041.60	363,387.14	3,836,428.74	947,459.50	46,968.10	999,827.60

6. Deducting specie and bullion, the declared value of imports and exports, mentioned in paragraph 1, is as follows:—

—	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	33,420,531.27	26,151,463.10
Exports	40,165,338.06	34,521,130.70
Total...	73,585,869.33	60,672,593.80

7. The amount of duty collected during the years (1st January to 31st December) 1904 and 1905 is as under:—

—	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.
On Imports...	3,146,871.92	2,918,695.84
On Exports...	636,041.64	526,717.49
Amount collected ...	3,782,913.56	3,445,413.33

	Rs.
(1) The 4 per cent. surcharge produced:—	
In 1904	119,613.26
In 1905	99,085.42
(2) The additional 16 per cent. surcharge produced:—	
In 1904 (2nd to 31st December)	33,310.62
In 1905	329,471.02

Postal Parcels.

8. The declared value of the parcels imported and exported during the past five years 1901 to 1905 is as under:—

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imported ...	214,534.60	231,993.73	224,885.17	297,804.73	263,198·86
Exported ...	19,388.42	20,628.64	28,624.83	33,467.35	42,286.27
Total ...	233,923.02	252,622.37	253,510.00	331,272.08	305,485.13

10. The total value of imports and exports for the last five years 1901 to 1905 is as under:—

Imports and Exports.

Year.	Imports, including Charges and Exchange.	Exports, including Shipping Charges.
	Rs.	Rs.
1901	31,146,760.00	30,617,204·43
1902	30,738,778.11	38,341,695.55
1903	39,269,847.24	37,794,266.75
1904	35,416,624.01	44,545,320.33
1905	26,944,399.20	36,843,046.15

IMPORTS.

11. Dealing with the articles and their values according to the entries for 1904 and 1905 the following results are noticeable. It may be said that there are indications that abnormally large stocks were brought over generally at the end of the year previous to that under consideration.

Acids.

Phosphoric.—The imports for 1905 show a decrease of kilos 42,307 in weight and of Rs. 10,990 in value, as compared with the previous year. The decrease is due to less imports from the United Kingdom.

Ammonia Sulphate.

Kilos 372,004 more were imported in 1905, giving a surplus in value of Rs. 75,283, due principally to imports from the United Kingdom, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 175,829. Australia shows a shrinkage of Rs. 93,388, and France supplied nil, against Rs. 6,619 in 1904.

Animals.

Asses.—77 asses, valued Rs. 12,424, were imported from the Argentine Republic in 1905, against 314, valued Rs. 41,423, in 1904. Continental India and Australia supplied 96, valued Rs. 4,435, and 123, valued Rs. 20,530, respectively, in 1904, against nil in 1905. The Argentine Republic supplied 18 less in 1905, giving a shortage in value of Rs. 4,035.

Cows and Oxen.—3,276 head, of the value of Rs. 299,219, were received in 1904, against 7,316 head, of the value of Rs. 653,587, in 1905. There is therefore an increase of 4,040 in number and of Rs. 354,368 in value. Oxen are exclusively supplied from Madagascar.

Ponies.—Sandalwood supplied 384, of the value of Rs. 87,074, in 1905, against 191, of the value of Rs. 24,688, in the previous year, showing an increase of 193 in number and of Rs. 62,386 in value.

Horses.—Only three horses, of the value of Rs. 2,776, were imported in 1905, against 1,367, of the value of Rs. 340,108, in 1904. The decrease for this year is of 1,364 head and of Rs. 337,332 in value, arising from short importations from the following countries:—

Countries.	Number.	Value.
		Rs.
Australia	1,108	275,189
Continental India ...	65	19,022
Argentine Republic ...	191	43,121
Total	1,364	337,332

In 1904 a great number of horses were imported to replace those which died of surra, and the importations of 1905 suffered in consequence.

Mules.—1,334 mules, of the value of Rs. 434,918, were imported in 1905, against 1,216, of the value of Rs. 314,320, in 1904. The increase is of 118 in number and of Rs. 120,598 in value. The Argentine Republic shows an increase of 277 head and of Rs. 162,576 in value, while Australia shows a decrease of 116 head with a shortage of Rs. 11,652 in value.

Apothecaries' Wares.

This item shows an increase of Rs. 64,375 in value due chiefly to more imports from the United Kingdom and from France amounting to Rs. 21,247 and Rs. 42,875 respectively.

Apparel, Wearing.

The value of the imports for 1904 amounted to Rs. 139,536, against Rs. 150,899 for 1905, showing a surplus of Rs. 11,363. The increase is from the United Kingdom (Rs. 3,911), Continental India (Rs. 5,954), Austria, China, Pondicherry (Rs. 16,548). Decreases are noticeable under France (Rs. 13,729) and Germany.

Areca Nuts.

Kilos 47,964, valued Rs. 12,493, were received in 1905, against kilos 14,710, valued Rs. 3,691, in 1904, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 33,254 and in value of Rs. 8,802, due principally to more imports from Continental India. Ceylon supplied kilos 3,380, of the value of Rs. 1,153, in 1905, against nil in the preceding year.

Automobiles.

In 1904 four automobiles, of the value of Rs. 31,131, were received from the United Kingdom, and four others, of the value of Rs. 25,474, were received from Germany, aggregating eight in number and Rs. 56,605 in value. In 1905 only one automobile, valued Rs. 4,449, was received from the United Kingdom. There is therefore a decrease of seven in number and of Rs. 52,156 in value.

Bacon and Hams.

Kilos 30,380, of the value of Rs. 36,674, were imported in 1905, almost entirely from the United Kingdom, against kilos 39,647, valued Rs. 46,852, in 1904. This decrease is due principally to imports from Australia amounting to kilos 10,190, valued Rs. 9,839, in 1904, against nil in 1905. There is a small increase from the United Kingdom, while Denmark, Holland, the United States, and France supplied none in 1905, against small quantities imported in 1904.

Bags.

Gunny.—1,156,585 less bags were received in 1905, with a decrease of Rs. 314,173 in value. The decrease is chiefly from Continental India, which supplied 1,153,970 less bags with a smaller value of Rs. 313,765. Australia supplied 2,615 bags, valued Rs. 407, in 1904, against nil in 1905.

Straw.—Madagascar supplied 113,450 less bags, with a shortage in value of Rs. 10,751 compared with 1904.

Beef, Salted.

There is a large decrease both in weight, of kilos 286,734 and in value of Rs. 123,431, due principally to less imports from the United States, which supplied kilos 258,125 less with a difference in value of Rs. 116,338. The United Kingdom shows also a slight decrease both in weight and in value. From Canada kilos 13,550, of the value of Rs. 5,940, were imported in 1904, against nil in 1905. The decrease is principally due to the low price of fresh meat imported from Madagascar.

Beer and Ale.

In casks.—This article is exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom. There is a decrease of hect. 1,474, with a shortage in value of Rs. 30,017.

In bottles.—The imports for 1905 show an increase of litres 16,672, with a surplus in value of Rs. 9,048, due to more supplies from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Denmark.

Boats.

Three boats, valued Rs. 575, were received from the United Kingdom and Denmark in 1905, against six, valued Rs. 5,139, in 1904. There is a decrease therefore of three boats in number and of Rs. 4,564 in value.

Books, Printed.

The imports for 1905 were valued at Rs. 24,942, against Rs. 45,492 in the previous year. There is therefore a shortage of Rs. 20,550 in value, due chiefly to less supplies from the United Kingdom, Continental India, and France to the amount of Rs. 15,880, Rs. 2,310, and Rs. 2,632 respectively.

Bran.

The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 2,096,015, of the value of Rs. 189,322, against kilos 1,819,562, of the value of Rs. 136,382, for 1904, showing an increase both in weight, of kilos 276,453 and in value, of Rs. 52,940, due to more supplies principally from Continental India.

Decreases are noticeable under Australia and the Argentine Republic.

Brassware.

Compared with 1904 the imports show a decrease of kilos 8,593 in weight and of Rs. 11,884 in value, due chiefly to smaller supplies from Continental India, amounting to Rs. 12,262 under the figures of the previous year.

Brass Ornaments.

Compared with 1904, the imports show an increase of Rs. 5,725 in 1905, due principally to supplies from Continental India, which provided for Rs. 8,425 more than in 1904, while slight decreases are noticeable under the United Kingdom and France.

Bullion.

Bullion to the value of Rs. 18,671 was received in 1905, against Rs. 32,802 in 1904. There is accordingly a decrease in value of Rs. 14,131. Bullion was exclusively imported from Continental India.

Butter.

The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 74,670, of the value of Rs. 135,627, against kilos 66,379, of the value of Rs. 122,900, showing an increase both in weight, of kilos 8,291, and in value, of Rs. 12,727. The increase is from Australia, which provided a surplus of Rs. 47,396, while Denmark shows a substantial decrease of Rs. 29,536. Small decreases are noticed also under France, Italy, and the United States.

Bicycles.

In 1905, 92 bicycles, valued Rs. 10,431, were received, of which the United Kingdom supplied 87, valued Rs. 9,694. In 1904, 107 bicycles, valued Rs. 14,962, were received, of which 93, valued Rs. 13,684, came from the United Kingdom. There is therefore a decrease both of 15 in number and of Rs. 4,531 in value. There is also a decrease in imports from France and the United States.

Cabinet and Upholstery Wares.

The total value of the imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 57,721, against Rs. 77,166 for 1904, showing a falling off of Rs. 19,445. Decreases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 10,530), Austria (Rs. 4,957), Continental India, Germany, and the United States. Slight increases are noticeable in the imports from China, Singapore, and France.

Candles.

Composition.—The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 90,973, of the value of Rs. 59,256, against kilos 93,770, of the value of Rs. 55,071, in 1904, showing a decrease in weight of kilos 2,797, but with an increase of Rs. 4,185 in value. The decreases are from the United Kingdom, Belgium, and France.

Caoutchouc and India-rubber.

Manufactured.—1,712 kilos, valued Rs. 10,528, were received in 1905, against kilos 4,124, valued Rs. 22,610 in 1904. There is a decrease of kilos 2,412 in weight and of Rs. 12,082 in value. This article is exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom.

Cement.

The imports for 1905 show a decrease both in weight of kilos 281,248 and in value of Rs. 10,637. Decreases are noticeable under the United Kingdom and France, amounting to Rs. 7,639 and Rs. 3,479 respectively. Belgium shows a slight increase, while Holland provided for Rs. 1,423 in 1904, against nil in 1905.

Cheese.

In 1905 the importation amounted to kilos 37,035, of the value of Rs. 39,311, against kilos 48,554, of the value of Rs. 46,470 in 1904, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 11,519 and in value of Rs. 7,159—due principally to Australia which supplied, in 1904, kilos 10,413, of the value of Rs. 8,638, against nil in 1905. Small increases are noticeable under the United Kingdom, Germany, and Holland, while France shows a slight decrease.

Clocks and Watches.

The value of the imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 27,593, against Rs. 36,664 in 1904, showing a decrease of Rs. 9,071. The decreases are from France, Germany, United States, and Switzerland, amounting to Rs. 4,188, Rs. 1,415, Rs. 1,544, and Rs. 1,638 respectively.

Coals.

The importation shows a decrease of 26,811 tons, with a shortage in value of Rs. 1,630,587 as compared with the imports for the previous year. The United Kingdom and Australia show short importations of tons 28,883 and tons 1,274 in quantity and of Rs. 1,484,371 and Rs. 108,413 respectively in value. The importations from Continental India are of Rs. 27,803 short in value, although 3,345 tons more were imported.

Coffee.

The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 329,524, of the value of Rs. 169,392, against kilos 215,377, of the value of Rs. 99,748, for 1904, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 114,147 and in value of Rs. 69,644—due principally to more imports from Continental India (Rs. 42,504), Aden

(Rs. 4,779), Brazil (Rs. 20,560) and Java. The United States, however, show a slight decrease.

Confectionery.

The value of the imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 80,279, against Rs. 77,946 for 1904, showing an increase of Rs. 2,333. The increases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 16,464), Austria (Rs. 5,777), Continental India, Holland, and Belgium, whilst decreases are noted under France (Rs. 3,496) and China. Australia provided Rs. 6,624 for 1904, against nil for 1905. On the other hand, small quantities were imported from Switzerland and Seychelles in 1905, against nil in the previous year.

Copper Sheets and Nails.

Yellow.—The imports for 1905 show a decrease, both in weight (of kilos 15,321) and in value (of Rs. 19,931), due principally to the United Kingdom, which provided a less value of Rs. 21,070, as compared with 1904. France supplied Rs. 139 in 1905, against nil for the previous year.

Cordage.

Coir.—Kilos 118,925, of the value of Rs. 27,898, were imported in 1905, against kilos 67,398, of the value of Rs. 13,280, in 1904—there is an increase, therefore, of kilos 51,527 in weight and of Rs. 14,618 in value. The increase is principally from Continental India (Rs. 12,444) and also from the United Kingdom. Hong Kong provided Rs. 3,672 in 1905, against nil in the previous year.

Hemp.—Kilos 20,902, of the value of Rs. 15,601, were imported in 1905, against kilos 36,801, of the value of Rs. 18,465, for the previous year; there is a decrease both in weight of kilos 15,899 and in value of Rs. 2,864. The United Kingdom and Continental India show decreases of Rs. 5,531 and Rs. 1,253 respectively. Hong Kong provided Rs. 3,850 in 1905, against nil the previous year.

Cordials and Liquors.

The importations for 1905 show an increase both in quantity of litres 2,086 and in value of Rs. 9,817, due principally to more imports from France of Rs. 9,816 than in 1904.

Corks and Bungs.

The imports for 1905 show a decrease in number of 571,168, but a surplus in value of Rs. 4,452, due to the higher prices in 1905 in the importations from France.

Corn, Grain and Meal.

Barley.—The imports for 1905 show a decrease both in weight of kilos 10,337 and in value of Rs. 1,706, due to less importations from Continental India.

Beans.—The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 118,159, of the value of Rs. 19,306, against kilos 177,746, of the value of Rs. 30,284, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 59,587 and in value of Rs. 10,978, due principally to less importations from France of Rs. 16,460 in value as compared with 1904. The United Kingdom and China show slight decreases as well. Increases are noticeable from Réunion Island (Rs. 5,315), Australia, Continental India, and Madagascar.

Dholl.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 55,995 and in value of Rs. 2,644.

Gram.—Increase both in weight of kilos 284,023 and in value of Rs. 35,443.

Lentils.—Increase both in weight of kilos 271,245 and in value of Rs. 37,086.

Dholl, gram and lentils are exclusively imported from Continental India.

Maize.—Kilos 7,500, of the value of Rs. 583, were imported from Continental India in 1904. In 1905 the importations amounted to kilos 791, of the value of Rs. 56, from Continental India, and kilos 30,758, of the value of Rs. 2,864, from Madagascar. The increase in the importation amounts to kilos 24,049 in weight and of Rs. 2,337 in value.

Oats.—Compared with 1904, the imports for 1905 show an increase in weight of kilos 6,968 and of Rs. 72,929 in value. From Australia there is a falling off of kilos 550,877. Continental India and the Argentine Confederation show increases of kilos 2,277,539 and kilos 253,290 in weight and of Rs. 66,611 and Rs. 42,711 respectively in value. No imports were received from Cape Colony in 1905, against kilos 585,254, of the value of Rs. 43,543, in 1904.

Peas.—The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 203,164, of the value of Rs. 33,584, against kilos 141,030, of the value of Rs. 16,299 for 1904. The increase is of kilos 62,134 in weight and of Rs. 17,285 in value. Decreases are noted from the United Kingdom and Continental India, amounting to Rs. 1,027 and Rs. 1,563 respectively. Madagascar shows an increase of Rs. 18,750.

Rice.—Compared with 1904, the imports for 1905 show a falling off of kilos 20,793,304 in weight and of Rs. 2,327,067 in value, explained as under:—

Continental India.

Shortage of kilos 19,107,639 in weight and of Rs. 2,084,988 in value.

China.

Excess of kilos 4,936 in weight and of Rs. 1,914 in value.

Madagascar.

Shortage of kilos 181 in weight and of Rs. 75 in value.

Straits Settlements.

Shortage of kilos 1,357,420 in weight and of Rs. 205,349 in value.

Singapore.

Supplied kilos 333,000 of the value of Rs. 35,742 in 1904, against nil in 1905.

Wheat.—In 1905 kilos 432,000, of the value of Rs. 46,382, were exclusively supplied from Continental India. In 1904, Australia and Continental India supplied kilos 15,707 and kilos 331,500 in weight, of the value of Rs. 2,133 and Rs. 31,824 respectively, being an increase of kilos 84,793.

Wheat Flour.—The imports for 1905 show a large shortage both in weight of kilos 3,392,204 and in value of Rs. 518,085, due to less imports from Continental India, which supplied kilos 3,931,061 less, giving a shortage in value of Rs. 547,216. From Australia there is an increase amounting to Rs. 29,370 in value.

Cotton Manufactures.

Coloured.—The imports for 1905 show a decrease of Rs. 72,805 in value as compared with 1904. Decreases are to be noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 72,431), Continental India (Rs. 5,510), Austria (Rs. 996), Pondicherry (Rs. 15,686), and Switzerland (Rs. 13,923).

Belgium, France, Germany, and Italy show increases of Rs. 14,872, Rs. 8,086, Rs. 12,385, and Rs. 417 respectively.

Plain.—The imports for 1905 show an increase of Rs. 1,626. The United Kingdom shows a surplus of Rs. 29,001, while decreases are noted under Continental India and France amounting to Rs. 12,156 and Rs. 16,840 respectively. Belgium provided Rs. 1,659 in 1905, against nil in the previous year.

Thread for Sewing.—There is a decrease of kilos 26 in weight with a surplus of Rs. 5,787 in value, due to the difference in price in the thread imported from the United Kingdom.

Wool.—The value of the imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 8,065, against Rs. 1,074, showing an increase of Rs. 6,991. The United Kingdom provided a surplus of Rs. 2,202. No cotton wool was received in 1904 from Continental India, whilst in 1905 the importation was of the value of Rs. 4,786.

Earthen and China Wares.

Compared with 1904 the imports show an increase of Rs. 13,603; the increase is from France (Rs. 28,998). Decreases are noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 7,488), Germany (Rs. 4,498), Continental India, Austria, and China.

Fireworks.

The imports for 1905 show a falling off of Rs. 6,750, due principally to China, which provided a less value of Rs. 3,807. Decreases are also noted from the United Kingdom, Germany and Hong Kong.

Fish.

Dried or Salted.—There is a decrease both in weight of kilos 203,686 and of Rs. 183,240 in value, due chiefly to Cape Colony, which supplied kilos 30,702 less, giving a shortage of Rs. 206,763 in value as compared with 1904. Increases are noted under the United Kingdom (Rs. 7,837), Madagascar (Rs. 18,736), France, Newfoundland, the United States, and Zanzibar. Nova Scotia provided Rs. 1,284 in 1905, against nil in the previous year. Slight decreases are noted from Seychelles, China, and Canada.

Pickled.—Compared with 1904, the imports in 1905 show a decrease of kilos 28,349 in weight, but a surplus of Rs. 5,765 in value. Canada shows a falling off of kilos 58,230 in weight and of Rs. 8,798 in value. Nova Scotia shows a shrinkage of kilos 8,476 in weight, with an overvalue of Rs. 1,444. The United Kingdom and the United States show increases in weight of kilos 10,849 and kilos 31,158, and in value of Rs. 6,383 and Rs. 7,402 respectively.

Fruits, Dried.

Pistacchio Nuts.—The imports for 1905 show an increase of kilos 23,194 in weight and of Rs. 5,864 in value, due principally to Madagascar, which supplied kilos 29,737 more, giving a surplus in value of Rs. 6,434 as compared with the previous year.

Ghee.

This article is exclusively imported from Continental India, which supplied kilos 33,020 less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 22,288.

Glass.

Window.—5,816 metres less were imported in 1905, of the decreased value of Rs. 6,362. The decrease is due chiefly to less supplies from Belgium.

Glassware.—The value of the imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 73,711, against Rs. 73,739 in 1904. The United Kingdom and Belgium show decreases of Rs. 8,729 and Rs. 2,630. Increases are noted under Austria, France, and Germany, amounting to Rs. 1,605, Rs. 4,100, and Rs. 5,812 respectively.

Haberdashery.

The value of the imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 535,828, against Rs. 747,963 for 1904, showing a falling off of Rs. 212,135. The decreases are under the United Kingdom (Rs. 117,626), France (Rs. 72,150), Continental India (Rs. 10,751), China (Rs. 4,761), Austria, Japan, Pondicherry, and Switzerland. Slight increases are noticeable under Hong Kong, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Turkey, and the United States.

Hardware and Cutlery.

The imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 564,804, against Rs. 998,372 for 1904, showing a large falling off of Rs. 433,568, due chiefly to less supplies of tramway material from the United Kingdom, which sent us goods to a smaller value of Rs. 432,976 in 1905. The United States show a falling off of Rs. 4,668 as well. France and Germany show slight increases of Rs. 4,161 and Rs. 2,079 respectively.

Hats.

Felt.—Compared with the previous year, the imports for 1905 show a decrease of 13,591 in number and of Rs. 15,101 in value. The United Kingdom, Austria, France, and Italy show decreases of Rs. 4,179, Rs. 1,624, Rs. 4,440, and Rs. 4,858 respectively.

Straw.—23,345 less hats were received in 1905, giving a less value of Rs. 33,783, due principally to less imports from the United Kingdom amounting to Rs. 37,502. From Madagascar 24,026 hats, of the value of Rs. 3,955, were received in 1905, against nil in the previous year.

Hay and Straw.

There is an increase in value of Rs. 17,925, as compared with 1904, due principally to the Argentine Republic, which provided a surplus value of Rs. 27,203, while Australia shows a shrinkage of Rs. 8,798.

Hemp, Undressed.

Kilos 4,712 less were imported in 1905, giving a shortage in value of Rs. 4,256, due principally to less imports from the United Kingdom.

Hides.

Raw and Salted.—5,807 of the value of Rs. 5,457 were imported from Madagascar in 1905, against nil in the previous year.

Hulls of Vessels.

Abandoned.—No hull was abandoned in 1905, against two, of the value of Rs. 4,450, for the previous year.

Iron.

Nails.—There is a decrease both in weight of kilos 29,738 and in value of Rs. 9,385, as compared with the previous year. The decrease is from the United Kingdom (Rs. 10,311), Continental India, France, and Germany. Belgium, however, shows an increase of Rs. 4,001.

Sheets.—The United Kingdom supplied kilos 755,913, of the value of Rs. 127,619, in 1905, against kilos 621,670, of the value of Rs. 100,886, in the previous year. There is therefore an increase of kilos 134,243 in weight and of Rs. 26,733 in value. From Belgium were received in 1904 kilos 1,580, of Rs. 22,742, against nil in 1905.

Wrought of other sorts.—The imports of 1905 show, when compared with 1904, a substantial increase both in weight of kilos 565,658 and in value of Rs. 86,696, due chiefly to more supplies from the United Kingdom, which supplied tons 514, valued Rs. 86,515, in the previous year, against tons 1,031, of the value of Rs. 167,764 in 1905. In 1905 Belgium supplied tons 45, of the value of Rs. 4,629, against nil in the previous year.

Jewellery.

The imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 58,992, against Rs. 72,819 for 1904, showing a shrinkage of Rs. 13,827. The United Kingdom, Continental India, Germany, Pondicherry, and Switzerland show decreases of Rs. 3,666, Rs. 4,699, Rs. 1,511, Rs. 3,427, and Rs. 1,350 respectively.

Lard.

Kilos 389,706, of the value of Rs. 185,309 were imported in 1905, against kilos 348,888, of the value of Rs. 190,428, in 1904.

There is, therefore, an increase in weight of kilos 40,818 with a falling off in value of Rs. 5,119. The difference is due to more imports from China, which supplied kilos 100,812 in excess of 1904, with a surplus in value of Rs. 39,331 only. Denmark provided a surplus in value of Rs. 3,977. Australia supplied in 1905 kilos 10,983, of the value of Rs. 6,249, against nil in 1904, while from Austria kilos 21,320, of the value of Rs. 16,497, were imported in 1904, against nil in the previous year. Decreases are noted from France and the United States, amounting to Rs. 27,163 and Rs. 11,215 respectively.

Leather.

Wrought—Boots and Shoes.—40,888 pairs less were imported in 1905, giving a shrinkage in value of Rs. 15,279 as compared with 1904. Decreases are from the United Kingdom, Continental India, and France, amounting to Rs. 2,771, Rs. 4,463, and Rs. 5,581 respectively.

Of other sorts.—The value of the imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 61,023, against Rs. 83,054 for 1904, showing a shrinkage of Rs. 22,031, due principally to France, which provided Rs. 18,667 less than in 1904. The United Kingdom shows also a decrease of Rs. 3,564.

Lime.

Phosphate of.—Kilos 50,000, of the value of Rs. 6,800, were imported in 1904, against kilos 127,397, of the value of Rs. 17,148 in 1905. There is an increase of kilos 77,397 in weight and of Rs. 10,348 in value in 1904.

Sulphate.—Kilos 30,000, of the value of Rs. 4,073, were received from France in 1904, against nil in 1905.

Superphosphate.—The United Kingdom supplied in 1905 kilos 201,600, of the value of Rs. 9,766. In 1904, the United Kingdom and France supplied kilos 462,280 and kilos 103,400, of the value of Rs. 27,188 and Rs. 5,770 respectively. The imports show, therefore, a decrease of kilos 364,080 in weight and of Rs. 23,192 in value, as compared with the imports for the previous year.

Linen Manufactures.

Canvas.—The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 12,548, of the value of Rs. 22,364, against kilos 27,554, of the value of Rs. 36,253, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 15,006 and in value of Rs. 13,889, due principally to less imports from Continental India.

Machinery and Millwork.

Machinery for Millwork.—The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 535,721, of the value of Rs. 268,428, against kilos 540,344, of the value of Rs. 294,381, for 1904, showing a decrease of kilos 4,623 in weight and of Rs. 25,953 in value. The United Kingdom shows an increase of kilos 1,382 in weight but a falling off in value of Rs. 28,187, while France shows a decrease of kilos 4,620 in weight but with a surplus in value of Rs. 734. In 1904 Germany and Holland supplied kilos 1,316, of the value of Rs. 1,372, and kilos 2,456, of the value of Rs. 1,810, respectively, against nil in the previous year. Belgium and the United States supplied in 1905 kilos 1,659, of the value of Rs. 990, and kilos 782, of the value of Rs. 3,332, against nil in the previous year.

Automobiles, Tramway Materials, Accessories, Wire Rope, &c., for Agricultural Purposes.

The value of the imports for 1905 aggregated Rs. 256,821, which are as follows:—Rs. 44,466, value of four locomotives; Rs. 18,603, value of five motor cars; and Rs. 193,752, value of kilos 1,378,999 tramway material, accessories, wire rope, &c., for agricultural purposes; against for 1904 kilos 2,833,885, of the value of Rs. 430,063. There is, therefore, a decrease of Rs. 173,242 in the value of the importations.

The following table is a comparative statement of the amount imported from each country, with the rate of importation for the two years 1904 and 1905, during which period German goods head the list.

—	1904.		1905.	
	Value.	Rate.	Value.	Rate.
	Rs.	Per cent.	Rs.	Per cent.
Germany	258,866	60·2	151,488	59
Belgium	67,347	15·7	42,795	17
United Kingdom	33,712	7·8	25,914	13·5
France	7,240	1·7	26,816	10·5
Holland	62,897	14·6	—	—

Manure.

Guano.—Compared with 1904, the imports for 1905 show a shrinkage in weight of kilos 684,550, and in value of Rs. 1,922. From Seychelles, there is a falling off of kilos 836,880 in weight, and of Rs. 25,389 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 277,330, valued Rs. 30,442 in 1905, against nil in the previous year, while from the Argentine Republic kilos 125,000, valued Rs. 6,975, were imported in 1904, against nil in 1905.

Of other sorts.—The imports for 1905 show, when compared with 1904, a decrease in weight of kilos 474,345, and in value of Rs. 32,822. Decreases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 14.048), Continental India (Rs. 1,505), France (Rs. 12,661), and Ceylon (Rs. 16,462). Australia and Germany provided Rs. 14,104 and Rs 8,674, respectively, in 1904, against nil in 1905, while importations amounting to Rs. 8,407 were received from Holland in 1905 against nil in 1904. The Argentine Republic and Belgium show increases of Rs. 25,870 and Rs. 255, respectively.

Margarine.

The imports for 1905 show an increase both in weight of kilos 9,029 and in value of Rs. 6,451, due to more imports from the United Kingdom (Rs. 5,983), Denmark, Germany (Rs. 5,053), and the United States (Rs. 2,919). There is, however, a falling off of Rs. 8,336 from Holland.

Matches.

Eighteen thousand one hundred and nineteen gross more were imported in 1905, with a surplus in value of Rs. 13,844, due principally to imports from Japan, which provided a surplus value of Rs. 18,498. Decreases are from Sweden and Germany, amounting to Rs. 3,718 and Rs. 6,701, respectively. Imports valued Rs. 5,008 were received in 1905 from Austria against nil in the previous year.

Meat.

Fresh frozen.—The value of the imports for 1905 as compared with 1904 gives the following result:—

Cows and oxen.—Increase of Rs. 24,980.

Sheep.—Decrease of Rs. 35,741.

Swine.—None imported in 1905 against Rs. 23,739 for 1904.

Frozen meat is exclusively received from Australia.

Military Articles.

The imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 1,062,000 against Rs. 1,663,811 for 1904, showing a decrease of Rs. 601,811 due chiefly to the United Kingdom, which provided Rs. 599,233 less. Arabia supplied Rs. 2,565 in 1904 against nil in 1905.

Musical Instruments.

Compared with the previous year the value of the imports for 1905 shows an increase of Rs. 8,713, due principally to more supplies from France.

Oil.

Castor.—A decrease is noticeable both in weight of kilos, 23,913, and in value of Rs. 8,347. This article is exclusively supplied from Continental India.

Cocoanut.—The imports for 1905 show a decrease both in quantity of hectolitres 1,962, and in value of Rs. 36,876. Seychelles supplied hectolitres 957 less, giving a shortage in value of Rs. 12,602. Hectolitres 1,005, of the value of Rs. 24,277, were imported from Continental India in 1904 against 20 litres in 1905.

Gingeley.—Kilos 50,648 more were received in 1905, giving a surplus in value of Rs. 12,740, due chiefly to more supplies from Continental India.

Mustard.—This article is exclusively imported from Continental India, and shows a decrease of kilos 382,221 in weight, and of Rs. 123,343 in value as compared with the previous year.

Petroleum.—The imports for 1905 amounted to hectolitres 7,684, of the value of Rs. 121,477, against, for 1904, hectolitres 29,583, of the value of Rs. 513,824, showing the large decrease of hectolitres 21,899 in quantity, and of Rs. 392,347 in value, due to short supplies from the United States and Russia, amounting to hectolitres 8,366 and hectolitres 6,061, giving shortage in value of Rs. 168,585, and Rs. 115,255 respectively. From Sumatra no supply was received in 1905, against hectolitres 7,481, of the value of Rs. 118,708, for the previous year.

Pistacchio.—Kilos 124,293 more, giving a surplus in value of Rs. 78,183, were received in 1905. Continental India and Pondicherry show increases amounting to Rs. 74,474 and Rs. 3,819, respectively, in value.

Of other sorts.—The value of the imports for 1905 shows a decrease of Rs. 57,882, due principally to short supplies from the United States, which provided Rs. 61,972 less than in 1904. Slight decreases are also noted under France and Continental India. From the United Kingdom there is an increase of Rs. 11,252. Imports amounting to Rs. 2,876 were received from West Africa in 1904 against nil in 1905.

Onions and Garlic.

Kilos 67,286 less, giving a short value of Rs. 8,329 were received in 1905. The decrease is from China and Réunion, which supplied, respectively, Rs. 4,426 and Rs. 3,580 less than in the previous year. Imports amounting to Rs. 1,012 and Rs. 1,021 were received in 1904 from Australia and Ceylon against nil in 1905.

Opium.

Crude.—There is a decrease both in weight of kilos 737·729 grs., and in value of Rs. 17,734, due principally to less imports from Continental India.

Painters' and Dyers' Colours and Materials.

The value of the imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 87,502 against Rs. 80,062 for 1904, showing an increase of Rs. 7,560; the increase is from the United Kingdom (Rs. 9,529). Germany shows a falling off of Rs. 1,976 however.

Paper, Cigarette.

The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 9,651·447 grs., of the value of Rs. 62,702, against kilos 5,417·099 grs., of the value of Rs. 29,342 in 1904, showing an increase in weight of kilos 4,234·348 grs., and in value of Rs. 33,360. This article is almost exclusively supplied from France.

Paper Manufactures.

Packing.—The value of the imports for 1905 shows a decrease of Rs. 5,340, due principally to less imports from Belgium, China, France, and Germany.

Printing.—The value of the imports shows a shrinkage of Rs. 11,924 as compared with the previous year, due principally to the United Kingdom, which provided Rs. 8,371 less. From Germany there is a decrease of Rs. 1,196. Supplies amounting to Rs. 1,997 and Rs. 729, respectively, were received from Belgium and France in 1904 against nil in 1905.

Perfumery.

There is a decrease of Rs. 28,345 for 1905, due to France, United Kingdom, Continental India and China, which provided Rs. 22,923, Rs. 3,304, Rs. 1,411 and Rs. 680 less, respectively, as compared with 1904.

Plague Serum.

Imports amounting to Rs. 20,138 were received in 1904 from the United Kingdom against Rs. 1,908 in 1905, showing a decrease of Rs. 18,230. From France imports amounting to Rs. 1,166 were received in 1905 against nil in the previous year.

Pockets (Sugar Bags).

Empty.—This article is exclusively supplied from Continental India, and shows a decrease in importation of 73,000 in number, and of Rs. 17,806 in value.

Pork, Salted.

Compared with 1904 there is a decrease of kilos 13,954 in weight, and of Rs. 10,982 in value. The United Kingdom and the United States show decreases of Rs. 3,614 and Rs. 6,366 respectively.

Postal Parcels.

The value of dutiable articles imported from various countries amounted in 1905 to Rs. 297,805 against Rs. 263,198 in 1904, showing an increase of Rs. 34,607.

Potash.

Nitrate of.—There is an increase of kilos 116,820 in weight, and of Rs. 118,981 in value, due principally to more imports from Continental India.

Sulphate of.—There is an increase in weight of kilos 18,986, and in value of Rs. 1,592. From the United Kingdom there is a decrease amounting to Rs. 16,654, while from France there is an increase of Rs. 5,742. Germany provided Rs. 9,320 in 1905 against nil in the previous year.

Potatoes.

Compared with 1905 the imports for the past year show a decrease of kilos 151,844 in weight, and of Rs. 14,967 in value. Australia, Continental India, China, the Argentine Confederation and Réunion show declines in importation of Rs. 6,286, Rs. 17,272, Rs. 226, Rs. 506, and Rs. 110, respectively. From France there is an increase of Rs. 10,709. The United Kingdom and Ceylon supplied small quantities in 1904 against nil in 1905, while the United States.provided Rs. 290 in 1905 against nil in the previous year.

Provisions, Preserved.

The value of the imports for 1905 shows a decline of Rs. 45,983 as compared with those for 1904, due to short supplies from the United Kingdom (Rs. 16,550), Australia, China (Rs. 3,969), France (Rs. 4,265), Portugal (Rs. 16,223), Spain, Switzerland and the United States (Rs. 3,056). Belgium provided Rs. 2,288 in 1904 against nil in 1905.

Rattans.

Only kilos 12,862, of the value of Rs. 3,358, were imported in 1905 against kilos 125,129, of the value of Rs. 27,614, in 1904. There is, therefore, a decrease of kilos 112,267 in weight, and of Rs. 24,256 in value. Singapore and Continental India supplied kilos 83,352, of the value of Rs. 20,076, and kilos 10,516, of the value of Rs. 1,883, in 1904 against nil in the past year. From China there is a shortage of kilos 19,399 in weight, and of Rs. 2,297 in value.

Salt.

Only kilos 421,430, of the value of Rs. 20,773 were received from the United Kingdom in 1905, against kilos 2,721,761 of the value of Rs. 91,810 imported in 1904 from the United Kingdom, Aden, and France, the two latter countries supplying, respectively, kilos 812,800, of the value of Rs. 10,630, and kilos 150,000, of the value of Rs. 3,313. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 1,337,481 less, giving a shortage of Rs. 57,090 in value.

Seeds.

Ani.—Exclusively imported from Continental India, which supplied kilos 7,937 more than in 1904, with a surplus in value of Rs. 3,966.

Silk Manufactures.

Satin and Ribbons.—Metres 73,047, of the value of Rs. 56,299, were imported in 1905 against metres 82,623, of the value of Rs. 60,149 in 1904; the decrease is of metres 9,576 in measure and of Rs. 3,850 in value. Decreases are from Continental India (Rs. 5,467), and China (Rs. 9,428) principally. The United Kingdom and France provided Rs. 5,031 and Rs. 4,963, respectively, more than in 1904.

Soap.

Ordinary.—The imports show a decrease in weight of kilos 42,552, and in value of Rs. 14,063, due principally to the United Kingdom, which provided Rs. 14,178 less than in 1904. France shows a small increase.

Soda.

Caustic.—Sixty-three thousand eight hundred and twelve kilos, of the value of Rs. 12,921, were imported in 1905 against kilos 17,543, of the value of Rs. 4,395 in 1904; the increase is of kilos 46,269 in weight, and of Rs. 8,526 in value. Kilos 34,944 of caustic soda, of the value of Rs. 7,184, were imported in 1905 to be used in local manufactures in 1905 at the lower rate of R. 0·30 cts per 1,000 kilos.

The article is exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom.

Nitrate.—Exclusively imported from Chili. The importation thereof shows a decline of kilos 1,047,924 in weight, and of Rs. 132,545 in value, as compared with the previous year.

Specie.

Gold.—Imports amounting to Rs. 79,989 were received from the United Kingdom in 1904 against nil in 1905.

Paper Currency.—Bank notes for a value of Rs. 831,325·30 in 1904 against Rs. 30,600 in 1905, were imported from the United Kingdom.

Silver.—The imports amounted to Rs. 738,265 in 1905, against Rs. 1,051,976 in 1904, showing a decrease of Rs. 313,711. From Continental India there is a decrease of Rs. 307,016. Singapore and Straits Settlements supplied Rs. 2,076 and Rs. 9,901 in 1904, against nil in the past year, while France supplied Rs. 5,282 in 1905 against nil in 1904.

Spices.

Chillies.—There is an increase in weight of kilos 9,177, and in value of Rs. 18,475, due principally to more supplies from Continental India.

Spirits.

Brandy.—Litres 10,362 less, giving a shortage in value of Rs. 20,781, were imported in 1905, due principally to France, which supplied litres 10,495 less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 21,824. Ninety litres, of the value of Rs. 114, were imported from Australia in 1904, against nil in 1905.

Geneva.—Shows a small shortage in the importation chiefly from Holland.

Rum.—Litres 41,077, of the value of Rs. 8,451, were imported in 1905, against litres 83,451, of the value of Rs. 21,804, in the previous year; the decrease is of litres 42,374 in measure, and of Rs. 13,353 in value, due principally to Réunion, which supplied litres 80,270 less, giving a shortage in value of Rs. 20,142; Jamaica shows a slight decrease, but China a small increase. Hong Kong supplied litres 38,182, of the value of Rs. 7,490, in 1905, against nil in the previous year.

Whisky.—Compared with 1904 there is a decrease of litres 4,802 in measure, and of Rs. 1,184 in value, due specially to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Stationery.

The value of the imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 119,080, against Rs. 137,437 for 1904, showing a shortage of Rs. 18,357, due to decreases from the United Kingdom (Rs. 7,615), France (Rs. 7,138), Germany (Rs. 3,217), Austria, and China. There are small increase from Continental India and Belgium.

Steel, Unwrought.

Almost exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom, this article shows a falling off in the importations for 1905 of kilos 8,308 in weight, and of Rs. 8,228 in value, as compared with the previous year.

Sulphur, Common.

Kilos 503,390, of the value of Rs. 44,150, were imported in 1905, against kilos 763,711, of the value of Rs. 85,264 in 1904. There is, therefore, a decrease of kilos 260,321 in weight, and of Rs. 41,114 in value. The United Kingdom and France show decreases amounting to Rs. 2,291 and Rs. 38,822 respectively, in value.

Tallow.

The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 40,684, of the value of Rs. 19,076, against kilos 34,815, of the value of Rs. 18,477, in 1904, showing a surplus of kilos 5,869 in weight, and of Rs. 599 in value. Australia supplied kilos 12,352 more, giving a surplus of Rs. 4,729 in value. The United Kingdom and France show decreases amounting to Rs. 1,559 and Rs. 114 respectively, while Continental India provided Rs. 2,458 in 1904 against nil in 1905.

Tarpaulins.

The importations for 1905 show a decrease of 30 in number, and of Rs. 4,576 in value. This article is exclusively imported from the United Kingdom.

Tea.

The imports for 1905 amounted to kilos 54,675, of the value of Rs. 53,617, against kilos 45,113, of the value of Rs. 56,500 in 1904, showing an increase of kilos 9,562 in weight, but with a decrease in value of Rs. 2,883, due chiefly to difference in the market prices of Ceylon tea. That Colony supplied kilos 48,496, of the value of Rs. 48,941 in 1905 against kilos 34,269, of the value of Rs. 48,670 in 1904, giving an increase of kilos 14,227 in weight, with only Rs. 271 excess of value as compared with 1904. From China there is a decrease of kilos 6,247 in weight and of Rs. 4,384 in value.

Tin Slabs.

Compared with 1904 the imports for 1905 show a decrease of kilos 408 in weight, and of Rs. 3,896 in value. From the Straits Settlements there is a decrease amounting to Rs. 2,432. The Cape Colonies provided Rs. 2,038 in 1905 against nil in the previous year. From Continental India supplies amounting to Rs. 1,976 were received in 1904 against nil in 1905.

The United Kingdom supplied Rs. 297 in 1905 against Rs. 1,822 in 1904.

Tobacco.

Manufactured.—Kilos 37,509 less were imported in 1905, with a shortage in value of Rs. 54,155, due specially to short supplies from the United States.

Cigars.—Kilos 2,760 less were imported in 1905, with a shortage in value of Rs. 7,745. The decreases are specially from Continental India and the United States, amounting to Rs. 6,647 and Rs. 1,027 respectively.

Unmanufactured.—There is a decrease of kilos 9,282 in weight, and of Rs. 6,730 in value, due entirely to short supplies from Continental India.

Tortoise Shell.

The Seychelles supplied kilos 55, of the value of Rs. 1,248, in 1904; kilos 4,010, of the value of Rs. 14,046, were imported in 1905—from this quantity Madagascar supplied kilos 4,000, of the value of Rs. 14,040. The increase, as compared with 1904, is, therefore, of kilos 3,955 in weight, and of Rs. 12,798 in value.

Toys.

The value of the imports for 1905 amounted to Rs. 77,212 against Rs. 41,234 in 1904, showing an increase of Rs. 35,978. The increases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 5,967), Continental India (Rs. 1,795), China (Rs. 857), France (Rs. 13,681), and Germany (Rs. 13,621).

Turpentine.

Compared with 1904 the imports for 1905 show a decrease of hectolitres 72 in measure, and of Rs. 3,918 in value, due specially to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Umbrellas and Parasols.

Cotton.—Twenty-nine thousand one hundred and twenty-eight, of the value of Rs. 35,096, were imported in 1904 against 28,744, of the value of Rs. 35,650, showing a decrease of 384 in number, but with Rs. 554 surplus in value. Two thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight more umbrellas were received in 1905 from the United Kingdom, giving a surplus of Rs. 5,452 in value, while from France there is a shrinkage of 2,033 in number, with a shortage of Rs. 3,778 in value.

Vanilla.

Only kilos 13·600 grs., of the value of Rs. 253, were received in 1905 against kilos 748·453 grs., of the value of Rs. 12,230, in 1904. There is, therefore, a decrease of kilos 734·853 grs. in weight, and of Rs. 11,977 in value, due almost entirely to short supplies from the Seychelles Islands.

Varnish.

There is an increase of 81 hectolitres, but with a decrease of Rs. 749 in value. France supplied hectolitres 73 more, but with a shortage in value of Rs. 2,494, due to differences in the market price of this article.

Vermicelli and Macaroni.

Kilos 7,143 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 3,618, were received in 1905, almost entirely from France.

Vinegar.

Hectolitres 342 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 4,690, were received in 1905, due to more supplies from France.

Wine.

Claret in casks.—Decrease of hectolitres 939, and of Rs. 31,823 in value. France and Algeria supplied respectively hectolitres 1,058 and hectolitres 325 less, with a falling off in value of Rs. 34,907 and Rs. 9,842. From Spain hectolitres 441 more were received in 1905, giving a surplus in value of Rs. 12,831.

Pontac in casks.—The imports for 1905 show a decrease of two hectolitres, and of Rs. 2,854 in value.

Port in casks.—Hectolitres 65 more were received in 1905, with a surplus in value of Rs. 3,702. Portugal and Spain supplied, respectively, hectolitres 33 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 2,931, and hectolitres 23 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 436, as compared with 1904. From France hectolitres nine, of the value of Rs. 334, were received in 1905 against nil in the previous year.

Port in bottles.—There is a decrease of litres 2,030, and of Rs. 3,654 in value. Portugal shows a decrease of litres 1,753, and of Rs. 3,516 in value. Spain shows a decrease of 10 litres only, but with a surplus of Rs. 198 in value.

Sherry in casks.—There is a decrease of 13 hectolitres, with a falling off in value of Rs. 1,567. From Portugal there is a decrease of hectolitres 54, and of Rs. 2,319 in value, while from Spain there is an increase of hectolitres 40, with a surplus of Rs. 726 in value.

Vermouth in casks.—Compared with 1904 there is a decrease of hectolitres two only, with a shortage of Rs. 807 in value.

Vermouth in bottles.—Compared with 1904 there is a decrease of litres 37,847, with a shortage of Rs. 36,872 in value. Vermouth wine is exclusively received from France.

White wine in casks.—One hundred and twelve hectolitres less were received in 1905, giving a shortage in value of Rs. 7,994. From France there is a decrease of hectolitres 64, and of Rs. 5,660 in value. From Spain the decrease is of hectolitres 32, and of Rs. 1,599 in value.

White wine in bottles.—The imports for 1905 show a decrease of litres 110, and of Rs. 2,660 in value. From France litres 452 more were received in 1905, but there is a shortage of Rs. 1,737 in value, due to differences in the market price. Germany supplied 540 litres, of the value of Rs. 911, in 1904 against nil in the past year.

Wood.

Board and planks.—Compared with 1904 the imports for 1905 show a decrease of cubic metres 461, but with an increase of Rs. 151,453 in value. There were received cubic metres 2,092, of the value of Rs. 230,293 from Australia, and cubic metres 68, of the value of Rs. 3,369, from Madagsacar in 1905 against nil in the previous year, while from Sweden cubic metres 965, of the value of Rs. 34,216, were received in 1904 against nil in 1905. From Singapore the imports show a decrease of cubic metres 716, of the value of Rs. 47,733.

Masts and spars.—Compared with 1904 the imports for 1905 show a decrease of 28 in number, and of Rs. 5,409 in value, due chiefly to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Shingles.—There is an increase of 69,875 in number, and of Rs. 17,946 in value. Continental India, Sweden, and the United States provided 15,000, 248,100 and 250,000, of the value of Rs. 637, Rs. 1,776, and Rs. 2,597, respectively, in 1904 against nil in 1905, while from Madagascar 55,500, valued Rs. 916 were received in 1905 against nil in 1904. There is an increase of 527,475 shingles, giving a surplus of Rs. 22,039 in the importation from Singapore.

Shooks.—This article is exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom, which provided 6,174 bundles less, although there is an increase of Rs. 14,062 in the value of the importations, due to higher prices prevailing at the port of shipment.

Timber.—The imports for 1905 amounted to cubic metres 1,752, of the value of Rs. 174,579, against cubic metres 3,653, of the value of Rs. 288,451 in 1904, showing a decrease of cubic metres 1,901 in quantity, and of Rs. 113,872 in value. There is a large decrease in the importation from the United Kingdom, which supplied, in 1905, only Rs. 197 in value against Rs. 49,885 in 1904, showing a falling off of Rs. 49,688. Australia and Continental India show decreases of Rs. 14,843 and Rs. 31,403 respectively. From Madagascar there is an increase of Rs. 11,600, while from the United States cubic metres 598, valued Rs. 29,258, were received in 1904 against nil in 1905.

Woollen Manufactures.

Blankets.—There is a decrease of Rs. 4,955 in value, due to less imports from Continental India. Small decreases are also noted from France and Holland.

Mixed with cotton and silk.—Metres 91,599 less, giving a shortage in value of Rs. 51,383, were received in 1905. The United Kingdom, Continental India, Belgium, France and Germany show decreases of Rs. 58,436, Rs. 834, Rs. 1,479, Rs. 10,814, and Rs. 3,453 respectively.

EXPORTS.

The principal articles exported from Mauritius are sugar, rum, molasses, cocoanut oil, aloe fibre, and vanilla, the produce of the Colony. The quantities and values exported in the last five years are shown hereunder:—

Articles.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Sugar—					
Kilos. ...	157,016,976	150,305,678	170,416,541	197,825,666	164,194,858
Rupees ...	27,961,583	30,598,229	34,495,795	40,512,462	34,537,625
Rum—					
Litres ...	791,123	171,908	45,453	96,278	267,266
Rupees ...	91,494	28,952	10,345	22,468	39,411
Molasses—					
Kilos. ...	19,613,200	13,378,066	11,412,425	18,404,540	11,095,122
Rupees ...	737,008	1,144,021	402,052	668,935	405,258
Cocoanut Oil—					
Hecto. ...	1,664	5,280	4,462	3,848	1,707
Rupees ...	16,811	142,658	122,197	121,309	50,607
Aloe Fibre—					
Kilos. ...	1,242,998	2,144,609	1,518,684	1,920,078	1,673,922
Rupees ...	353,444	937,877	551,234	627,519	564,548
Vanilla—					
Kilos. ...	3,358	4,787	3,486	3,305	5,268
Rupees ...	149,002	137,224	110,239	88,066	108,322

The quantity and value of the principal minor exports are shown below :—

Articles.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Vacoa bags—					
Number	268,950	57,625	42,847	11,600	131,000
Rupees	7,477	3,973	1,835	1,160	4,263
Salted Fish—					
Kilos	24,710	27,224	18,526	4,705	16,218
Rupees	10,331	11,204	5,030	1,865	6,660
Hides, Raw and salted—					
Kilos	25,167	11,562	37,695	19,121	66,553
Rupees	11,544	4,960	18,043	7,107	27,105
Horns--					
Number	4,000	1,425	2,120	499	7,958
Rupees	2,000	48	312	10	359
Soap—					
Kilos	467	655	202	137	3,262
Rupees	135	151	154	18	783
Tea—					
Kilos	4	288	361	25	19
Rupees	6	312	498	50	36
Machinery and Millwork—					
Kilos	92,516	55,319	100,194	22,795	36,015
Rupees	61,422	40,826	65,196	18,140	21,203

The Countries to which the principal products have chiefly been exported with the quantities shipped are shown below.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Sugar—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India.	91,202,235	92,645,867	121,386,848	115,490,180	94,982,357
Cape Colonies	32,244,866	26,611,758	18,505,947	38,144,051	30,550,946
Natal ...	1,415,926	61,857	1,525,052	7,353,090	7,045,170
Ceylon ...	54,523	72,164	116,722	176,485	113,809
Australia ...	8,791,547	6,512,595	4,888,497	3,546,594	3,471,835
United Kingdom.	15,227,507	16,618,750	18,681,580	26,409,059	7,701,796
United States of America.	6,517,851	—	—	—	—
France ...	225	150	—	—	184
Delagoa Bay...	—	—	—	3,658,915	2,714,234
Hong Kong...	1,013,922	7,433,620	4,800,558	1,450,830	6,407,524
Aden ...	82,469	7,377	31,367	38,195	328,109
Seychelles ...	232,127	201,093	238,307	267,916	201,284
Zanzibar ...	73	—	—	—	—
Madagascar...	—	1,790	—	—	—
Mombassa ...	21,837	12,757	—	—	—
Sumatra ...	434	—	—	—	—
Beira ...	5,187	—	—	—	—
Singapore ...	120,085	24,705	113,707	—	—
Straits Settlements.	—	12,091	—	—	—
Pondichery...	11,999	—	—	1,476	—
Cochin China	—	—	37,538	15,068	—

Countries to which Principal Products have been Exported—cont.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Sugar—*cont.*	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Philippine Islands.	—	—	—	2,152	—
Barbados ...	—	—	—	1,177,645	—
Italy... ...	—	—	150	—	—
Japan ...	—	—	—	—	99,392
Canada ...	—	—	—	—	10,488,237
Rum—	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.
United Kingdom.	724,389	71,486	—	—	191,348
Seychelles ...	57,337	66,703	30,255	51,881	29,857
Hong Kong...	—	—	—	32,005	—
Aden ...	6,489	14,545	15,198	12,392	8,616
Cape Colonies	2,882	—	—	—	—
France ...	26	18,009	—	—	24,611
Glorieuse Island.	—	1,165	—	—	—
Continental India.	—	—	—	—	973
Germany ...	—	—	—	—	11,861
Molasses—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India.	19,611,200	15,311,666	11,207,800	17,723,300	11,088,082
United Kingdom.	2,000	—	—	—	—
Ceylon ...	—	58,000	25	—	—
Cape Colonies	—	8,400	—	3,720	7,040
Hong Kong...	—	—	204,600	677.520	—
Cocoanut Oil—	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.
Réunion ...	88.16	—	—	—	19.95
Natal ...	—	—	7.20	6.93	50.75
Cape Colonies	—	209.84	—	—	—
United Kingdom.	1,575.75	563.04	4,454.50	3,245.19	631.75
France ...	—	500.60	—	—	—
Continental India.	—	—	—	596.	1,005.
Aloe Fibre—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
United Kingdom.	1,110,154	1,253,999	964,864	1,544,409	1,236,755
France ...	11,922	890,610	553,820	364,515	399,847
Australia ...	112,547	—	—	11,154	—
Germany ...	7,500	—	—	—	28,800
Continental India.	—	875	—	—	—
Belgium ...	—	—	—	—	8,520
Vanilla—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
France ...	1,300	1,665	2,047	82	1,158
United Kingdom.	2,052	3,085	1,405	3,123	4,019
Australia ...	—	32	34	54	32
Natal ...	—	—	—	12	—
Cape Colonies	—	5	—	34	—
Continental India.	—	—	—	3	—
Germany ...	—	—	—	—	59

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in Mauritius. Sugar, of course, rum, vinegar, and soap are manufactured in the Colony. There is a small quantity of tea grown, and there are several factories for the extraction of fibre from the aloe plant, which grows abundantly in the Colony. There does not appear to have been any special incident of interest in connection with local manufactures during the year under review.

The fisheries are protected by special laws and by the creation of Crown reserves, as well as by the establishment of private barachois, by the creation of a close season, and by the prohibition of the capture of an illegal size of fish and the prohibition of illegal nets.

There are 11 private barachois or enclosures communicating with the sea, duly registered under Ordinance No. 42 of 1881. These private barachois are walled ponds or "fish paddocks," which, by permission, may be replenished from Government reserves.

Certain parts of the coast are set apart, which are called "reserves," and in which no fishing can take place except by rod and line or by basket net. The protection of these reserves is left to the Inland Revenue Branch of the Receiver-General's Department, consisting of one superintendent, five inspectors, and twenty-five guards. The police have also concurrent jurisdiction in detecting offences under the fishery laws.

The fisheries of the Colony, in so far as the food supply is concerned, have in no way improved during the year. Mauritius is still almost entirely dependent on the Island dependencies of the Colony, and on British and foreign countries and Colonies for the supply of dried, salted, and pickled fish.

The exports of fish and fishing products are chiefly restricted to the "Bambara," or sea slugs, which are not consumed in the Colony, but sent to Hong Kong and Singapore. This industry is chiefly in the hands of the Chinese.

AGRICULTURE AND BOTANY.

There are three botanical stations at different altitudes: the Royal Gardens, Pamplemousses, the Nursery Gardens, Curepipe, and the Réduit Gardens.

(a.) *The Royal Botanical Gardens, Pamplemousses.*

These gardens, dating from the French occupation of the Island, of an extent of 91 arpents, contain a rich flora of tropical and extra-tropical species. In 1905, 179,000 forest plants were sold to the public, and over 87,000 were sent to forest plantations in Crown lands and to public institutions. Also over 28,000 palm and ornamental plants were sent free to the latter. Considerable encouragement was bestowed on re-afforestation by public enterprise in the shape of free transport by rail of all planting material being allowed by the Government.

Sugar-canes selected in other Colonies were introduced. Sisal bulbils, which fell from plants imported 12 years ago from Central America, were sold at low rate to the public, and an interesting start was made in this new line of action by fibre-planters.

(*b.*) *The Nursery Gardens, Curepipe.*

These gardens, of an area of 56½ arpents, are a favourite resort of the public, although the object of the management centres round forest nurseries. Over 275,000 plants were sold to the public or sent to plantations in Crown lands and to public institutions.

Three horticultural apprentices were trained there in 1905, and gave satisfaction. These are selected amongst the best boys from the primary schools, and after a three-year course turn out useful overseers of gardens and plantations.

(*c*) *The Réduit Gardens.*

These form part of the Réduit domain, the residence of the Governor of the Colony. The forest plantations made here in former years supply seeds of useful species (eucalyptus, camphor, sandal, &c.) for propagation in other nurseries.

Statement of Revenue derived from Pas Géométriques leased under "Planting Conditions" of Ord. 19 *of* 1895.

Districts.	Annual Rents.
	Rs.
Pamplemousses	1,433.50
Rivière du Rempart	1,171.50
Flacq	2,209.00
Grand Port	1,615.00
Savanne	1,207.00
Black River	1,704.93
Total	9,340.93

LAND GRANTS.

Lands are granted by the Government by lease and by sale. Lands which are situated on the sea coast beyond the limits of Port Louis, known as Pas Géométriques, can only be leased by public auction, except those forming part of settlements which have been proclaimed as villages. The sales are invariably made by public auction. There is, however, an exception to this rule in cases where lands are desired for charitable, religious, or educational purposes.

No sale of Crown land took place in 1905.

The following is a return showing the Crown lands and barachois in Mauritius and its Dependencies, except Rodrigues, in charge of the Public Works Department, under lease for one year or more during 1905, or paying rent without lease; with rents due or amount received, also arrears of rent for 1905 and previous years still outstanding on the 31st December, 1905.

1	2	3								4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mauritius and Dependencies.	Number of leases.	Nature of land under lease with area in arpents.								Arrears of rent due on 31st December, 1904.	Rent falling due in 1905 (computed in advance to 30th June, 1906).	Receipts to 31st December. 1905, for arrears (in column 4).	Receipts to 31st December, 1905, for rent falling due in 1905 (Column 5.)	Arrears due for 1905 and previous years on 31st December, 1905.	Rent struck off as irrecoverable.	Interest received in 1905 on account of late payment of rent.
		Lease in bare land.	Land with buildings.	Pasturage.	Pas Géométriques.	Docks and patent slips.	Islands adjacent to the coast and Dependencies.	Barachois.	All other lands.							
		Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.	Arp. c.		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Port Louis ...	169	80.18	—	—	—	13.05	—	—	—	3,070.69	10,965.73	2,656.35	9,356.06	1,939.51	84.50	24.14
Pamplemousses ...	45	84.06	—	—	496.67	—	—	—	—	741.19	1,768.22	559.87	1,023.20	753.74	172.60	6.66
Rivière du Rempart	141	159.80	—	—	842.19	—	980.00	358.11	—	831.88	3,287.74	805.55	2,479.50	834.57	—	63.00
Flacq	106	105.34	—	82.38	701.32	—	395.13	152.47	—	3,208.00	3,286.82	2,742.75	1,456.21	2,122.36	173.50	55.65
Grand Port ...	107	196.25	—	—	706.34	—	72.00	203.00	—	1,095.00	5,637.89	1,002.13	3,950.78	1,758.73	21.25	116.73
Savanne	140	195.48	—	—	594.93	—	—	—	—	4,343.83	6,783.72	3,672.69	3,560.65	3,741.71	152.50	217.57
Black River ...	117	29.31	—	—	1,338.68	—	—	37.50	—	1,523.87	2,225.63	1,303.87	1,069.30	1,295.44	80.89	10.05
Plaines Wilhems	8	214.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	417.50	237.61	355.50	182.44	55.17	62.00	35.43
Moka	9	9.21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	102.00	391.61	30.00	254.00	209.61	—	7.08
Dependencies ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	885.75	—	—	1.50	1,045.54	1.50	778.00	267.54	—	—
Total ...	848	1,074.13	—	82.38	4,680.13	13.05	2,332.88	751.08	—	15,335.46	35,630.51	13,130.21	24,110.14	12,978.38	747.24	536.31

SHIPPING.

The shipping for the five years 1901-5 can be thus summarized:—

—	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared (exclusive of Coasting trade, *i e.*, Dependencies).	512	782,008	469	746,517	442	767,977	425	801,154	372	731,470
2. British Vessels	356	558,968	324	546,155	306	539,542	290	572,440	245	490,378
3. Foreign Vessels	156	223,040	145	200,362	136	228,435	135	228,714	127	241,092
4. Sailing Vessels	174	115,366	134	88,957	101	65,308	96	66,449	73	50,471
5. Steam Vessels	338	666,642	335	657,560	341	702,669	329	734,705	299	680,999

Coasting Trade (Dependencies).

—	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared—	62	16,990	63	11,351	63	11,802	60	12,845	55	9,263
2. British Vessels	58	15,642	57	10,721	63	11,802	60	12,845	55	9,263
3. Foreign Vessels	4	1,348	6	810	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Sailing Vessels	59	12,881	63	11,531	62	11,607	56	12,065	55	9,263
5. Steam Vessels	3	4,109	—	—	1	195	4	780	—	—

The number and tonnage of steam vessels which entered and cleared from and to all countries viâ the Suez Canal and the value of goods (including bullion and specie) imported into and exported by that canal into and from Mauritius are shown in the following table:—

Suez Canal.

Years.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared.		Value of Goods (including Bullion and Specie).	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.
					Rs.	Rs.
1901	38	74,012	24	49,040	3,868,350	892,320
1902	26	50,849	27	52,242	3,887,611	2,189,981
1903	32	65,515	27	53,541	6,542,071	2,483,481
1904	32	71,428	20	42,717	3,149,920	234,010
1905	35	84,975	28	68,734	2,437,479	893,257

The first table is a return of all vessels entered and cleared, excluding the coasting trade vessels, *i.e.*, vessels trading with the Dependencies, which are exclusively dealt with in the second table.

The number of vessels entered and cleared during 1905 shows a falling off of 53 in number and of 69,684 in tonnage, as compared with the figures for 1904.

Compared with 1904, the following differences are noted:—

—	Shortage of		Excess of tonnage.
	No.	Tonnage.	
Sailing Vessels	23	15,978	—
Steam Vessels	30	53,706	—
British Vessels	45	82,062	—
Foreign Vessels	8	—	12,378

Of the 372 vessels which entered and cleared during 1905, one steamer of 2,277 tons called at this port on her voyage to Japan exclusively for the purpose of coaling, showing a difference of four in number and of 11,589 in tonnage short as compared with 1904.

Coasting Trade—Dependencies.

The number of vessels entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies during 1905 are 55 with a tonnage of 9,263, against during 1904, 60 with a tonnage of 12,845, showing a falling off of five in number and of 3,582 in tonnage.

No steamer entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies in 1905, against, in 1904, four of an aggregate tonnage of 780.

The coasting trade has been exclusively performed by British vessels during 1903, 1904, and 1905.

Suez Canal.

The value of goods imported through the Suez Canal in 1905 amounts to Rs. 2,437,478.93, against Rs. 3,149,917.43 in 1904, showing a decline of Rs. 712,438.50.

Goods exported from Mauritius through the said Canal in 1905 amount to Rs. 893,257.07, against Rs. 234,010 for 1904, showing an excess of Rs. 659,247.07.

Vessels with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered with cargoes during 1905 amounts to 332,236, and the tonnage cleared to 257,787, as against 345,514 entered and a tonnage of 271,353 cleared in 1904.

The aggregate tonnage of the coasting trade—Dependencies—amounts to 4,661 tons entered and 4,602 tons cleared in 1905, against 6,639 tons entered and 6,206 tons cleared for the previous year.

Vessels touching at this Port.

Ten British steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 22,759, one British sailing vessel of 1,733 tons, and one Russian sailing vessel of 973 tons touched at this port without entering the harbour during 1905.

Statement of number and tonnage of British and foreign sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for 1904 and 1905:—

Entered.

—	1904.		1905.		Difference. + Increase, — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	77	40,338	64	29,429	—13	— 10,909
Steamers ...	167	367,826	148	335,606	—19	— 32,220
Total ...	244	408,164	212	365,035	—32	— 43,129

Cleared.

—	1904.		1905.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	75	38,176	64	30,305	—11	— 7,871
Steamers ...	166	367,659	151	345,393	—15	— 22,266
Total ...	241	405,835	215	375,698	—26	30,137

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities:—

Entered.

Nationality.	1904.		1905.		Difference + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	118	265,824	99	224,112	—19	— 41,712
Sailing ...	58	27,273	50	20,966	— 8	— 6,307
French—						
Steamers	42	91,367	45	105,906	+ 3	+ 14,539
Sailing ...	2	3,228	3	374	+ 1	— 2,954
German—						
Steamers	3	3,969	4	5,588	+ 1	+ 1,619
Sailing ...	1	664	—	—	— 1	— 664
Norwegian—						
Steamers	2	2,942	—	—	— 2	— 2,942
Sailing ...	10	4,430	3	2,120	— 7	— 2,310
Danish—						
Steamer...	1	2,489	—	—	— 1	— 2,489
Sailing ...	1	965	2	1,226	+ 1	+ 261
Dutch—						
Steamer...	1	1,235	—	—	— 1	— 1,235
Italian—						
Sailing ...	4	3,413	2	1,613	— 2	— 1,800
American—						
Sailing ...	1	365	—	—	— 1	— 365
Russian—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,360	+ 2	+ 1,860
Swedish—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,270	+ 2	+ 1,270

Cleared.

Nationality.	1904.		1905.		Difference.	
					+ Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	118	266,495	102	235,071	—16	— 31,424
Sailing ...	56	25,693	49	19,492	— 7	— 6,201
French—						
Steamers	42	91,367	44	103,915	+ 2	+ 12,548
Sailing ...	1	1,774	3	1,611	+ 2	— 163
German—						
Steamers	3	3,969	4	5,569	+ 1	+ 1,600
Sailing ...	1	664	—	—	— 1	— 664
Norwegian—						
Steamer...	1	2,104	1	838	—	— 1,266
Sailing ...	10	4,430	4	3,233	— 6	— 1,197
Danish—						
Steamer...	1	2,489	—	—	— 1	— 2,489
Sailing ...	1	965	2	1,226	+ 1	+ 261
Dutch—						
Steamer...	1	1,235	—	—	— 1	— 1,235
Italian—						
Sailing ...	5	4,285	2	1,613	— 3	— 2,672
American—						
Sailing ...	1	365	—	—	— 1	— 365
Russian—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,860	+ 2	+ 1,860
Swedish—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,270	+ 2	+ 1,270

SHIPPING INWARDS and OUTWARDS FOR THE YEARS 1901–1905.

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1901 ...	86	48,671	5	1,821	91	50,492	23	13,065	7	1,869	30	14,934	109	61,736	12	3,690	121	65,426
1902 ...	66	33,700	3	1,301	69	35,001	19	11,140	8	2,143	27	13,283	85	44,840	11	3,444	96	48,284
1903 ...	66	30,335	2	361	68	30,696	8	6,623	5	1,220	13	7,843	74	36,958	7	1,581	81	38,539
1904 ...	57	26,754	1	519	58	27,273	16	11,026	3	1,039	19	13,065	73	38,780	4	1,558	72	40,338
1905 ...	47	19,311	3	1,655	50	20,966	14	8,463	—	—	14	8,463	61	27,774	3	1,655	64	29,429
									Steamers—Entered.									
1901 ...	85	172,770	35	65,944	120	238,714	47	90,306	4	6,960	51	97,266	132	263,076	39	72,904	171	335,980
1902 ...	98	199,928	22	42,240	120	242,168	44	78,352	5	9,210	49	87,562	142	278,280	27	51,450	169	329,730
1903 ...	105	223,302	11	23,385	116	246,687	47	89,562	8	16,749	55	106,311	152	312,864	19	40,134	171	352,998
1904 ...	97	221,342	21	44,482	118	265,824	44	92,031	5	9,971	49	102,002	141	313,373	26	54,453	167	367,826
1905 ...	86	201,407	13	22,705	99	224,112	47	107,716	2	3,778	49	111,494	133	309,123	15	26,483	148	335,606

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Years.	British.						Foreign.						Total.					
	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1901 ...	64	25,472	20	22,420	84	47,892	10	3,008	18	11,621	28	14,929	74	28,480	38	34,341	112	62,821
1902 ...	65	25,772	9	12,676	74	38,448	16	5,294	11	8,462	27	13,756	81	31,066	20	21,138	101	52,204
1903 ...	59	21,243	11	10,153	70	31,396	7	4,023	5	2,957	12	6,980	66	25,266	16	13,110	82	38,376
1904 ...	47	17,822	9	7,871	56	25,693	11	6,010	8	6,473	19	12,483	58	23,832	17	14,344	75	38,176
1905 ...	42	11,942	7	7,550	49	19,492	6	3,562	9	7,251	15	10,813	48	15,504	16	14,801	64	30,305

Steamers—Cleared.

1901 ...	81	157,917	38	79,595	119	237,512	35	65,595	16	31,664	51	97,259	116	223,512	54	111,259	170	334,771
1902 ...	78	153,002	40	88,257	118	241,259	43	76,959	5	9,612	48	86,571	121	226,961	45	67,869	166	327,830
1903 ...	80	163,523	35	79,042	115	242,565	46	90,267	10	17,034	56	107,301	126	253,790	45	96,076	171	349,866
1904 ...	81	175,645	37	90,850	118	266,495	36	78,082	12	23,082	48	101,164	117	253,727	49	113,932	166	367,659
1905 ...	65	163,966	37	71,105	102	235,071	37	82,919	12	27,403	49	110,322	102	246,885	49	98,508	151	345,393

TRANSPORTS AND MEN-OF-WAR.

Two British transports and men-of-war visited this port during the past year, viz., the "Sealark," of a registered tonnage of 900; the "Terpsichore," of a registered tonnage of 3,400.

III.—LEGISLATION.

During the session of 1905 forty-four Ordinances were passed, of which the following call for special mention:—

1. Ordinance No. 6 empowers the Medical and Health Director to order the destruction, subject to compensation, of huts infected or suspected to be infected by certain contagious diseases.

2. Under Ordinance No. 10 power is taken to prohibit by Proclamation the importation of any birds, reptiles, goods or articles specified in such Proclamation under pain of forfeiture or destruction of the animal or article illegally introduced.

3. The Lunacy Laws (which await consolidation) are by Ordinance No. 16 amended in certain respects bearing on questions of procedure.

4. Ordinances No. 17 and 27 amend the penalties under our Penal Code (No. 6 of 1883) in cases of attempt at murder, parricide, infanticide, or poisoning, and of assault upon and bribery of public functionaries.

5. By Ordinance No. 19 a harbour fee of two cents per ton of register per month is imposed on vessels abandoned or sold in the harbour and not broken up or fitted for sea within three months. Vessels used as cargo hulks or receiving ships are also subjected to a special duty.

6. The Labour Law of 1878 is amended by Ordnance No. 23 in respect of (1) the refund of expenses incidental to introduction of immigrants, (2) protection against fraud in respect of individual labour contracts, (3) "hospital" liabilities of employers.

7. Ordinance No. 34 vests the Superintendent of Prisons with the direct control of all district prisons, which formerly were under the management of Executive Committees now replaced by Advisory Boards.

8. The drainage system of the whole town of Port Louis is regulated under Ordinance No. 40, which provides for the necessary machinery; the sewerage authority being the responsible head, and the owners of premises within the urban area being liable to contribute towards the expenses and maintenance of the works.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

In the year 1905 there were 66 Government and 88 Grant-in-Aid schools in the Colony.

The average number of pupils on the roll for the year at the Government schools was 8,510, and at the Grant-in-Aid schools 9,374, the average numbers in attendance being 4,798 at the Government, and 6,112 at the Grant-in-Aid schools.

Of the Grant-in-Aid schools, 66 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, two Presbyterian, and one Mohammedan.

In these schools pupils are taught six standards, English, French, and arithmetic being the compulsory subjects for passes in the standards; in addition, at the great majority of the schools, an extended programme is taught in one or more of the subjects, English, French, arithmetic, geography, elementary science (for boys), and needlework (for girls).

Examinations are conducted annually by the Inspectors of Schools, who also pay frequent visits of inspection to the schools during the year.

All the schools are open, without payment of fee, to children of all classes and creeds between the ages of 5 and 16, or in some cases 18.

Religious instruction is imparted to the pupils of Christian creeds in both Government and Grant-in-Aid schools at hours especially set apart in the curriculum of each school, by the clergy of their various denominations.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Royal College, and Schools in connexion.

Secondary education is given at the Royal College with its preparatory schools, the schools associated with the Royal College, and the girls' schools working under the scheme for the higher education of girls.

The number of pupils at the Royal College and its two schools in December were:—

College proper	242
Curepipe School	70
Port Louis School	35
Total	347

Of these 255 were paying and 92 free pupils.

The free pupils belonged to the following classes:—

(1) Indigent pupils whose fees have been paid for two years	7
(2) Holders of eleemosynary scholarships ...	18
(3) Scholars and Exhibitioners from primary schools	14
(4) Scholars and Exhibitioners whose free tuition has been extended	20
(5) Holders of Scholarships and Exhibitions won at the College and associated schools ...	33
Total	92

In the Royal College pupils are prepared for the London Matriculation and the Cambridge Senior Local Examinations.

The passing of these examinations qualifies the successful candidates for entrance to the highest classes of the College on the classical and modern sides respectively.

For the London Matriculation, 12 pupils were presented and six passed.

For the Cambridge Senior, 76 College pupils and 11 outsiders entered; 30 College pupils and 1 outsider passed.

In each of the highest classes a scholarship is annually given of the value of about £1,000 to enable the successful student to follow some special course of study abroad, in general at some institution in the United Kingdom.

Numerous small scholarships, exhibitions, and other awards are given to students in the other classes.

The preparatory schools of the College and the 26 associated schools prepare students for the classes of the College proper.

Religious instruction is given at the College and its two schools, and annual examinations are held in this subject.

HIGHER GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

The girls' schools, in the scheme for the higher education of girls, provide a course of study suitable for girls between the ages of 11 and 17.

The principal subjects taught are English, French, history, geography, mathematics, Latin, music, drawing, needlework, and religious instruction.

Annual examinations are held for these schools, and on the results prizes and certificates are awarded and grants are paid.

The number of these schools working in connection with the Department and earning grants from Government was 30.

The examinations, however, are open to all the girls in the Colony, who are of age to compete, except those who are pupils of the Government and Grant-in-Aid primary schools.

The number of girls who competed was 287; of these 112 obtained certificates.

INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The Government training school for men teachers accommodates about 20 students in training, and that for women about 12 students. At the last examination for teachers six men and seven women from these schools obtained certificates.

Provision was made for the establishment of Grant-in-Aid training schools, but no such school has yet been established.

Eight mechanical engineering apprenticeships, tenable at the Government railway works, and two horticultural apprenticeships, tenable at the Government Botanical Gardens, are awarded every year on the results of competitive examinations.

Agricultural chemistry is taught at the Royal College to special classes of students.

Under the regulations in Code B for the teaching of handicrafts to pupils in the primary schools, seven classes, all in wood-work, were conducted at primary schools during the year.

In Code A, which has been completed (but has not been put in force) provision is made for the teaching of handicrafts by means of a system of apprenticeships to promising students.

A scheme exists, as part of Code A, for the yearly appointment of two students in civil engineering.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

No addition has been made to the number of hospitals and asylums during the year 1905.

The following statement shows the number of patients remaining in the different hospitals on 31st December, 1904, as well as the number of those who obtained admission, who died, who were treated and discharged during 1905, in each of these institutions:—

Hospitals.	Remaining on 31st Dec., 1904.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Total Cases Treated.	Discharged.
Civil	126	6,225	457	6,351	6,183
Port Louis Prisons	3	1,141	7	1,144	1,126
Long Mountain ...	13	594	69	607	592
Poudre d'Or ...	27	1,431	52	1,458	1,433
Flacq	40	1,971	119	2,011	1,974
Grand Port ...	28	2,374	134	2,402	2,376
Savanne	10	944	56	954	927
Barkly Asylum ...	82	3,668	258	3,750	3,646
Lunatic Asylum ...	28	475	36	503	479
Beau Bassin Prisons	18	1,020	30	1,038	1,023
Reformatory ...	—	72	—	72	72
Moka	13	820	49	833	820
Total ...	388	20,735	1,267	21,123	20,651

The number of inmates remaining in the lunatic asylum on the 31st December, 1904, amounted to 414, including one patient admitted on interim order, but subsequently found to be sane by the Commissioners in Lunacy.

The admissions into the institution numbered 116 during 1905. Of these, six were discharged, having been found to be of sound mind by the Board of Commissioners.

Taking into consideration the harmless imbeciles quartered in the Barkly Asylum, the lunatics discharged on probation during the year, and the number of inmates remaining in the lunatic asylum on the 31st December, 1905, the proportion of total insane to the population of the Colony may be estimated at 1·49 per mille, or 1 in 669, as compared with 1 in 655 in 1904.

The sanitary condition of the Colony has not been satisfactory during 1905.

The meteorological conditions which prevailed during that year, viz., an unusually high rainfall, a marked increase over the normal in the degree of humidity and a lower range of wind velocity, are, no doubt, answerable for the higher death-rate recorded, as well as for the large number of admissions into the different hospitals and attendances at the dispensaries.

The hospital records show a very high increase in the number of patients who obtain admission for malaria and dysentery; but it is gratifying to notice that the plague epidemic has been the lowest on record.

The admissions into the different hospitals number 20,735 during the year under review, against 17,492 in 1904.

The proportion of deaths to attacks has increased from 5·42 per cent. in 1904 to 5·52 per cent. in 1905.

Malarial fever accounts for 5,123 admissions, or about one-fourth of the total number of patients admitted, giving an increase of 2,084 over the figure of 1904.

Dysentery is answerable for 1,013 admissions, against 505 in 1904. This high increase in the number of dysentery cases which came under notice might have been anticipated from the high incidence of malaria above referred to.

Enteric fever has given rise to 151 notifications, which number is about the same as that recorded in the previous year, when 143 cases were notified. Thirty-five deaths were reported as due to that disease.

Only eight patients suffering from typhoid fever resorted to the hospitals for relief. Of these, three died.

Influenza showed an incidence similar to that for 1904. It gave rise to 1,039 admissions during the year under review, against 1,036 for the previous year.

The epidemic of ulcers referred to last year, which had greatly subsided towards the latter part of 1904, continued into 1905; but the disease assumed a more sporadic character and its type was besides less severe.

Two hundred and twenty-three cases were admitted into the different hospitals for that ailment.

Tuberculosis is answerable for 1,008 admissions, giving a decrease of five in the number of the previous year, but those hospital figures cannot be taken as a sûre gauge of the prevalence of the disease, which otherwise shows no sign of reduced incidence.

The epidemic of plague in 1905 has been the lowest recorded since the introduction of the disease in 1899, as will be gathered from the following table:—

Epidemic of Plague in **1905.**

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
			Per cent.
1899...	1,416	1,117	78·9
1900...	796	593	74·5
1901...	1,093	805	73·6
1902...	506	386	76·3
1903...	1,395	1,035	74·2
1904...	568	449	79·0
1905...	308	251	81·5

The rate of mortality, however, 81·5 per cent., has been the highest on record.

The campaign undertaken by the Health Department against rodents, alluded to in the last report, has been carried on throughout 1905 with unabated vigour. 64,407 rats were destroyed in Port Louis alone, while the number of these animals killed or poisoned in the country districts amounted to 20,362.

The preventive disinfection of premises where plague cases had occurred in previous years was carried out on a large scale, a measure which so far seems to have been attended with most beneficial results.

The surra epizootic assumed a severer character in 1905 than it had done in 1904. The total number of equines reported dead during the year under review stands at 1,007, as against 826 in the previous year. The corresponding figures, so far as bovines are concerned, are 295 and 260.

During the year under review the Colony was visited by an epidemic of small-pox, which fortunately was rapidly got under. The existence of that disease was first established on the 26th of February, but the case detected on that date was not the initial one in the epidemic, as was subsequently ascertained. One hundred and thirty-seven cases were registered, with 16 deaths, or a case mortality of 11·68 per cent.

The epidemic reached its climax in April, when 43 cases occurred, but it gradually subsided, coming to an end in July, during which month the last cases were registered.

In spite of a very minute enquiry into the matter, no definite information could be obtained regarding the origin of the epidemic.

The spread of the disease was effectually checked by the immediate isolation of the patients and by the compulsory vaccination and segregation of the contacts and vaccination of persons inhabiting the contaminated areas. Steps were also taken to further the same object on a large scale by encouraging voluntary vaccination both in Port Louis and the country districts.

POOR RELIEF.

1. There are no poorhouses, in the English sense, in Mauritius, but relief, both indoor and outdoor, is extensively given to the poor.

The indoor relief is given at the public hospitals of the Colony, at the Barkly Asylum, for the aged and infirm poor, and at various convents, infirmaries and dispensaries. The outdoor relief consists of grants of food, money, clothes, and medicines.

2. The expenditure of the Poor Law Department for the year 1905, amounted to Rs. 203,458.11 c.

3. The number of patients treated at the several hospitals was 16,047, and the number of paupers who received outdoor relief was 2,593. The number of pauper orphans maintained in convents at the expense of the Poor Law Commission amounted to 50, and 852 infirm paupers were maintained in infirmaries. The number of sick paupers who applied at the public dispensaries, and who received either medicines or medical treatment, was 50,500.

4. The following table shows the total number of persons who received indoor and outdoor relief in 1905, namely:—

(*a*) Recipients of indoor relief:—	
Sick in country district hospitals	11,435
Sick in Civil hospital	4,302
Sick in Convent hospital, Canal Street ...	310
Inmates of Barkly Asylum	875
Lepers at St. Lazare	163
Inmates of lunatic asylum	495
Orphans in convents	50
Inmates of branch infirmaries	852
(*b*) Recipients of outdoor relief:—	
Alimentary and pecuniary	2,593
Medical (sick at dispensaries)	50,500
	71,575

There is also a leper asylum (St. Lazare) in Port Louis, into which 59 pauper lepers were admitted last year; and a lunatic asylum at Beau Bassin, into which there were admitted 66 males and 41 females, making a total of 107 inmates admitted in 1905.

REFORMATORY.

The admissions show an increase of 100, and the discharges an increase of 79 as compared with 1904.

The daily average number of convicted and unconvicted increased by 8·83, compared with 1904.

The daily average number of admissions increased by ·27 compared with 1904.

Ten escapes took place, showing a decrease of one as compared with those of 1904. Eleven were recaptured, two of whom escaped in 1904.

The total number of admissions into hospital shows an increase of 30, and, therefore, an increase of ·08 in the daily average number of admissions.

The daily average number of sick in hospital shows a decrease of ·90.

There were no deaths during the year. Four took place in 1904.

The total cost of maintaining and guarding the boys was Rs. 13,543.44 c. against Rs. 13,563.69 c. in 1904, showing a decrease of Rs. 20.25 c. as compared with 1904.

The total cost per head on average number of boys detained was Rs. 224.60 c. against Rs. 263.52 c. in 1904, or a decrease of Rs. 38.92 c. per head for 1905.

The earnings amounted to Rs. 3,068.85 c., against Rs. 3,561.70 c. in 1904. The decrease is therefore Rs. 492.85.

The total earnings per head on average number of boys was Rs. 50.89 c. against Rs. 69.19 c. in 1904, or a decrease of Rs. 18.30 c. per head for 1905.

SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits at the Government savings bank, at 3 per cent. interest, amounted to Rs. 2,845,052 on the 30th June, 1905, as compared with Rs. 2,886,780 on the same date in 1904, showing a decrease of Rs. 41,728.

The following return shows the number of depositors, and the amount standing to the credit of the general and the Indian populations at the end of the years 1903-4 and 1904-5.

Number of Depositors and Amount to Credit of General and Indian Populations.

—	1903–4.		1904–5.	
	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.
General Population	15,946	1,664,198	16,299	1,724,622
Indian Population	10,545	1,222,582	9,498	1,120,430
Total	26,491	2,886,780	25,797	2,845,052

The financial position of the bank on 30th June, 1905, was as follows:—

	Rs.
Investments	3,127,295.37
Cash in hand	11,065.07
Receiver-General (interest due by Treasury for 1904-5)	79,079.06
	3,217,439.50
Liabilities due to depositors	2,908,301.45
Balance in favour of bank	309,138.05

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police, Prisons, and Criminal.

The total effective strength of the police force on the 31st December, 1905, was 714, the actual strength, however, was 711.

The force comprised nine nationalities, but 523 were natives of Mauritius.

Ninety-five constables were enlisted during the year, and nine were dismissed.

Sixty-nine sub-officers and constables resigned, or were discharged on pension or gratuity during the year.

Detection and Repression of Crime.

The number of offences coming to the knowledge of the police during 1905 totalled 22,905, in connection with which 13,050 persons were apprehended or summoned before the magistrates.

The following return will show the nature of the various offences:—

Nature of Offences.	No. of cases.	No. of persons charged.
(*a*) Serious offences reported to, or detected by, the Police, in which persons were charged.	2,533	3,167
(*b*) Serious offences reported to the Police, which, in certain cases, formed the subject of enquiries, but in which no persons were charged.	9,529	°502
(*c*) Minor offences reported to, or detected by, the Police in which persons were charged.	4,427	6,556
(*d*) Minor offences reported to the Police in which no persons were charged.	3,596	—
(*e*) Offences against the Labour Law	1,493	1,498
(*f*) Vagrancy	1,327	1,327
Total	22,905	13,050

° On suspicion.

CASES of CRIMES in which PERSONS were CHARGED.

Offences.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons Charged.	Number of Persons Convicted or Committed to Assizes.	Number of Persons otherwise disposed of.	Pending.	Amount of Property Stolen.	Amount of Property Recovered.	
							By all Agencies.	By Police Only.
						Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Murder, including parricide, infanticide, wife murder, &c., and poisoning causing death.	7	17	5	—	12	—	—	—
Attempt at foregoing: and attempt at poisoning not causing death.	8	71	40	6	25	—	—	—
Manslaughter, including wounds and blows causing death...	9	12	7	3	2	—	—	—
Rape, including attempt upon chastity	19	25	21	4	—	—	—	—
Larceny at night by breaking, or with violence to the person.	98	160	112	16	32	6,957.43	1,235.42	1,125.72
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	24	32	14	7	11	—	1,148.22	1,108.17
Prædial or other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement, and swindling.	1,362	1,604	1,252	228	124	25,701.18	7,463.09	6,272.65
Removing, receiving or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	301	345	252	69	24	—	4,241.21	3,873.72
Arson and other malicious injuries to property	11	17	15	—	2	—	—	—
All other offences not included in above	694	884	694	134	56	—	—	—
Total	2,533	3,167	2,412	467	288	32,658.61	14,087.94	12,380.26

It will be observed that of the serious offences reported to, or detected by, the police, there were 2,533 cases in which 3,167 persons were charged, and of these 2,412, or 76·16 per cent., were either summarily convicted or committed to assizes.

The amount of property declared to have been stolen was Rs. 32,658·61, of which Rs. 14,087.94, or 43·14 per cent., was recovered.

The following return records all serious offences reported to, or detected by, the police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged:—

Offences.	No of cases.	No. of persons arrested on suspicion.	Amount of Property alleged to have been stolen.	Amount of Property recovered.	
				By all Agencies.	By Police only.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Murder, including parricide, wife murder, and poisoning causing death	3	2	—	—	—
Attempt at foregoing, and attempt at poisoning not causing death	7	5	—	—	—
Other offences against the person	5,954	45	—	—	—
Larceny at night by breaking, or with violence to the person	317	52	19,689.98	1,686.70	1,576.20
Prædial and other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement, and swindling ...	2,893	360	79,834.31	9,241.44	6,024.02
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property	36	17	—	242.23	231.75
Arson and other malicious injuries to property	23	16	—	—	—
Other offences against property...	284	4	—	—	—
All other offences not included above	12	1	—	—	—
Total	9,529	502	99,524.29	11,170.37	7,831.97

The total number of fires, which formed the subject of police investigation in 1905, was 191, and the total value of the property destroyed was Rs. 44,143.30

The following is another classification of the offences reported:—

Offences against the person	8,277
Prædial larceny	345
Offences against property other than prædial larceny	5,120
Other offences	9,163
	22,905

PRISONS.

During the year there were three prisons in Mauritius, the Central Prison at Port Louis, the New Central Prison at Beau Bassin, and the Savanne District Prison.

Beau Bassin and Port Louis.

The total number of prisoners admitted after conviction during the past year was 5,980 males and 176 females. These numbers show an increase of 565 males and a decrease of 39 females as compared with the returns for 1904.

2. The numbers committed under the different headings, compare with the previous year as follows:—

Year.	Debt.	Non-payment of fines and costs.	Safe custody till trial or for want of security.	Purposes of penal imprisonment.
1904 ...	8	1,523	2,570	4,099
1905 ...	10	1,610	3,393	4,536

There is a decrease of 136 prisoners previously convicted as compared with the number so convicted in 1904.

Under the classification of "duration of sentences" there is a decrease in short sentences, and in long sentences in periods of "five years to ten years," and an increase in life sentences, the figures being:—

Five to ten years:—

1904	15
1905	10
Decrease	5

Life:—

1904	5
1905	11
Increase	6

The daily average number under detention, as compared with 1904 shows an increase of 61·07.

Daily average:—

1904	943·76
1905	1,004·83
Increase	61·07

accounted for principally by a large number of untried prisoners connected with a riot case on one of the sugar estates, who were for some months under detention.

Sickness and Mortality.

The following were the prevailing diseases:—

Port Louis Central Prison.	Beau Bassin Central Prison.	Savanne District Prison.
Malarial Fever. Dysentery. Diarrhœa. Phthisis. Pneumonia. Debility.	Malarial Fever. Dysentery. Diarrhœa. Phthisis. Pneumonia. Debility. Influenza.	Malarial Fever. Pneumonia. Diarrhœa.

Forty-six deaths occurred during the year, eight at Port Louis, 27 at Beau Bassin, and 11 at Savanne, compared with 31 in 1904 (Port Louis 8, Beau Bassin 20, Savanne 3).

The causes were as under:—

—	Port Louis Central Prison.	Beau Bassin Central Prison.	Savanne District Prison.	Total.
Dysentery	1	3	—	4
Fever	2	1	3	6
Diarrhœa	—	1	2	3
Influenza	—	7	—	7
Debility	—	3	—	3
Peritonitis	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia	3	10	4	17
Pleurisy	1	1	—	2
Blows	—	—	1	1
Childbirth	1	—	—	1
Epilepsy	—	—	1	1
Total	8	27	11	46

The death rate for the two central prisons, taking the rate per cent. of deaths on the average daily number under detention, was 3·89, as compared with 3·30 in 1904.

Taking the two central prisons separately, it was as follows:—

Percentage of Deaths.

—	Daily average.		Death rate per 100.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
Port Louis ...	304·18	269·19	2·63	2·97
Beau Bassin ...	544·58	629·49	3·67	4·28

These figures are not so satisfactory as regards the central prisons, and as regards Savanne prison the rate was as high as 10·36 on the daily average.

The average daily number of sick in hospital in the central prisons was 45·54, as compared with 35·75 in 1904. Separately the average in Port Louis rose from 17·26 in 1904, to 22·81 in 1905, and at Beau Bassin from 18·49 in 1904 to 22·73 in 1905. At Savanne the average was 4·90, which was remarkably low as compared with the death rate.

There were no cases of bubonic plague.

The cost of maintenance during 1905 was Rs. 71,325, as compared with Rs. 51,420 in 1904, the cost per head being Rs. 70·98 as compared with Rs. 60·58 in 1904.

The gross earnings amounted to Rs. 132,445 in 1905, against Rs. 124,310 in the previous year, the earnings per head being Rs. 112.

The prisoners were employed as carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, and at making rattan goods and mats. They were also employed at stone-breaking and labour upon the public roads.

Criminal Statistics.

The following table gives the judicial statistics for 1905:—

Informations in the Supreme, District, and Stipendiary Courts of Mauritius.

How case tried ended.	Total.	Murder, other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter.	Attempt at murder.	The numbers include attempts to commit the several offences.												
(Each prisoner tried should be counted as a separate case, but where any large batch of prisoners* have been convicted together, the fact might be mentioned below.)					Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Child murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injuries to property.	Robbery with violence.	Prædial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Vaccination.	Miscellaneous offences.
Judgment for the Crown	19,097	1	3	19	—	—	—	—	6	3	747	216	77	309	1,256	35	17,407
Judgment for the prisoner	1,460	2	2	12	—	—	—	—	3	—	277	53	18	29	297	—	767
Prisoners found insane	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases which fell through for want of prosecution, including cases which the Procureur General declined to take at the Assizes.	3,759	1	—	40	—	1	—	—	3	—	210	197	38	13	889	5	2,362

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* *i.e.* Five or more than five in number.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

—	Numbers.	
The population on the 1st January, 1905 was		378,745
The number of births registered in 1905	12,569	
The number of births unregistered owing to death intervening before registration was made, was	1,474	
Total births	14,043	
The number of deaths registered was	15,379	
Showing a decrease of		1,336
		377,409
Arrivals in the Island	4,978	
Departures from the Island	4,855	
Difference in favour of arrivals		123
Total Civil Population		377,532
Military stationed in the Island		3,156
Total population of the Island		380,688
Estimated population of Dependencies and out-lying Islands		5,440
Estimated total population of the Colony		386,128

The crews of non-Colonial shipping in the harbour have not been included in the above estimate.

The Indian population included in the above numbered 264,667, composed of 144,857 males and 119,810 females, showing an increase of 1,757 males and 3,824 females on the Census of 1901.

The general population (excluding Indians) numbered 112,865, of which 57,481 are males and 55,384 females, thus showing an increase of 1,029 males and a decrease of 101 females.

It will be noticed that while both populations show an increase when compared with the Census figures, they show a decrease when compared with those of last year.

The public health of the Colony during 1905 has been worse than that of 1904.

The death rate shows a noticeable increase, having risen from 32·2 in 1904 to 40·6 in 1905.

The birth-rate has decreased from 37·6 per 1,000 to 37·0.

An unsatisfactory feature is to be found in the high infantile mortality for the year.

Unfortunately, a very high proportion of still-births, 8·2 per cent., must at the same time be recorded.

The following is an abstract of marriages, births, and deaths in 1905:—

Districts.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Total Population.				General Population.				Indian Population.			
	On Population on 1st January, 1905.	On Population on 1st January, 1905.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Still-births.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Still-births.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Still-births.
Port Louis	33·1	59·9	309	1,734	3,136	120	214	940	1,609	68	95	794	1,527	52
Pamplemousses	35·8	46·9	68	1,369	1,796	109	23	232	350	18	45	1,137	1,446	91
Rivière du Rempart ...	46·1	36·2	72	1,322	1,039	100	20	202	131	6	52	1,120	908	94
Flacq	33·7	42·4	83	1,919	2,415	186	21	393	473	29	62	1,526	1,942	157
Grand Port	37·5	43·6	97	1,904	2,214	210	42	491	552	46	55	1,413	1,662	164
Savanne	33·8	33·3	54	1,230	1,212	128	20	279	239	19	34	951	973	109
Plaines Wilhems... ...	41·1	29·5	227	2,680	1,922	148	124	993	738	52	103	1,687	1,184	96
Moka	37·9	29·4	62	1,413	1,099	119	23	216	160	24	39	1,197	939	95
Black River	35·2	40·7	36	472	546	32	14	198	166	5	22	274	380	27
Total	37·0	40·6	1,008	14,043	15,379	1,152	501	3,944	4,418	267	507	10,099	10,961	885

The following statement shows the different classes of occupations of the population*:—

Employment.	General Population.		Indo-Mauritians.		Other Indians.		Grand Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Class I.—Professional ..	3,225	624	712	29	373	19	4,310	672	4,982
Class II.—Domestic ..	2,874	3,087	5,183	1,047	1,656	192	9,713	4,326	14,039
Class III.—Commercial ..	5,681	110	3,744	473	3,350	369	12,776	952	13,727
Class IV.—Agricultural ..	3,605	157	41,069	3,779	27,675	1,606	72,349	5,542	77,891
Class V.—Industrial ..	18,211	3,269	1,824	227	756	33	20,791	3,529	24,320
Class VI.—Indefinite and Non-productive.	22,856	48,238	50,438	90,353	6,320	17,859	79,614	156,450	236,064
Total	56,452	55,485	102,970	95,908	40,130	20,078	199,552	171,471	371,023

Births.

There were 14,043 births registered during the year. The birth rate in the general population was 34·7 per 1,000, and in the Indian population 38·0.

Deaths.

15,379 deaths occurred during the year. The death rate was, in the general population, 38·8 per 1,000, and in the Indian population 41·3. The deaths consequently exceeded the births by 1,336.

Marriages.

There were 1,008 marriages celebrated during the year. Of these marriages, 501 belonged to the general population, and 507 to the Indian population.

The following return shows the mortality for the last five years:—

Year.	Mortality.	Rate per 1,000.
1901	14,971	40·3
1902	12,716	34·0
1903	15,034	39·9
1904	12,064	32·2
1905	15,379	40·6

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* From the Census of 1st April, 1901.

CLIMATE.

General.

The Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory reports as follows:—

Mauritius lies between the meridians of 57° 18′ and 57° 49′ E. longitude, and the parallels of 19° 58′ and 20° 32′ S. latitude. To the north extends the equatorial belt of calms and variable winds with its hot, damp, and rarefied atmosphere; and to the south the sub-tropical belt of high pressure from which a current of air blows nearly continuously, in a curved path, towards the equator, being deflected to the west by the rotation of the earth.

The migrations of these belts north and south with the sun produce the seasonal variations of weather at Mauritius. With the system in its most southerly position the Island is under the influence of the belt of low pressure, and in its most northerly position the influence of the high pressure belt is felt; so that in the summer months—December to April—the atmospheric pressure is below the average, and the weather is hot and sultry with occasional very heavy rain, produced principally by the cyclones which form to the north-east of Mauritius and travel usually on a south-westerly course, passing sometimes to eastward and sometimes to westward, but seldom immediately over the island.

The mean atmospheric pressure varies from 29·919 ins. in February to 30·202 ins. in August, and the mean temperature of the air from 79° in January to 68° in July. (At Curepipe, a town situated on the central plateau, 1,800 ft. above sea-level, the temperature varies from 74° in January to 62° in July). The mean wind direction varies from east in December and January to south-east by east in June; its velocity varies from ten miles per hour in March to 12·4 miles per hour in August. The rainfall is very variable in different parts of the island; the wettest station is Cluny, in Grand Port, with a mean annual rainfall of 145 ins.; the driest is Albion, on the west coast, with a mean rainfall of 31 ins. The mean monthly rainfall for the whole island decreases from 12 ins. in March to 2·6 ins. in September and October.

In addition to the annual variation there is a marked diurnal variation in all elements amounting to 0·070 ins. in atmospheric pressure, from 12° in winter to 17° in summer in air temperature, from 25 to 50 per cent. in relative humidity, seven miles an hour in wind velocity, 20° in wind direction and 0·7 in. in rainfall.

SPECIAL FEATURES IN 1905.

Barometric Pressure.

The positive pressure pulse was prolonged until the middle of the year with, however, superposed negative pulses in January and March, due to the passage of cyclones. The smoothed curve shows a general decrease of pressure from May to October, and the monthly departure curve shows a large negative wave of pressure from April to November, with a well-marked positive wave superposed in August. In the latter month an interruption of the general trend of the curve is shown in most of the meteorological elements.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. — 0·021	Ins. + 0·018	Ins. — 0·025	Ins. — 0·020

Air Temperature.

The temperature rose generally, relatively to the normal, from September, 1904, to October, 1905, with, however, an interruption in August, 1905, as mentioned above. The positive pulse of temperature broke up apparently in November, 1905. The temperature in this month being 0·5° below normal, and in December 0·8° below.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
0·0°	0·0°	+ 0·4°	— 0·2°

Vapour Tension.

The departures from average of vapour tension were greater than usual. After a large positive wave in January, the curve shows a general decrease till April, followed by a general increase until the end of the year, with again an interruption in August. The (inverted) abnormality curve of vapour tension followed very closely the corresponding curve of barometric pressure, being below normal, when the barometric pressure was above normal, and vice versâ.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. + ·058	Ins. + ·014	Ins. + ·022	Ins. + ·036

Relative Humidity.

The abnormality curve of relative humidity followed closely that of the vapour tension, showing greater variation than usual.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. + 5·6	Per cent. + 1·7	Per cent. + 1·6	Per cent. + 4·9

Rainfall.

The rainfall abnormality curve followed those of vapour tension and relative humidity with unusual regularity. In January the fall was 21·16 ins., or 12·77 ins. above normal, the greatest on record. The previous greatest falls were 17·54 ins. in 1904, and 14·72 in 1871.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. + 52	Per cent. — 18	Per cent. — 3	Per cent. + 86

Wind Velocity.

The prolonged defect of wind velocity throws doubt on the accuracy of the Robinson anemometer. The recorded velocity was below normal in every month of the year except April, when it was 0·1 m.p.h. above.

The recorded run of the wind during the year was 78,052 miles, whereas the average for the period 1875-1899 was 97,236 miles, showing a defect of 19,184 miles during the year.

The monthly departures from normal followed closely the variations of atmospheric pressure, except in February, when a positive pulse of pressure was not reproduced in the wind velocity curve.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
M.p.h. — 2·6	M.p.h. — 1·1	M.p.h. — 3·1	M.p.h. — 2·0

Means and Extremes of Meteorological Elements.

The means and extremes of the various meteorological elements for the year 1905 are given below:—

——	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.
	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.
Atmospheric Pressure ...	30·058	30·350	29·357
Air Temperature	73·5°	89·0°	52·3°
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Relative Humidity ...	78·5	100·0	41·8
	M.p.h.	M.p.h.	
Wind Velocity	8·9	49·0	—
Wind Direction	S. 75° E.	—	—
	Total.		
Rainfall	67·90	—	—

Sky Glows.

The morning and evening sky glows were of about normal intensity.

Zodiacal Light.

The Zodiacal light was also of about normal intensity.

Results of Magnetic Observations.

The magnetographs were at work throughout the year, and absolute values of the magnetic elements determined, as a rule, four times a month. The following are the mean results for 1905:—

Declination (west)	9° 11′26
Dip (south)	53° 55′5
Horizontal force (C.G.S. units)	0·23590
Vertical force (C.G.S. units)	0·32379
Total force (C.G.S. units)...	0·40062

The largest magnetic disturbances occurred on February 3rd-6th, April 1-2, August 2, September 3-4, October 28-29, November 12-13, 15-16.

MISCELLANEOUS WORK AT THE ROYAL ALFRED OBSERVATORY.

Actinometric observations were taken with high and low sun on 41 days, and single observations on 31 other days.

Fifty-four earthquakes were recorded by the Milne seismograph during the year. The hourly measures of the seismograms were discontinued at the end of the year 1904, as it was found that the records were vitiated by a lamp used at night to check tremors. In August the instrument was moved to the magnetic basement.

Rainfall returns were collected from 62 stations in different parts of the Island. The mean rainfall for the whole Island during the year was 106·41 ins. as compared with an average of 79·85 inches.

Observations made on board vessels trading with Mauritius were tabulated, and detailed accounts of gales and hurricanes recorded. From observations thus obtained daily synoptic charts were prepared for the hurricane months, and the tracks of seven cyclones laid down. There was evidence at Mauritius of an eighth cyclone from December 1st to 4th, passing to north and north-west, but up to the present no information has come to hand from which to determine its track.

PUBLICATIONS.

Papers on a magnetic survey near the Royal Alfred Observatory, and on the climate of Pamplemousses, were published in the "Proceedings of the Royal Society," London, and in the "Report of the Eighth International Geographical Congress," respectively.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

The contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, was renewed in 1904 for another year for a four-weekly service between Colombo and Mauritius. Besides the British India steamers, our mails to and from the East are conveyed by other British and French steamers. The Messageries Maritimes Company performed their bi-monthly voyages from Marseilles to Mauritius and *vice versâ*, calling at Aden, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Réunion. The mails for and from South African ports were conveyed by the Union Castle steamers.

Statements of letters, postcards, newspapers, and postal parcels, &c., dealt with during the year 1905:—

—	Internal.	Mail Packets.				Other Vessels.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	
Insured Letters	—	—	—	156	17	—	—	—	—	173
Express Delivery	31,965	—	86	—	—	—	—	—	—	32,051
Postal Cards	264,026	1,815	4,169	3,765	3,521	2,385	3,515	2,585	4,503	290,284
Paid Letters	1,162,517	188,175	74,715	100,215	144,960	6,406	14,923	44,611	124,556	1,861,078
Unpaid Letters	24,291	5,230	340	7,206	5,996	201	417	3,936	1,936	49,553
Registered Letters	55,037	3,787	6,010	19,515	11,715	653	1,264	3,515	12,810	114,306
Service	236,555	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,126	3,005	240,686
Newspapers	1,591,622	109,995	59,315	175,310	126,875	12,565	5,061	20,909	18,031	2,119,683
Postal Parcels	934	4,571	833	8,107	1,324	—	—	—	—	15,769
Total	3,366,947	313,573	145,468	314,274	294,408	22,210	25,180	76,682	164,841	4,723,583

The following are the telegraph and telephone lines in Mauritius:—

TELEGRAPH.

Wires.	Length.
	Miles
North Line (2 wires); 14 stations are connected on these wires and terminate at Grand River, S.E.—32 miles, making the length of both wires	64
A third wire from the Signal Mountain, Port Louis, passing through Central Railway Telegraph Office, Central Post Office Telegraph Office, direct to the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses (1¼ miles from Railway Station at Pamplemousses)	12
At Mapou, on the North Line, 10 miles from Port Louis, two wires leave the Railway Station, one runs to Cannoniers Point, passing through Grand Bay	7
And the other to Butte aux Sables Signal Station	9
(These two wires communicate direct to Port Louis, by means of a switch.)	
One from Terre Rouge to Long Mountain	4
One from Poudre d'Or Station to Poudre d'Or Village	2
One from Argy Station to Central Flacq	1¼
On the Midland Line, two wires extend from Port Louis to Mahébourg (36 miles)	72
One from Port Louis to Plaine Lauzun Works	2
One from Port Louis to Le Réduit	12
One from Port Louis to Curepipe Railway Station for the use of the Military	16
One from Port Louis to Chemin Grenier	42
One from Rose Belle to Souillac	11
Two Moka-Flacq Line wires from Port Louis, through Rose Hill, and terminate at Rivière Sèche on the North Line	74
One from Petite Rivière to Bambous	5
Total	333¼

TELEPHONE.

Wires.	Length.
	Miles.
From Bambous to Petit Cap (Savanne)	22
From Mahébourg to Old Grand Port	7
The Observatory Circuit is always used for telephone communication with the Post Office and the Eastern Telegraph Office ...	¼
Total	29¼

There is also a telephonic service in Port Louis, which is the property of a private company.

MONEY ORDERS.

Inland money orders were issued during the year 1905 for a total sum of Rs. 341,132 against an aggregate sum of Rs. 292,805 during the previous year.

The foreign money orders show the following comparison:—

1904	Rs. 447,724
1905	351,618

The British postal order system was extended to Mauritius during the year.

The total Post Office expenditure for 1905 was Rs. 135,676.55, as follows:—

Personal emoluments	Rs. 102,872.56
Other Charges—	
Overtime	3,024.25
Sea and territorial transit	1,130.72
Maintenance of telegraph	1,547.35
Porterage of telegrams	11,745.16
Uniform	1,616.05
Gratuities to masters of vessels ...	3,289.18
Miscellaneous and special expenditure	10,451.28
	Rs. 135,676.55

And the total revenue for the same period was Rs. 131,445.24, collected under the following heads:—

	Rs.
1. Postal correspondence	90,272.35
2. Telegraph receipts	22,275.63
3. Rodrigues (postage and commission on money orders)	35.50
4. Commission on money orders (Inland, Foreign, and Indian)	10,782.76
5. Parcel postal service	3,894.16
6. Transit of correspondence	3,199.56
7. Private boxes	939.00
8. Commission on postal orders	46.28
	Rs. 131,445.24

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

No. of Vote.	Particulars.	Amount.
	From 1st January, 1905, to 31st March, 1905.	£
1	Pay, &c., of the Army	27,127
2	Medical Establishments	1,304
6	Transport and Remounts	2,169
7	Provisions, Forage, &c.	14,232
8	Clothing Services	932
9	Warlike and other Stores	401
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs	3,316
	Military Works Loan...	2,202
11	Establishments for Military Education ...	105
14 to 16	Army non-Effective Services	138
	From 1st April, 1905, to 31st December, 1905.	
1	Pay, &c., of the Army	65,855
2	Medical Establishments	1,856
6	Quarterings, Transport, and Remounts ...	18,140
7	Supplies and Clothing	33,779
8	Ordnance Department Establishments, &c.	1,244
9	Armaments and Engineer Stores	27
10	Works and Buildings	6,560
	Military Works Loan	1,637
11	Establishments for Military Education ...	323
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services	379
13	War Office and Army Accounts Department	1,048
14 to 16	Army non-Effective Services	734
	Total	183,508

X.—RAILWAYS.

The earnings of 1905 showed a decrease of Rs. 54,126 on those of 1904, owing to a comparatively reduced sugar crop, the figures being, for 1904, Rs. 2,378,950, for 1905, Rs. 2,324,824.

These figures are exclusive of Government traffic, which amounted in 1905 to Rs. 177,880.

The working expenses in 1905 were Rs. 1,581,749, and the percentage of working expenditure to earnings in 1905 was 63·20, against 71·93 in 1904.

The total length of railway open in 1905—exclusive of sidings—was 120 miles.

XI.—RODRIGUES.

The Island of Rodrigues, the magistrate in charge reports, has been free from cyclones, and sufficient rain has fallen, allowing the inhabitants to make fairly good crops.

The following statements give in a comparative form the value of the imports and exports, and the revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the last three years:—

Trade.

Year.	Exports.	Imports.
	Rs.	Rs.
1903	176,675	237,346
1904	201,861	226,190
1905	210,671	180,276

The following were the principal exports:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Horned Cattle	4,380	11,160	3,300
Goats	22,020	49,188	14,060
Pigs...	5,875	9,750	2,525
Salt Fish	120,345	97,933	161,460
Tobacco	16,380	27,300	15,330

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1903	12,122	33,580
1904	12,155	30,706
1905	15,450	33,616

XII.—GENERAL.

The price of sugar ranged as follows from January, 1904, to April, 1906:—

Year.	Month.	Prices.
		Rs.
1904	January ...	7.90
"	February ...	7.80
"	March	8.00
"	April	8.00
"	May	8.50
"	June	9.55
"	July	9.55
"	August ...	8.85
"	September ...	9.90
"	October ...	10.80
"	November ...	11.95
"	December ...	12.15
1905	January ...	12.15
"	February ...	13.30
"	March	13.35
"	April	13.35
"	May	11.10
"	June	11.10
"	July	9.00
"	August ...	9.50
"	September ...	9.50
"	October ...	8.50
"	November ...	8.25
"	December ...	8.50
1906	January ...	8.25
"	February ...	8.00
"	March	8.10
"	April	7.80

There was unfortunately a marked decline in prices as compared with the rates at which the previous year's crop was sold, but the sugar crop of 1905 was a very abundant one, and the year was, there is reason to believe, a profitable one for most of the estates. The crop realised 183,077 tons, or some 39,000 tons more than the preceding year. The crop which the Colony is now about to gather is even a more abundant one than that of the year under review in this report.

D. C. Cameron,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

21st August, 1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905
478	Leeward Islands	"
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
480	Basutoland	"
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia	"
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	"
485	Hong Kong	"
486	St. Helena	"
487	Weihaiwei	"
488	Gold Coast	"
489	Seychelles	"
490	Falkland Islands	"
491	Gambia	"
492	Jamaica	1904–1905
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1905
494	Ceylon	"
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
496	Bahamas...	1905–1906
497	Barbados	"
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905–1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905
502	Straits Settlements	"
503	Gibraltar	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago	1905–1906
505	St. Lucia	1905

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

LONDON:
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1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 547.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 19 , *see* No. 506.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1907.

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No. 547.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 506.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Mauritius,
August 27, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1906, and of the Colonial Secretary's report thereon, which has been printed for convenience of transmission and perusal.

I have, &c.,

CAVENDISH BOYLE.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,
K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

1125 Wt 24282 11/07 D & S 5 30015

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1906.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the financial year 1905-6 amounted to Rs. 11,169,783.21, as shown by the following comparative statement:—

Revenue.

No.	Heads of Revenue.	1904-5.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1	Customs	3,567,495.72	3,486,682.04	—	80,813.68
2	Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues.	206,843.90	263,073.55	56,229.65	—
3	Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	2,464,920.98	2,530,444.46	65,523.48	—
4	Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	239,259.88	269,353.06	30,093.18	—
5	Post Office and Telegraphs	136,720.36	139,479.45	2,759.09	—
6	Government Railways ...	2,657,596.00	2,437,510.65	—	220,085.35
7	Rent of Government Property.	70,752.16	64,745.79	— 27,125.97	6,006.37 —
8	Interest	908,899.53	936,025.50		
9	Miscellaneous Receipts ...	146,902.11	159,865.80	12,963.69	—
10	Land Sales	164.27	641.33	477.06	—
		10,399,554.91	10,287,821.63	195,172.12	306,905.40
11	Revenue from Loan Ordinance 31 of 1904.	—	881,961.58	881,961.58	—
	Total	10,399,554·91	11,169,783.21	1,077,133.70	306,905.40
	Result—Net increase ...	—	—	770,228.30	—

The increase of revenue, as compared with the preceding year, was due to the reimbursement out of the loan raised under Ordinance 31 of 1904, of the cost of certain public works which had in previous years been charged to the general revenue.

Expenditure.

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure for the years 1904-5 and 1905-6:—

No.	Heads of Service.	1904-5.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1	Charge on account of Public Debt	1,022,873.25	1,264,583.79	241,710.54	—
2	Pensions	560,432.73	585,799.58	25,366.85	—
3	Governor and Legislature	94,156.55	94,307.63	151.08	—
4	Colonial Secretariat ...	67,066.92	58,001.83	—	9,065.09
5	Receiver General	148,693.26	143,451.30	—	5,241.96
6	Auditor General	55,306.45	56,273.28	966.83	—
7	Customs	233,374.12	126,542.87	—	106,831.25
8	Port and Marine	421,132.17	336,413.87	—	84,718.30
9	Meteorological Observatory	23,557.13	21,185.96	—	2,371.17
10	Public Library and Museum	10,571.08	10,426.34	—	144.74
11	Registrar General	20,746.46	19,751.94	—	994.52

Expenditure—cont.

No.	Heads of Service.	1904-5.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs. c,	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
12	Receiver of Registration Dues.	50.188.54	50,600.87	412.33	—
13	Postal and Telegraph Department.	147,637.23	150,079.92	2,442.69	—
14	Forests and Gardens ...	143,258.44	142,377.81	—	880.63
15	Judicial Departments ...	495,660.43	463,194.52	—	32,465.91
16	Ecclesiastical	152,635.96	152,698.96	63.00	—
17	Education	595,299.19	584,350.56	—	10,948.63
18	Medical and Health Department.	750,569.28	734,705.64	—	15,863.64
19	Quarantine	61,948.43	15,122.09	—	46,826.34
20	Poor Law Department ...	210,321.23	202,297.57	—	8,023.66
21	Police	533,882.01	553,479.85	19,597.84	—
22	Prisons and Reformatory...	169,345.25	178,901.97	9,556.72	—
23	Storekeeper General ...	40,683.76	36,665.14	—	4,018.62
24	Immigration	142,376.74	109,653.89	—	32,722.85
25	Dependencies	70,295.14	55,213.33	—	15,081.81
26	Crown Agents	15,258.69	4,436.94	—	10,821.75
27	Writers and Copyists ...	5,855.22	4,974.43	—	880.79
28	Transport	7,925.98	1,559.49	—	6,366.49
29	Miscellaneous	814,182.10	468,259.12	—	345,922.98
30	Charitable Allowances ...	36,793.31	10,004.20	—	26,789.11
31	Interest and Exchange ...	246,252.45	206,845.02	—	39,407.43
32	Military Expenditure ...	433,274.21	476,550.11	43,275.90	—
33	Railway Department ...	1,872,258.06	1,741,273.00	—	130,985.06
34	Public Works Department	69,010.90	82,445.48	13,434.58	—
35	Public Works, Recurrent...	546,253.61	492,942.17	—	53,311.44
36	Public Works, Extraordinary.	24,433.00	37,951.18	13,518.18	—
37	Loan (Hurricane) Board Office.	14,278.98	12,391.54	—	1,887.44
38	Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.	44,733.29	43,034.26	—	1,699.03
39	Drainage Works (Upkeep)	24,133.32	16,861.58	—	7,271.74
40	Secret Service	526.55	—	—	526.55
41	Plague Services	186,340.01	170,259.49	—	16,080.52
	Total	10,563,521.43	9,915,868.52	370,496.54	1,018,149.45
	Result—Net decrease . .	—	—	—	647,652.91

The decrease in expenditure in 1905-6 may be attributed partly to the fact that in 1904-5 large sums spent on reafforestation and the Station Agronomique in previous years under "Advances" were written off to expenditure head "Miscellaneous," and partly to the savings in 1905-6 under head "Railways," caused by the non-execution in time of certain indents for railway materials.

POSITION OF THE COLONY AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1905-6.

	Rs.
At the close of the year 1904-5 there was a deficit of...	81,720
As the revenue of 1905-6 exceeded the expenditure by	1,253,915
A balance in favour of the Treasury of... ...	1,172,195

is, therefore, shown on 30th June, 1906.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years, and the Treasury balances at the close of each year, were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.	Debit Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1901–2 ...	9,140,754	9,043,066	1,834,669	
1902–3 ...	9,221,600	9,575,182	1,263,430	
1903–4 ...	9,473,112	10,664,115	82,247	
1904–5 ...	10,399,554	10,563,521	—	81,720
1905–6 ...	11,169,783	9,915,868	1,172,195	

Assets and Liabilities on 30th June, 1906.

1. Commissioners of currency:—

	Rs.
Assets	7,049,701
Liabilities	6,876,255
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...	173,446

2. Government savings bank:—

	Rs.
Assets	3,130,970
Liabilities	2,830,272
Balance in favour of bank	300,698

3. Treasury proper:—

	Rs.
Assets	4,299,779
Liabilities	3,127,584
Balance in favour of Treasury	1,172,195

4. Public debt:—

The public debt stood as follows on the 30th June, 1906:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
(1) 6 per cent. Railway Debenture, under Ordinance 15 of 1864 (matured bond unclaimed)	1,000	0	0
(2) Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	35,300	0	0
Carried forward	36,300	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	36,300	0	0
(3) Moka Railway 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	500	0	0
(4) Consolidated 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	49,900	0	0
(5) Mauritius 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock, under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887, including loan made for Mare-aux-Vacoas (£34,000) ...	482,390	16	0
(6) Hurricane Loan 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock, under Ordinance 4 of 1892...	600,000	0	0
(7) 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock, under Ordinances Nos. 31 of 1904 and 39 of 1905	150,000	0	0
	£1,319,090	16	0

For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock, the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the trustees on the 30th June, 1906, amounted to £217,284, the amount duly provided as required by law.

The sum at the credit of the sinking funds on 30th June, 1906, showed an increase of £19,477 on the previous year.

Currency.

Amount of currency notes on 31st December, 1906:—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents)...	483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,405	0	0
	£3,888	16	5

Rupee notes, under Ordinance 28 of 1876:—

	Rs.
1. In the Commissioners' vault...	2,700,005
2. In the hands of the public (including the banks and financial officers)	4,176,250
	6,876,255

CHANGES IN TAXATION.

None during the year 1906.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Statement of the revenue and expenditure of the municipality of Port Louis for year ended 31st December, 1906:—

	Rs.
Balance in hand 1st January, 1906	77,713.89
Revenue during the year	*720,728.68
	798,442.57
Expenditure	*750,702.41
Balance in hand on 31st December, 1906 ...	47,740.16

The following is a comparative statement of the normal revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs c.	Rs. c.
1902	442,825.20	472,875.39
1903	†422,351.45	451,345.77
1904	501.365.27	502,601.14
1905	‡548,138.80	492,785.18
1906	537,366.04	510,587.68

Statement of the debt of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis on 31st December, 1906, showing provision for payment in 1907:—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1907.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Conversion Loan	120,400 0 0	1,700 0 0
Electric Lighting Loan	9,666 13 4	333 6 8
	Rs.	Rs. c.
Colonial Loan	23,400	7,800.00
Grand River Bridge Loan	10,000	2,000.00
Manure Establishment Loan	20,000	2,000.00
Government Hurricane Loan	84,116	6,237.16
Flood Loan	8,333	4,167.00
Municipality Loan	24,000	2,000.00
Total	169,849	24,204.16

---

* Including advances, deposits, balance of loan of £10,000, &c.

† Not including a loan of Rs 30,000 for the purchase of the buildings of the Gas Company and of a traction engine for scavenging purposes.

‡ Not including a loan of £10,000 for Electric Lighting plant of the town.

Provision for payment of capital and interest on the above loans has been duly made in the annual budget of the Corporation.

Besides the Municipal Council of Port Louis, which is an elective assembly, there are three township boards—

Curepipe,
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill,
Quatre Bornes,

appointed annually by the Governor to administer the affairs of those places.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CUREPIPE.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1901.	1902.	Half-year 1903.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	115,590.13	121,322.70	35,536.20	82,771.72	68,933,62	65,776.19
Expenditure ..	88,426.58	120,285.57	34,261.02	81,158.12	67,729.06	64,740.09

Debt of the Board of Curepipe.

—	Amount.	
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Amount of Debentures issued in 1901 and 1902 for the construction of the Town Hall, in virtue of Ordinance No. 39 of 1900.	70,000	
Amount paid off in 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906	12,500	57,500
2. Government Special Loan repayable in 10 Annuities.	25,000	
Amount paid off in 1905 and in 1906...	5,000	20,000
Total		77,500

Provision is made annually for repayment.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	28,252.08	29,342.81	29,270.19	29,345.61	26,644.97	26,476.80
Expenditure ..	27,520.54	33,133.34	29,235.29	26,260.19	28,186.97	25,188.03

Debt.—A loan of Rs. 20,000 was made to the Board by Government on its creation to permit of the works of repairing and draining the streets and lanes of the township being undertaken without delay. This amount is refunded by annual instalments of Rs. 1,500, and the debt is now reduced to Rs. 4,500.

A further loan of Rs. 5,000 was made to the Board in 1901, to be reimbursed after settlement of the loan of Rs. 20,000.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF QUATRE BORNES.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	12,827.14	13,627.55	15,460.80	12,724.51	12,549.48	12,624.69
Expenditure ..	10,148.32	13,451.95	14,000.25	13,274.16	12,571.97	12,415.57

Debt. Rs. 615.—This represents the share to be paid to Government by the Board for re-metalling a main road in the township. Provision has been made in the estimates to pay off this debt.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statements show in a comparative form the value of the imports and exports for the year 1906:—

VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including charges and exchange) classified according to Secretary of State's Circular Despatch of 5th December, 1891.

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food and Drink, and Narcotics.	13,504,402.30	14,888,254.87	35,175,024.20	38,715,788.67	123,901.03	161,445.76	35,298,925.23	38,877,234.43
2. Raw Materials :—								
1. Textile ...	12,844.65	14,805.44	564,548.30	737,602.32	—	490.00	564,548.30	738,092.32
2. Metal... ...	—	—	—	—	—	55,106.48	—	55,106.48
3. Other... ...	2,492,290.91	2,531,184.30	29,467.23	68,015.70	8,434.00	17,115.46	37,901.23	85,131.16
3. Manufactured Articles :—								
1. Textile ...	3,316,642.45	3,962,920.76	4,910.50	2,225.00	14,765.99	57,885.23	19,676.49	60,110.23
2. Metal... ...	1,834,843.33	1,294,944.33	28,891.00	10,581.50	106,164.10	34,726.92	135,055.10	45,308.42
3. Other... ...	4,995,839.43	6,275,166.58	5,594.00	17,907.00	574,454.30	268,252.98	580,048.30	286,159.98
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	787,536.10	620,978.97	—	—	206,891.50	1,008,977.00	206,891.50	1,008,977.00
Total ...	26,944,399.20	29,588,255.25	35,808,435.23	39,552,120.19	1,034,610.92	1,603,999.83	36,843,046.15	41,156,120.02

VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including charges and exchange) classified according to Secretary of State's Circular Despatch of 5th December, 1891.

Coastwise.

—	Imports.		Exports.					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, Food and Drink, and Narcotics.	402,108.32	372,182.94	12,385.91	17,520.63	202,543.06	249,710.50	214,928.97	267,231.13
2. Raw Materials :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	—	—	—	48.00	—	48.00
2. Metal... ...	—	—	—	—	—	395.70	—	395.70
3. Other... ...	9,992.25	32,690.86	156.00	2,027.00	1,120.50	11,494.80	1,276.50	13,521.80
3. Manufactured Articles :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	225.00	—	156,908.06	80,871.38	157,133.06	80,871.38
2. Metal ...	—	—	568.30	642.00	18,801.15	20,032.57	19,369.45	20,674.57
3. Other... ...	21,601.85	375.50	5,984.46	4,139.37	69,379.04	74,872.65	75,363.50	79,012.02
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	—	—	—	—	5,000.00	—	5,000.00	—
Total ...	433,702.42	405,249.30	19,319.67	24,329.00	453,751.81	437,425.60	473,071.48	461,754.60

CUSTOMS.

The following statements show the value of goods inported into, and exported from, Mauritius during the year 1906:—

Imports.

Countries.	Value in Rupees of the Total Imports, exclusive of Charges and Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	5,112,629.04	3,858,632.85	8,971,261.89
British Possessions	11,708,906.33	3,120,529.99	14,829,436.32
Foreign Countries	3,579,877.41	2,207,679.63	5,787,557.04
Total	20,401,412.78*	9,186,842.47	29,588,255.25

* Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion imported (Rs. 571,775.13).

Exports.

Countries.	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Shipping Charges on Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	2,823,827.12	157,913.00	274,925.97	3,256,666.09
British Possessions.	32,533,375.74	1,919,155.12	1,126,630.67	35,579,161.53
Foreign Countries.	1,798,623.24	319,225.97	202,443.19	2,320,292.40
Total ...	37,155,826.10	2,396,294.09	1,603,999.83	41,156,120.02†

† Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion exported (Rs. 1,008,977).

TRADE IN MAURITIUS.

1. The total value of imports into, and exports from, the Colony (exclusive of duty-free goods to and from the Dependencies) for the year ended 31st December, 1906, compared with 1905, can be thus summarised:—

—	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	26,944,399.20	29,588,255.25
Exports (including shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	36,843,046.15	41,156,120.02
Total	63,787,445.35	70,744,375.27

accounted for as under:—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	7,357,173.66	8,971,261.89	2,691,079.38	3,256,666.09
British Possessions.	13,541,654.69	14,829,436.32	33,208,007.44	35,579,161.53
Foreign Countries.	6,045,570.85	5,787,557.04	943,959.33	2,320,292.40
Total ...	26,944,399.20	29,588,255.25	36,843,046.15	41,156,120.02

2. The total value of imports and exports, from and to the Dependencies, per coast sufferances, is as follows:—

—	1905.	1906.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports	433,702.42	405,249.30
Exports	473,071.48	461,754.60
Total	906,773.90	867,003.90

3. The aggregate value of trade is therefore as under:—

—	1905.	1906.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports	27,378,101.62	29,993,504.55
Exports	37,316,117.63	41,617,874.62
Total	64,694,219.25	71,611,379.17

4. Excluding the value of exports to, and imports from, the Dependencies, the rate of trade per head of population (*i.e.*, for 1905—382,787 souls, and for 1906—380,972 souls) is:—

—	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	70.39	77.66
Exports (including shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	96.24	108.02

5. The value of specie and bullion, imported and exported, is as follows:—

—	1905.			1906.		
	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c	Rs c.	Rs c.
Imports	740,568.00	46,968.10	787,536.10	571,775.13	49,203.84	620,978.97
Exports	206,891.50	—	206,891.50	1,008,977.00	—	1,008,977.00
Total	947,459.50	46,968.10	994,427.60	1,580,752.13	49,203.84	1,629,955.97

6. Deducting specie and bullion, the declared value of imports and exports, mentioned in paragraph 1, is as follows:—

—	1905.	1906.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports	26,156,863.10	28,967,276.28
Exports	36,636,154.65	40,147,143.02
Total...	62,793,017.75	69,114,419.30

7. The amount of duty collected during the years 1905 and 1906 (1st January to 31st December) is as under:—

—	1905.	1906.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
On Imports...	2,918,695.84	3,023,013.11
On Exports...	526,717.49	598,441.93
Total...	3,445,413.33	3,621,455.04

(1) The 4 per cent. surcharge produced:—	Rs.
In 1905	99,085.42
In 1906	103,261.73
(2) The additional 16 per cent. surcharge produced:—	
In 1905	329,471.02
In 1906	332,425.62
(3) The additional 2 cents per 100 kilos of sugar (deposits) for the station agronomique produced:—	
In 1905	32,839.03
In 1906	37,278.15

Postal Parcels.

8. The declared value of the parcels imported and exported during the past five years 1902-1906 is as under:—

—	1902.	1903	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imported ...	231,993.73	224,885.17	297,804.73	263,198·86	301,566.71
Exported ...	20,628.64	28,624.83	33,467.35	42,286.27	35,742.77
Total ...	252,622.37	253,510.00	331,272.08	305,485.13	337,309.48

Imports and Exports.

9. The total value of imports and exports for the last five years, 1902 to 1906 is as under:—

Year.	Imports, including Charges and Exchange.	Exports, including Shipping Charges.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1902	30,738,778.11	38,341,695.55
1903	39,269,847.24	37,794,266.75
1904	35,416,624.01	44,545,320.33
1905	26,944,399.20	36,843,046.15
1906	29,588,255.25	41,156,120.02

10. Comparative statement of the value of the chief imports and exports (including charges and exchange).

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1905.		1906.	
	1905.	1906.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	1,191,724	933,952	50	—	—	500
Apothecary wares	184,802	181,546	223	2,440	2	1,692
Apparel, wearing	150,899	138,336	127	2,346	25	2,438
Bags and pockets	744,961	1,268,363	4,263	7,236	2,200	8,005
Bicycles	10,431	13,814	—	625	—	325
Brass and copper wares ..	42,081	49,281	—	58,744	—	50,074
Coals	1,247,563	1,788,351	—	390	—	—
Clocks and watches	27,593	13,518	—	75	—	2,026
Corn, grain, meal, &c.	8,017,381	9,723,215	—	11,543	12	58,455
Cotton manufactures	1,487,213	1,759,327	—	43	—	29,749
Earthen and China wares ..	97,438	61,886	2	615	—	534
Fibre—aloe..	—	—	561,518	—	737,602	—
Glass and glass wares	93,784	73,206	—	220	—	1,370
Haberdashery	601,343	648,274	21	1,504	—	14,253
Hardware and cutlery	1,085,520	1,539,362	7,763	47,250	1,129	25,791
Hats	63,154	71,143	—	—	—	185
Leather, wrought and un-wrought.	234,685	209,264	27,198	7,235	47,406	16,508
Carried forward ..	15,280,602	18,472,868	604,195	140,266	788,376	211,905

Comparative Statement of the Value of the Chief Imports and Exports—cont.

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1905.		1906.	
	1905.	1906.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward ..	15,280,602	18,472,868	604,195	140,266	788,376	211,905
Machinery for agricultural purposes.	238,219	333,308	—	—	—	—
Machinery and mill work ..	268,428	410,038	21,128	75	—	9,453
Manures and fertilizers	2,320,025	2,412,549	—	900	—	1,258
Malt liquors, wines and spirits	1,124,592	1,104,905	39,411	1,967	11,020	3,315
Matches	61,376	37,217	—	583	—	3,003
Molasses	—	—	405,258	—	763,116	—
Meat (fresh and frozen) ..	81,299	128,778	—	—	—	—
Oils (of all kinds)..	889,735	851,013	50,607	89,054	110,247	69,176
Painters' colours	87,502	102,774	—	96	—	657
Paper, cigarette	62,702	35,658	—	665	—	—
Provisions (preserved)	1,600,944	1,791,513	12,533	19,477	37,461	23,871
Seeds (of all sorts)	48,598	64,312	684	426	335	3,126
Soap	238,285	219,388	783	126	—	1,033
Stationery	119,080	99,780	—	272	—	1,255
Sugar..	897	19,850	34,537,625	—	37,763,843	—
Timber and Woodenware ..	844,826	1,070,771	2,648	21,667	1,860	4,428
Tobacco	415,080	412,024	—	769	—	1,818
Toys	41,234	42,539	155	216	—	—
Umbrellas and parasols ..	41,536	34,339	—	—	—	45
Vanilla	253	—	108,322	—	29,177	—
Woollen manufactures ..	172,592	154,320	—	1,813	—	187
Miscellaneous	1,915,769	830,837	25,086	507,061	46,685	224,750
Baggage and postal parcels ..	303,289	338,495	—	42,286	—	35,743
Total	26,156,863	28,967,276	35,808,435	827,719	39,552,120	595,023
Bullion and specie ..	787,536	620,979	—	206,892	—	1,008,977
Total	26,944,399	29,588,255	35,808,435	1,034,611	39,552,120	1,604,000

IMPORTS.

11. Dealing with the articles and their values according to the entries for 1905 and 1906 the following results are noticeable:—

Acids.

Phosphoric.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 196,900, of the value of Rs. 47,971, against kilos 122,231, of the value of Rs. 31,610, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 74,669 and in value of Rs. 16,361. The increase is exclusively due to more imports from the United Kingdom.

Ammonia Sulphate.

Kilos 4,300,071, of the value of Rs. 954,650, were imported exclusively from the United Kingdom in 1906, against kilos 4,677,256, of the value of Rs. 994,679 in 1905 imported from the United Kingdom and Australia. There was a decrease both in weight of kilos 377,185 and in value of Rs. 40,029. The United Kingdom showed a falling off of kilos 326,385 in weight and of Rs. 28,795 in value, while Australia supplied kilos 50,800, value Rs. 11,234 in 1905 against nil in 1906.

Animals.

Asses.—No asses were imported in 1906. The Argentine Confederation supplied 77 head valued Rs. 12,124 in 1905.

Cows and Oxen.—There were imported 9,055 head in 1906, of the value of Rs. 784,106, against 7,316 head in 1905, of the value of Rs. 653,587. The increase was of 1,739 in number and of Rs. 130,519 in value.

Oxen are exclusively supplied from Madagascar.

Dogs.—The imports for 1906 amounted to 27 dogs, of the value of Rs. 5,891, against 18, of the value of Rs. 879, for 1905. There was an increase of nine in number, with a surplus of Rs. 5,012 in value. France and the United Kingdom supplied 9 dogs, valued Rs. 1,558, and eight dogs, valued Rs. 3,678 respectively, in 1906, against three, valued Rs. 553, and two, valued Rs. 80.67, in 1905.

Horses.—There were imported 238 head, of the value of Rs. 83,174, from Australia, and one racehorse, valued Rs. 1,515, from Réunion, in 1906, against one horse, valued Rs. 251, from the Argentine Confederation, and two racehorses, valued Rs. 2,505, from Australia in 1905. There was an increase of 236 in number, and of Rs. 81,933 in value, principally due to the importations from Australia.

Ponies.—382 head, of the value of Rs. 60,146, were imported in 1906, against 384 head, of the value of Rs. 87,074, in 1905. There was a shortage of two in number, with a decrease of Rs. 26,928 in value. Sandalwood showed a shortage of 14 head, with a falling off in value of Rs. 19,021, while from Australia 12 ponies, valued Rs. 2,272, were received in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Mules.—No mules were imported in 1906, against 1,276, valued Rs. 413,325, and 58, valued Rs. 21,593, from the Argentine Confederation and Australia respectively in 1905. The decrease was of 1,334 in number and of Rs. 434,918 in value.

Apothecaries' Wares.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 177,775, against Rs. 181,211 for 1905, showing a falling off of Rs. 3,436. Decreases are from France (Rs. 3,499), Germany (Rs. 1,125), Spain (Rs. 844), China, the United States, Switzerland, Singapore, Pondichery, Belgium, and the Argentine Confederation. Increases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,121), Australia and Continental India (Rs. 463). Belgium provided for Rs. 3,472 in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Apparel, Wearing.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 138,336, against Rs. 150,899 in 1905, showing a decline of Rs. 12,563; there was an increase of Rs. 15,603 from Continental India; slight increases were noticeable under the United Kingdom (Rs. 545), Switzerland (Rs. 502), China (Rs. 362), Spain, Japan (Rs. 159). Australia, France, Germany, and Pondichery showed decreases of Rs. 121, Rs. 20,076, Rs. 489, and Rs. 8,731 respectively. Hong Kong and Natal provided for Rs. 857 and Rs. 30 in 1905, against nil in the past year, while on the other hand Ceylon and Zanzibar provided for Rs. 143 and Rs. 32 respectively in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Areca Nuts.

Kilos 15,531, of the value of Rs. 5,207, were received in 1906, against kilos 47,964, of the value of Rs. 12,493 in 1905. The decrease was therefore of kilos 32,433 in weight and of Rs. 7,286 in value. Ceylon and Continental India showed decreases of kilos 2,100 and kilos 30,333 in weight and of Rs. 838 and Rs. 6,448 respectively in value.

Automobiles.

One automobile, valued Rs. 7,912, was imported in 1906, against one, valued Rs. 4,449, in 1905, with the result of a surplus in value of Rs. 3,463. They were imported from the United Kingdom in each case.

Bacon and Hams.

Kilos 25,891, valued Rs. 34,620, were imported in 1906, against kilos 30,380, valued Rs. 37,674 in 1905. There was a decrease, both in weight of kilos 4,489 and in value of Rs. 3,054, due principally to the importations from the United Kingdom.

Baggage.

Dutiable articles, amounting to Rs. 36,928, were imported in 1906, against Rs. 40,090 in 1905, with a short difference of Rs. 3,162 in value.

Bags.

Gunny.—The imports amounted to 3,121,379 bags, valued Rs. 1,064,473, for 1906, against 1,653,574, valued Rs. 468,047 in 1905 showing an increase of 1,467,805 in number, with a surplus in value of Rs. 596,426. The bags were exclusively supplied from Continental India.

Straw.—Exclusively imported from Madagascar, which supplied 339,100 bags, valued Rs. 60,741, in 1906, against 132,450 bags, valued Rs. 20,490, in 1905. There was an increase both in number of 206,650 and in value of Rs. 40,251.

Bark and Dyewood.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 42,130, of the value of Rs. 6,027, against for 1905 kilos 89,247, of the value of Rs. 12,104. There was a decrease of kilos 47,117 in weight and of Rs. 6,077 in value. Australia showed a shortage of kilos 51,319 in weight and of Rs. 6,760 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 4,202, valued Rs. 684, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Beef, Salted.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 291,058, of the value of Rs. 144,585, against for 1905 kilos 78,421, of the value of Rs. 41,461, showing an increase of kilos 212,637 in weight and of Rs. 103,124 in value. The increases are from the United Kingdom and the United States, which supplied kilos 9,227 and kilos 201,678 more in 1906, with a surplus in value of Rs. 5,188 and Rs. 97,614, respectively. France and Madagascar supplied small quantities in 1905, against nil in 1906, while Australia supplied kilos 3,211, of the value of Rs. 1,479, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Beer and Ale.

In casks.—This article is exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom. There is an increase of hectolitres 58 in quantity and of Rs. 1,600 in value, as compared with 1905.

In bottles.—The imports for 1906 showed a decrease of litres 8,148, with a shortage in value of Rs. 1,057, due to less supplies from France, Germany, Denmark, and Holland. The United Kingdom showed an increase of litres 1,285, with a surplus of Rs. 2,650 in value. Norway and Austria provided a few litres in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Bicycles.

The imports for 1906 amounted to 140 bicycles, of the value of Rs. 13,814, against 92, of the value of Rs. 10,431, in 1905, showing an increase of 48 in number and of Rs. 3,383 in value. The United Kingdom showed an increase of 51 in number, with a surplus of Rs. 3,942 in value, while from France there was a decrease of three in number and of Rs. 559 in value.

Bichloride of Mercury.

The imports for 1906 showed a decrease both in weight of kilos 654 and in value of Rs. 2,686, due to less imports from the United Kingdom.

Bran.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 2,018,323, of the value of Rs. 191,915, against kilos 2,096,015, of the value of Rs. 189,322, showing a decrease of kilos 77,692 in weight, but a surplus in value of Rs. 2,593. Australia showed an increase both in weight of kilos 33,082 and in value of Rs. 3,476. From Continental India there was a decrease of kilos 60,958 in weight, but a surplus in value of Rs. 5,546. The Argentine Republic supplied kilos 49,816, of the value of Rs. 6,429 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Bricks and Tiles.

The imports for 1906 showed an increase, both in quantity of 181,983 and in value of Rs. 12,459, due principally to more imports from the United Kingdom, which supplied 151,617 bricks more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 11,612. France and Natal provided for Rs. 323 and Rs. 657, respectively, in 1906, against nil in the previous year, while Belgium provided for Rs. 133 in 1905, against nil in the past year.

Butter.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 20,895, of the value of Rs. 52,714, against kilos 74,670, of the value of Rs. 135,627, in 1905, showing a substantial decrease of kilos 53,775 in weight and of Rs. 82,913 in value. The decreases are from Australia (Rs. 78,110), Denmark (Rs. 2,944), France (Rs. 2,333), Italy (Rs. 561), and Holland (Rs. 1,030). The United States provided for Rs. 1,294 in 1905, against nil in 1906. Germany provided for Rs. 2,438 in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Cabinet and Upholstery Wares.

The imports for 1906 showed a decrease of Rs. 15,721, as compared with 1905. Decreases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 3,851), Continental India, Singapore, Austria (Rs. 2,465), China, France (Rs. 9,393), Germany, the United States, Seychelles, and Madagascar.

Camphor.

Crude.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase, both in weight of kilos 1,395 and in value of Rs. 7,786, due principally to more imports from Continental India.

Candles.

Composition.—The imports for 1906 showed a decrease of kilos 29,072 in weight and of Rs. 16,882 in value. Decreases were from France (Rs. 14,485), United Kingdom (Rs. 2,313), Belgium (Rs. 674). Continental India showed an increase of Rs. 2,693. Holland provided for Rs. 2,104 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Caoutchouc and India-rubber.

Manufactured.—This article is exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom. The imports for 1906 showed an increase of kilos 1,800 in weight and of Rs. 14,942 in value.

Carriages.

Eleven carriages, of the value of Rs. 6,146, were imported in 1906, against one, valued Rs. 662, which was imported from France in 1905. The supply for 1906 was as follows:—

From the United Kingdom	—3,	valued	Rs. 2,725
,, France	4,	,,	Rs. 1,742
,, United States	4,	,,	Rs. 1,679

Carts and Waggons.

In 1905 the undermentioned countries supplied 29 waggons, of the value of Rs. 38,706, against nil in 1906:—

United Kingdom	18	—valued	Rs. 34,540
Germany	10	,,	Rs. 3,880
France	1	,,	Rs. 286
Total	29		38,706

Casts of Statues and Busts.

Two hundred and fifty-one, of the value of Rs. 2,067, were received from France in 1906, against 685, of the value of Rs. 5,079, received in 1905 from France, Germany, and Holland. The decrease was of Rs. 3,012 in value due principally to imports from France.

Cement.

The imports for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 219.528 and in value of Rs. 16,604, due principally to more imports from the United Kingdom (Rs. 17,883) and from France (Rs. 2,453). From Belgium there was a decrease of Rs. 2,741.

Cheese.

Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of kilos 8,250 in weight and of Rs. 8,698 in value, due to the United Kingdom, Germany, and Holland which showed decreases of Rs. 1,950, Rs. 1,070, and Rs. 7,094, respectively. France showed an increase of Rs. 364.

Chocolate and Cocoa.

The imports for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 2,494 and in value of Rs. 3,571 over the imports for 1905, due principally to the United Kingdom and France, which provided for surplus values of Rs. 1,121 and Rs. 1,288, respectively, over the previous year.

Choorah.

In 1906 Continental India supplied kilos 10,485 more than in 1905, with a surplus in value of Rs. 1,953.

Clocks and Watches.

The imports for 1906 showed a decrease of 5,467 pieces with a falling off in value of Rs. 14,075, due chiefly to the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Switzerland, which provided for Rs. 1,161, Rs. 6,983, Rs. 855, and Rs. 5,489, respectively, less than in 1905. From the United States there was an increase of Rs. 493.

Coals.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 48,945,018 of the value of Rs. 1,788,351, against for 1905 kilos 44,903,493 of the value of Rs. 1,247,563, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 4,041,525 and in value of Rs. 540,788. From the United Kingdom and Australia kilos 5,638,445 and kilos 4,011,108 more were imported in 1906 with surplus in value of Rs. 545,609 and Rs. 86,081, respectively, while from Continental India kilos 6,257,252 less were received with a shrinkage in value of Rs. 108,559; from Belgium kilos 20,320, of the value of Rs. 790, were received in 1906 against nil in 1905. Natal supplied kilos 628,904, of the value of Rs. 16,868, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Coffee.

The imports for 1906 showed, as compared with 1905, a shrinkage both in weight of kilos 67,089 and in value of Rs. 39,881. Decreases are from Continental India, Ceylon, and Brazil, which provided for Rs. 34,000, Rs. 763, and Rs. 12,591, respectively. The United States provided for Rs. 5,137 in 1905, against nil in 1906. Java provided for Rs. 6,276 more than in 1905, while Singapore and Pondichery supplied for the value of Rs. 4,681 and Rs. 1,145, respectively, in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Confectionery.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 82,262, against Rs. 80,279 in 1905, showing a surplus of Rs. 1,983. Slight increases were noted under Continental India (Rs. 443), France (Rs. 2,284), Switzerland (Rs. 367), Réunion (Rs. 659), and Seychelles. Austria provided for Rs. 5,825 in 1905, against nil in 1906. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 5,564), Holland, Belgium, and China. Australia and Réunion provided for Rs. 9,088 and Rs. 659, respectively, in 1906, against nil in 1905. Small supplies were received from Spain, Turkey, Egypt, and Singapore in 1906.

Copperah or Poonac.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 27,405, of the value of Rs. 1,959, against kilos 996, of the value of Rs. 272, in 1905, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 26,409 and in value of Rs. 1,687. This article is exclusively imported from Seychelles.

Copper.

Yellow.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase of kilos 1,783 in weight and of Rs. 2,553 in value as compared with 1905. The imports were exclusively from the United Kingdom.

Old.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 4,155 and in value of Rs. 2,585 as compared with 1905. The United Kingdom provided for a surplus of Rs. 4,298 in 1906, while France provided for Rs. 1,713 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Sheets and Nails, red.—Compared with the previous year, the supplies for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 2,420 and in value of Rs. 6,606. The United Kingdom provided for a surplus of Rs. 7,027, while France showed a shrinkage of Rs. 421.

Cordage.

Coir.—Kilos 78,775, of the value of Rs. 16,954, were imported in 1906, the whole quantity from Continental India, which provided for Rs. 6,833 less than in 1905. The United Kingdom and Hong Kong supplied Rs. 438 and Rs. 3,672, respectively, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Oiled.—Kilos 5,787 less were received in 1906 than in the previous year, giving a falling off of Rs. 3,384 in value.

Hemp.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 31,680, of the value of Rs. 20,836, against kilos 30,902, of the value of Rs. 15,601, in 1905, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 778 and in value of Rs. 5,235, due chiefly to Continental India which provided for Rs. 7,350 more than in 1905. Decreases were noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 852) and Hong Kong (Rs. 1,330).

Hemp, oiled.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a decrease both in weight of kilos 6,056 and in value of Rs. 2,703. The United Kingdom showed a shrinkage of Rs. 431, while Continental India and France provided for Rs. 1,414 and Rs. 858, respectively, in 1905, against nil in the past year.

Cordials and Liquors.

Litres 8,340, of the value of Rs. 21,485, were imported in 1906, against litres 6,794, of the value of Rs. 21,072, in 1905. There was an increase both in quantity of litres 1,546 and in value of Rs. 413, due to slight increases from the United Kingdom, China, and Spain. Slight decreases were noted from France, Holland, and Germany.

Corks and Bungs.

Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a decrease both in number of 2,277,255 corks and in value of Rs. 5,849, due specially to France which provided for Rs. 6,577 less than in the previous year. From Spain 100,000 corks, of the value of Rs. 487, were received in 1905, against nil in 1906, while from the United Kingdom 493,896 corks more were received, with a surplus in value of Rs. 1,197.

Corn, Grain, and Meal.

Barley.—The imports for 1906 showed, when compared with 1905, a decrease both in quantity of kilos 27,585 and in value of Rs. 2,859, due specially to less supplies from Continental India which provided for Rs. 2,494 less than in the previous year. From the United Kingdom kilos 304, of the value of Rs. 365, were received in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Beans.—Kilos 148,958, of the value of Rs. 20,195 were received in 1906 against kilos 118,159, of the value of Rs. 19,306 in 1905. There was an increase both in weight of kilos 30,799 and in value of Rs. 889. Continental India, China, and France provided for Rs. 5,300, Rs. 1,978, and Rs. 1,956, respectively, more than in 1905. Decreases were noted from Réunion (Rs. 6,849), the United Kingdom (Rs. 876), Madagascar and Australia.

Dholl.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 492,378 and in value of Rs. 40,850.

Gram.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 974,856 and in value of Rs. 84,265.

Lentils.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 54,920 and in value of Rs. 13,472.

Dholl, gram, and lentils were received from Continental India during the two years. Only 20 kilos lentils, of the value of Rs. 5, were received from France in 1905.

Maize.—Only 350 kilos, of the value of Rs. 35, were received from Sandalwood in 1906. In 1905 Continental India and Madagascar supplied kilos 790, of the value of Rs. 56, and kilos 30,758, of the value of Rs. 2,864, respectively. There was, therefore, a decrease in the importation of kilos 31,198 in weight and of Rs. 2,885 in value.

Oats.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a decrease both in weight of kilos 920,649 and in value of Rs. 107,881. From Australia there was a falling off in weight of kilos 679,798, with a shortage in value of Rs. 81,190. The United Kingdom and the Argentine Confederation supplied kilos 1,740, of the value of Rs. 343, and kilos 400,000, of the value of Rs. 43,680, respectively, in 1905, against nil in the past year. From Continental India there was an increase of kilos 160,889, with a surplus in value of Rs. 17,332.

Peas.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 133,017, of the value of Rs. 24,450, against kilos 203,164 of the value of Rs. 33,584 for 1905. The decrease was of kilos 70,147 in weight and of Rs. 9,134 in value. The decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,036), Continental India (Rs. 1,085), France (Rs. 1,023), Madagascar (Rs. 5,445), and Réunion.

Rice.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a large increase both in weight of kilos 9,072,147 and in value of Rs. 1,281,946, accounted for as under:—

Continental India.—Excess of kilos 6,643,383 in weight and of Rs. 1,003,146 in value.

China.—Excess of kilos 71,737 in weight and of Rs. 10,692 in value.

Madagascar.—Excess of kilos 5,382 in weight and of Rs. 1,432 in value.

Straits Settlements.—Shortage of kilos 206,580 in weight and of Rs. 30,636 in value.

Cochinchina.—Supplied kilos 2,251,500, of the value of Rs. 256,443, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Singapore.—Supplied kilos 306,725, of the value of Rs. 40,869, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Wheat.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos. 410,669, of the value of Rs. 46,643, out of which quantity Continental India supplied kilos 406,785, of the value of Rs. 46,436, and Delagoa Bay, kilos 3,884, of the value of Rs. 207. In 1905, wheat was exclusively imported from Continental India, which supplied kilos 432,000, of the value of Rs. 46,382. There was, therefore, a decrease in the importation of kilos 21,331 in weight, but a surplus in value of Rs. 261 as compared with the previous year.

Wheat Flour.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 3,906,151 and in value of Rs. 576,613, due to more supplies from Australia (Rs. 563,830), Continental India (Rs. 12,322), and France (Rs. 483). From China there was a slight decrease amounting to Rs. 23.

Cotton Manufactures.

Coloured.—The imports for 1906 amounted to metres 5,454,328, of the value of Rs. 831,121, against 3,729,454 metres, of the value of Rs. 703,842, in 1905, showing an increase, both in measure of metres 1,724,874 and in value of Rs. 127,279, due chiefly to the United Kingdom which supplied metres 1,896,911 more, with an excess in value of Rs. 187,512. Decreases were noted from Continental India (Rs. 2,663), Belgium (Rs. 5,067), France (Rs. 12,748), Germany (Rs. 23,164), Pondichery (Rs. 6,291), Switzerland (Rs. 7,828), and Hong Kong. Slight increases were noted from Italy, China, and Japan.

Hosiery.—The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 35,376, against Rs. 29,523 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 5,853, due to more supplies from the United Kingdom (Rs. 914), Germany (Rs. 6,919), Continental India, and China. From France there was a falling off of Rs. 2,235.

Plain.—The imports for 1906 amounted to metres 4,937,394, of the value of Rs. 862,577, against metres 5,252,590, of the value of Rs. 704,581, for 1905, showing a decrease in measure of metres 315,196, but a surplus in value of Rs. 157,996, due to supplies from the United Kingdom which provided metres 4,437,853, of the value of Rs. 790,018, in 1906, against metres 4,748,177, of the value of Rs. 628,211, in 1905, showing a shortage of metres 310,324 in measure, but a surplus of Rs. 161,807 in value. France supplied metres 45,276 more with a surplus of Rs. 3,408 in value. Continental India supplied metres 51,259 less with a shortage in value of Rs. 6,776. Slight decreases were noted from Germany and Belgium. Holland and Pondichery provided for Rs. 863 and Rs. 185, respectively, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Thread for Sewing.—Kilos 106 more were imported in 1906, but there was a decrease of Rs. 7,965 in the value of the importation. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 549 more than in 1905, but with a falling off in value of Rs. 5,382. France, Belgium, and Germany provided for Rs. 1,081, Rs. 1,441, and Rs. 61, respectively, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Waste.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 6,610, of the value of Rs. 2,589, received from the United Kingdom, against, for the previous year, kilos 20,458, of the value of Rs. 7,498, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 13,848 and in value of Rs. 4,909, due chiefly to the United Kingdom which supplied kilos 13,128 less, giving a shortage of Rs. 4,656 in value. In 1905 Continental India supplied kilos 720, of the value of Rs. 253, against nil in 1906.

Wool.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 4,962, of the value of Rs. 1,695, received from Continental India against kilos 14,706, of the value of Rs. 8,065, for 1905, showing a shortage in weight of kilos 9,744 and in value of Rs. 6,370, due chiefly to Continental India which supplied kilos 7,552 less with a decrease of Rs. 3,090 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 2,182, of the value of Rs. 3,276, in 1905, against nil in the past year.

Earthen and China Wares.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 61,886, against Rs. 97,438 for 1905, showing a decrease of Rs. 35,552. Decreases were from France (Rs. 36,111), Germany (Rs. 4,021), Continental India (Rs. 955), China (Rs. 503), and Belgium. The United Kingdom and Austria showed increases of Rs. 370 and Rs. 4,597, respectively.

Fireworks.

The imports for 1906 showed, as compared with 1905, an increase of Rs. 2,221, due chiefly to China, which provided for Rs. 2,126 more than in the previous year. Slight increase was noted from Germany.

Fish.

Dried or Salted.—Kilos 600,222, of the value of Rs. 186,448, were imported in 1906, against kilos 650,109, of the value of Rs. 152,751 in 1905. There was a decrease in weight of kilos 49,887 but a surplus in value of Rs. 33,697, due chiefly to Continental India, which supplied kilos 48,764 less but a surplus of Rs. 11,236 in value, also to Nova Scotia which supplied kilos 127 less with a surplus in value of Rs. 711.

Decreases were noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,525), Seychelles, France (Rs. 3,552), Madagascar (Rs. 6,799), Newfoundland (Rs. 1,676) and the United States (Rs. 5,235. Cape Colonies and China provided kilos 46,638 and kilos 1,059 more, with surplus values of Rs. 39,875 and Rs. 387, respectively, Zanzibar and Canada provided for Rs. 573 and Rs. 1,257 in 1905, against nil in the past year, while Holland, Norway, and Réunion provided for Rs. 1,625, Rs. 382, and Rs. 159, respectively, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Pickled.—Kilos 15,950 more were received in 1906, giving a surplus of Rs. 2,195 in value, due chiefly to the United States, which supplied kilos 44,330 more with an increase of Rs. 12,057 in value. Decreases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,956), France (Rs. 1,067) and Nova Scotia, which supplied kilos 6,669 less with a shortage in value of Rs. 4,187. From Canada kilos 11,610, of the value of Rs. 2,502, were received in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Flowers.

Artificial.—The imports for 1906 showed, when compared with 1905, a decrease of Rs. 717, due to less supplies from France. The United Kingdom showed a small increase.

Fruits.

Almonds, dried.—Kilos 9,226, of the value of Rs. 4,436, were received in 1906, against kilos 6,627, of the value of Rs. 3,299 in 1905. There was an increase of kilos 2,599 in weight and of Rs. 1,137 in value, due chiefly to more imports from Continental India.

Cocoanuts.—Exclusively supplied from Seychelles, the imports for 1906 show that 273,475 cocoanuts less were received, with a shortage in value of Rs. 3,067.

Fresh.—The imports for 1906 show an increase of Rs. 5,253 in value, due chiefly to Cape Colony, which provided for Rs. 7,379 in 1906, against nil in the previous year. From Seychelles there was a decrease of Rs. 1,259.

Pistacchio nuts.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 5,238, of the value of Rs. 866, against kilos 37,175, of the value of Rs. 8,244, showing a decrease of kilos 31,937 in weight and of Rs. 7,378 in value, due chiefly to less imports from Madagascar, which provided for a short value of Rs. 7,269.

Raisins.—Kilos 10,300, of the value of Rs. 3,718, were received in 1906, against kilos 20,443, of the value of Rs. 8,568, in 1905. The decrease was of kilos 10,143 in weight and of Rs. 4,850 in value, due chiefly to Cape Colony, which provided for Rs. 3,520 less than in 1905. Continental India and France showed also decreases of Rs. 1,482 and Rs. 364, respectively, while the United Kingdom showed an increase of Rs. 518.

Of other sorts.—The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 5,962, against Rs. 3,290 for 1905, showing an increase of

Rs. 2,672, due chiefly to France, which provided for Rs. 2,145 more than in 1905. Cape Colony supplied for Rs. 267 in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Ghee.

This article is exclusively supplied from Continental India which in 1906 provided kilos 32,999 more than in the previous year, giving a surplus in value of Rs. 41,485.

Glassware.

22,933 pieces less were received than in 1905, with a shortage of Rs. 18,575 in value. Decreases were from France (Rs. 14,383), Germany (Rs. 8,948), Austria (Rs. 422) and China. The United Kingdom supplied 18,733 pieces more with an excess of Rs. 4,243 in value.

Glue.

Compared with the previous year, kilos 2,611 less were received in 1906, with a falling off of Rs. 1,608 in value, due to decreases from the United Kingdom (Rs. 505) and France (Rs. 1,059).

Grease-Cart.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 85,613, of the value of Rs. 13,199, against kilos 61,751, of the value of Rs. 7,564, for 1905, showing an increase of kilos 23,862 in weight and of Rs. 5,635 in value.

The United Kingdom supplied kilos 16,466 more than in 1905, with a surplus of Rs. 2,774 in value. Kilos 7,396 of the value of Rs. 2,861 were received from the United States in 1906 against nil in 1905.

Groceries.

The value of the imports for 1906 was Rs. 26,712, against Rs. 21,856 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 4,856, due chiefly to more supplies received from the United Kingdom and Continental India, amounting to Rs. 3,161 and Rs. 1,396 respectively.

Haberdashery.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 613,311, against Rs. 535,828 for 1905, showing an excess of Rs. 77,483, due to increases from the United Kingdom (Rs. 18,383), Continental India (Rs. 11,201), China (Rs. 1,310), France (Rs. 56,787) and Japan (Rs. 487). Decreases were noted from Belgium (Rs. 374), Germany (Rs. 1,345), Holland (Rs. 5,405), Switzerland (Rs. 2,395), Pondichery (Rs. 469) and the United States (Rs. 285).

Hardware and Cutlery.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 1,021,629, against Rs. 564,804 for 1905, showing the large increase of Rs. 456,825, due chiefly to more supplies from the United Kingdom amounting to Rs. 430,510. There were increases also from Belgium (Rs. 23,462), the United States (Rs. 9,792), Continental India (Rs. 298), Austria (Rs. 860), China (Rs. 294), Germany (Rs. 301), Sweden and Switzerland. Decreases are from France (Rs. 8,628), Australia, Denmark, and Holland.

Hats.

Felt.—11,242 hats, of the value of Rs. 17,103, were received in 1906, against 9,535 hats, of the value of Rs. 15,646, in 1905, with an increase of 1,707 hats and of Rs. 1,457 in value over the previous year, due to more supplies from Austria (Rs. 523), France (Rs. 697) and Italy (Rs. 1,384). From the United Kingdom there was a falling off of Rs. 1,044.

Silk.—The imports for 1906 amounted to 34 hats, of the value of Rs. 260, supplied exclusively from the United Kingdom, against for the previous year 149 hats, of the value of Rs. 1,224, out of which 145, valued Rs. 1,211, were received from the United Kingdom and the remainder from Continental India. There was, therefore, a shrinkage from the United Kingdom of 111 in number, with a shortage of Rs. 951 in value.

Straw.—The imports for 1906 amounted to 53,252 hats, of the value of Rs. 47,090, against 60,117, of the value of Rs. 40,084, in 1905, showing a decrease of 6,865 in number, with an increase of Rs. 7,006 in value, due chiefly to the importation from Madagascar, which supplied only 2,159 hats, of the value of Rs. 2,371 in 1906, against 24,026 hats, of the value of Rs. 3,955 in 1905, showing a shortage of 21,867 hats, with a decrease of Rs. 1,584 only. The United Kingdom supplied 19,932 more hats with an increase of Rs. 15,322 in value, while from France 4,198 less hats were received, giving a shortage of Rs. 5,529 in value.

Of other sorts.—The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 6,457, against Rs. 5,625 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 832, due chiefly to the United Kingdom, which provided for Rs. 1,588 more than in 1905. Decreases were noted from France (Rs. 441) and Continental India (Rs. 157). China and Italy supplied small quantities in 1905 against nil in 1906.

Hay and Straw.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 10,104, of the value of Rs. 1,252, against kilos 181,721, of the value of Rs. 31,473 in 1905, showing a decrease of kilos 171,617 in weight, and of Rs. 30,221 in value, due chiefly to the importation from the Argentine Confederation which supplied kilos 170,250, of the value of Rs. 29,837 in 1905, against nil in 1906. From Australia there was a small decrease amounting to Rs. 391.

Hemp.

Undressed.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 13,377, of the value of Rs. 12,439, against kilos 10,023, of the value of Rs. 8,777 in 1905, showing an increase of kilos 3,354 in weight, and of Rs. 3,662 in value, due chiefly to the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 3,511 more, with a surplus of Rs. 3,765 in value. France, however, showed a falling off of Rs. 103.

Hides

Raw and Salted.—None received in 1906, against kilos 5,807, of the value of Rs. 5,457 from Madagascar in the previous year.

Tanned.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase of kilos 371, and of Rs. 2,160 in value, as compared with 1905. The increase was from Continental India (Rs. 2,984), while a decrease was shown from Pondichery amounting to Rs. 810.

India Rubber Wares.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 24,542, against Rs. 15,669 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 8,873, due to more imports from the United Kingdom and from France, which provided for surplus values amounting to Rs. 5,351 and Rs. 3,536 respectively.

Iron.

Bars.—Kilos 705,755, of the value of Rs. 86,974, were received in 1906, against kilos 665,273, of the value of Rs. 75,548 in 1905. There was, therefore, an increase of kilos 40,482 in weight, and of Rs. 11,426 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 62,087 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 13,100, while from Belgium there was a shrinkage of kilos 22,761 in weight and of Rs. 1,570 in value.

Nails.—Kilos 186,445, of the value of Rs. 49,931, were imported in 1906, against kilos 158,827, of the value of Rs. 40,695 in 1905. There was an increase both in weight of kilos 27,618 and in value of Rs. 9,236. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 20,844 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 8,068. Small increases were noted from Belgium (Rs. 133), France (Rs. 270) and Germany (Rs. 2,035). From Continental India there was a decrease of Rs. 1,270.

Pig.—Exclusively imported from the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 48,768 more in weight, with a surplus of Rs. 3,782 in value, as compared with the importation for 1905.

Iron sheets.—The United Kingdom supplied kilos 123,024 less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 3,589, as compared with 1905. Kilos 1,345, valued Rs. 224, were received from Belgium in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Wrought of other sorts.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 490,076, of the value of Rs. 108,702, against, for 1905, kilos 1,080,201, of the value of Rs. 173,389, showing a decrease of kilos 590,125 in weight and of Rs. 64,687 in value, due to the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Germany, which provided for less values of Rs. 62,242, Rs. 1,492 and Rs. 897 respectively.

Jams, Jellies, and Marmalade.

Kilos 11,756, of the value of Rs. 7,184, were imported in 1906, against kilos 14,704, of the value of Rs. 8,986 in 1905. There was a decrease both in weight of kilos 2,948 and in value of Rs. 1,802, due to short supplies from the United Kingdom and Australia.

Jewellery.

Compared with the previous year, the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of Rs. 17,794. France showed a decrease of Rs. 21,321. Increases were, however, noted from the United Kingdom and Continental India amounting to Rs. 2,767 and Rs. 804 respectively.

Juice of Lemon or Lime.

Hectolitres 201·42, of the value of Rs. 2,539, were received in 1906, against hectolitres 8·75, of the value of Rs. 831, in 1905. There was, therefore, an increase of hectolitres 192·67 in measure and of Rs. 1,708 in value, due chiefly to the United Kingdom which supplied hectolitres 192·65 more, with a surplus of Rs. 1,696 in value.

Lard.

Compared with the previous year the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of kilos 78,019 in weight and of Rs. 3,609 in value. China, Continental India and the United States showed decreases of Rs. 22,162, Rs. 8,306, and Rs. 4,134 respectively. Increases were noted from Australia, (Rs. 10,694) and France (Rs. 25,190). Denmark provided for Rs. 5,035 in 1905, against nil in the past year.

Lead.

Sheets and Pipes.—Kilos 45,432, of the value of Rs. 12,440, were received in 1906, against, for the previous year, kilos 65,004, of the value of Rs. 9,105. There was accordingly a decrease of kilos 19,572 in weight, but an increase of Rs. 3,335 in the value of the importation, due chiefly to supplies from the United Kingdom.

Leather.

Wrought: *Boots and Shoes.*—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed that 1,459 pairs more were received with, however, a shortage of Rs. 16,289 in the value of importation. From the United Kingdom and from France there were received 2,462 pairs and 1,005 pairs less, with decreases in value of Rs. 17,429 and Rs. 3,510 respectively. From Continental India 3,932 pairs more were received, with a surplus of Rs. 2,183 only in value. The United States supplied 183 pairs more, with an increase of Rs. 1,930 in value; 549 pairs of the value of Rs. 401, were received in 1906 from Pondichery, against nil in 1905.

Sole.—Kilos 6,144, of the value of Rs. 11,066, were received in 1906, against kilos 11,569, of the value of Rs. 18,119, in 1905, giving a decrease of kilos 5,425 in weight and of Rs. 7,053 in value, due almost exclusively to short supplies from Australia.

Wrought, of other sorts.—The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 74,799, against Rs. 61,023 in 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 13,776. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 4,960), Germany (Rs. 1,508), and France (Rs. 7,615).

Lime.

Phosphate.—In 1906 there were received from Belgium kilos 30,900, of the value of Rs. 4,628, against in 1905, kilos 127,397, of the value of Rs. 17,148, imported from France. The decrease was of kilos 96,497 in weight and of Rs. 12,520 in value.

Superphosphate.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 484,523, of the value of Rs. 33,318, against, for the previous year, kilos 201,600, of the value of Rs. 9,766, showing an increase of kilos 282,923 in weight and of Rs. 23,552 in value.

Linen Manufactures.

Canvas.—Kilos 23,981, of the value of Rs. 28,898, were received in 1906, against kilos 12,548, of the value of Rs. 22,364, in 1905. There was an increase of kilos 11,433 in weight and of Rs. 6,534 in value—From the United Kingdom there were received kilos 12,808 more, with a surplus of Rs. 8,523 in value, while France supplied kilos 1,535, of the value of Rs. 2,043, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Machinery and Millwork.

Machinery and Mill-work.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 681,625, of the value of Rs. 410,038, against kilos 535,721, of the value of Rs. 268,428, in 1905, showing an increase of kilos 145,904 in weight and of Rs. 141,610 in value. There were received from the United Kingdom kilos 130,925 more, with a surplus of Rs. 131,161 in value. France supplied kilos 5,752 more, with an increase of Rs. 6,614 in value. Kilos 1,632 less were received from Belgium with a shortage of Rs. 665 in value. Germany supplied kilos 11,641, of the value of Rs. 7,831, in 1906, against nil in 1905, while the United States supplied kilos 782, of the value of Rs. 3,332, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Machinery consisting of Automobiles, Steam Road Engines, Locomotives, Waggons and Trucks, Rails and accessories and Wire Rope for Agricultural purposes.

The imports under this heading for 1906 amounted to kilos 2,095,676, of the value of Rs. 333,308, and those for 1905 aggregated Rs. 238,218 made up of Rs. 44,466, value of four locomotives, and Rs. 193,752, value of kilos 1,378,999 of machinery, consisting of tramway materials, accessories, wire rope, &c. The increase was of Rs. 95,090 in value.

The following is a comparative statement of the amount imported from each country, with the rate of importation for the two years 1905 and 1906:—

—	1905.		1906.	
	Value.	Rate.	Value.	Rate.
	Rs.	Per cent.	Rs.	Per cent.
Germany	151,488	63·6	251,419	75·5
Belgium	42,795	18·0	66,796	20·0
France	18,021	7·5	15,093	4·5
United Kingdom	25,914	10·0	—	—

From the above table it will be seen that German goods head the list and that no goods were imported from the United Kingdom in 1906.

Manure.

Guano.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a shrinkage of kilos 167,181 in weight and of Rs. 13,100 in value. The United Kingdom and Seychelles showed decrease of kilos 85,911 and kilos 81,280 in weight and of Rs. 11,189 in value.

Of other sorts.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a decrease in weight of kilos 529,144 and in value of Rs. 37,890. The Argentine Republic, Belgium, Ceylon and Holland provided for Rs. 63,070, Rs. 8,676, Rs. 3,058, and Rs. 8,407 respectively in 1905, against nil in 1906. Germany on the other hand, supplied kilos 88,708, of the value of Rs. 12,806 in 1906, against nil in the previous year. Increases were noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 6,841), Continental India (Rs. 5,476), and France (Rs. 20,196).

Margarine.

The imports for 1906 showed a shrinkage both in weight of kilos 4,962 and in value of Rs. 3,624. Decreases were noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,871), Germany (Rs. 2,300) and the United States (Rs. 5,184). Increases were from Denmark (Rs. 371) and Holland (Rs. 5,490).

Matches.

28,801 gross less were received in 1906, with a shortage in value of Rs. 24,159. Decreases were noted from Japan (Rs. 22,721) and Austria (Rs. 3,391). From Sweden there was an increase of Rs. 1,568.

Mats and Matting.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 9,134, against Rs. 2,613 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 6,521, due specially to more supplies from China amounting to Rs. 5,231. Singapore provided for Rs. 753 in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Meat.

Fresh Frozen.—The value of the imports for 1906 as compared with 1905, gave the following result:—

Carcases—

Cows and Oxen—Increase of Rs. 50,977 in value.

Sheep—Decrease of Rs. 7,725 in value.

Swine—None imported in 1905, against Rs. 4,226 in value in the past year.

Military Articles.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 694,987, against Rs. 1,062,000 in 1905, showing a decrease of Rs. 367,013, due to the United Kingdom and Continental India, which showed decreases of Rs. 270,248 and Rs. 100,387 respectively. The United States provided for Rs. 3,622 in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Motor Cars.

Eight, valued Rs. 29,452, were received in 1906, against five, valued Rs. 18,603, in 1905. There was an increase of three in number with a surplus of Rs. 10,849 in value. Two motor cars were received in each of the years 1905 and 1906 from the United Kingdom, with a shortage of Rs. 2,626 in value for the year 1906. France provided three motor cars more, giving an increase in value of Rs. 13,475.

Musical Instruments.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 13,576, against Rs. 27,304 for 1905, showing a decrease of Rs. 13,728, due chiefly to France which supplied for a less value of Rs. 10,754. Small decreases were noted from the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States

Oil.

Castor.—438,361 kilos, of the value of Rs. 156,254, were received in 1906, against kilos 381,032 of the value of Rs. 114,920 in 1905, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 57,329 and of Rs. 41,334 in value.

Castor oil is exclusively received from Continental India.

Cocoanut.—The imports for 1906 amounted to hectolitres 2,101, of the value of Rs. 51,297, against hectolitres 4,948, of the value of Rs. 97,698, showing a decrease of hectolitres 2,847 in measure and of Rs. 46,401, due almost exclusively to short supplies from Seychelles.

Gingely.—Kilos 62,052, of the value of Rs. 22,470, were imported in 1906, against kilos 190,176, of the value of Rs. 60,300, in 1905. There was therefore a decrease of kilos 128,124 in weight and of Rs. 37,830 in value, due chiefly to Continental India, which supplied kilos 127,524 less, with a shortage of Rs. 37,567 in value. A small decrease was also noted from China.

Linseed.—Hectolitres 928, of the value of Rs. 27,908, were received in 1906, against hectolitres 1,426, of the value of Rs. 36,254, in 1905, giving a decrease for 1906 of hectolitres 498 in measure and of Rs. 8,346 in value, due to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Mustard.—Exclusively received from Continental India, the imports for 1906 showed, when compared with 1905, a decrease of kilos 101,990 in weight but an increase of Rs. 1,311 in value.

Petroleum.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase of hectolitres 5,537 in measure but a shortage of Rs. 5,279 in the value of the importation. The United States supplied hectolitres 3,599 more, with, however, a shortage of Rs. 51,502 in value. Borneo and Sumatra supplied respectively hectolitres 1,282, of the value of Rs. 14,428, and hectolitres 2,945, of the value of Rs. 48,094, in 1906, against nil in 1905. Russia supplied hectolitres 2,280, of the value of Rs. 36,098 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Pistacchio.—Kilos, 19,632 less were received in 1906, with, however, a surplus of Rs. 2,049 in value, due chiefly to Continental India, which supplied kilos 23,519 less, with a surplus of Rs. 593 in value. Pondichery showed a decrease of kilos 8,776 in weight and of Rs. 3,173 in value. From China and Japan there were received kilos 11,655, of the value of Rs. 4,284, and kilos 1,008, of the value of Rs. 345, respectively, in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Of other sorts.—Hectolitres 712, with a surplus of Rs. 38,894, were received in 1906 more than in 1905, due to the United States, which showed an increase of Rs. 43,303. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 10,993) and Continental India (Rs. 5,237).

Onions and Garlic.

Kilos 67,978 less, with a shortage of Rs. 4,485 in value, were received in 1906, due chiefly to short supplies from Continental India.

Opium, Crude.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 1,137, of the value of Rs. 29,108, against kilos 1,593, of the value of Rs. 41,442 in 1905, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 456 and in value of Rs. 12,334. A decrease of kilos 505 in weight and of Rs. 13,452 in value was noted from Continental India. Turkey supplied kilos 54, of the value of Rs. 1,186 in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Painters' and Dyers' Colours and Materials.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 102,774, against Rs. 87,502 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 15,272 in value. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 15,051), Germany (Rs. 763), Australia and China. Slight decreases were noted from Continental India, France, and Switzerland.

Paper, Cigarette.

The imports for 1906 showed when compared with the previous year a decrease both in weight of kilos 1,994 and in value of Rs. 27,044, due principally to short supplies from France.

Paper.

Packing.—The imports of 1906 amounted to Rs. 27,801, against Rs. 24,372 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 3,429 in value. Increases were from France (Rs. 835) and the United Kingdom (Rs. 3,302), while a decrease of Rs. 528 was noted from Germany.

Printing.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed an increase of Rs. 2,737 in value, due chiefly to more supplies from the United Kingdom.

Stained for hanging.—Decrease in value of Rs. 2,649. Belgium provided for Rs. 3,243 in 1905, against nil in 1906. Slight increases were, however, noted from the United Kingdom and France.

Perfumery.

Compared with the previous year the imports for 1906 showed an increase of Rs. 23,325 in value. Increases were from France (Rs. 18,565), the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,640), Continental India (Rs. 837) and China (Rs. 1,229).

Pitch and Tar.

Decrease of Rs. 2,598 in value, due to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Pockets, Empty.

The imports for 1906 amounted to 588,700 pockets, of the value of Rs. 143,105, against 1,409,000 pockets, of the value of Rs. 256,269, for 1905, showing a decrease both in number of 820,300 and in value of Rs. 113,164. From Continental India there was a decrease of 821,000 in number and of Rs. 113,295 in value. The United Kingdom provided for Rs. 131 in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Pork, Salted.

Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 3,615 and in value of Rs. 3,702, due to the United States, which supplied kilos 3,613 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 3,058.

Postal Parcels.

The value of postal parcels imported in 1906 amounted to Rs. 301,567, against, for the previous year, Rs. 263,199, showing an increase of Rs. 38,368. Increases were chiefly from the United Kingdom (Rs. 17,109), Continental India (Rs. 6,480), Egypt (Rs. 1,918), France (Rs. 20,726), and the United States (Rs. 789). Decreases were noted from Japan (Rs. 6,880) and Switzerland (Rs. 1,277).

Potash.

Nitrate of.—There was an increase both in weight of kilos 628,279 and in value of Rs. 121,077, due exclusively to more imports from Continental India. France supplied kilos 10,574, of the value of Rs. 3,708, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Sulphate of.—There was an increase of kilos 227,133 in weight and of Rs. 15,345 in value. Increases were from Germany (Rs. 28,964), while decreases were noted under France (Rs. 9,337), and the United Kingdom (Rs. 9,981). The Cape Colonies provided for Rs. 5,599 in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Potatoes.

Compared with 1905, the imports for the past year showed an increase both in weight of kilos 322,192 and in value of Rs. 25,888.Increases were from Continental India (Rs. 20,784), and France (Rs. 8,345). Decreases were noted from Australia (Rs. 636), and from Réunion (Rs. 1,435).

Prints and Engravings.

There was a decrease of Rs. 1,073, due to France, which provided for a less value of Rs. 3,023; from Germany there was an increase of Rs. 1,152.

Provisions, Preserved.

Compared with 1905, the value of the imports for 1906 showed a falling off of Rs. 19,722. Decreases were from the

United Kingdom (Rs. 8,512), Australia (Rs. 508), France (Rs. 6,902), Switzerland (Rs. 439), and the United States (Rs. 7,270). Slight increases were noted from China (Rs. 1,450) and Portugal (Rs. 4,930).

Rattans.

In 1906 rattans were received from Continental India and Singapore to the amount of kilos 16,217, of the value of Rs. 3,566, and kilos 38,087, of the value of Rs. 7,783, aggregating kilos 54,304, of the value of Rs. 11,349, against, for 1905, kilos 12,862, of the value of Rs. 3,358, received from China. There was, therefore, an increase of kilos 41,442 in weight and of Rs. 7,991 in value.

Rosin.

Decrease of kilos 12,153 in weight and of Rs. 1,512 in value. France provided for Rs. 1,369 in 1905, against nil in 1906; from Continental India there was a decrease of Rs. 678; an increase of Rs. 535 was noted from the United Kingdom.

Saddlery and Harness.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 5,823, against, for 1905, Rs. 12,290, showing a decrease of Rs. 6,467. The United Kingdom, Continental India, and France showed decreases of Rs. 4,030—Rs. 1,203—and Rs. 1,234 respectively.

Salt.

Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed the large increase of kilos 4,343,743 in weight and of Rs. 146,413 in value. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of kilos 3,366,533 in weight and of Rs. 115,918 in value. Kilos 829,007, of the value of Rs. 24,172, and kilos 148,000, of the value of Rs. 6,312, were received in 1906 from Aden and France, against nil in 1905.

Seeds.

Coriander.—There was an increase of kilos 1,981 in weight and of Rs. 8,804 in value, due chiefly to Continental India, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 8,580. A small increase of Rs. 225 was noted from Pondichery.

Garden.—The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 6,262, against Rs. 4,153 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 2,109 due to Ceylon, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 2,972—from France there was a shrinkage of Rs. 656.

Mustard.—Increase both in weight of kilos 11,049 and in value of Rs. 2,684, due chiefly to Continental India, which supplied kilos 10,679 more, with a surplus of Rs. 2,585 in value.

Silk Manufactures.

Satin and Ribbons.—Metres 31,440, of the value of Rs. 26,464, were received in 1906, against metres 73,047, of the value of Rs. 56,299, in 1905. There was a decrease of metres 41,607, with a shortage of Rs. 29,835 in value. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 6,220), Continental India (Rs. 587), China (Rs. 59), France (Rs. 15,544), Germany (Rs. 756), Belgium (Rs. 570), Switzerland (Rs. 3,332), Japan (Rs. 2,367), and Italy. Pondichery provided for Rs. 406 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Skin.

Sheep and Goats, tanned.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 1,382 and in value of Rs. 5,936, due chiefly to Pondichery, which provided for a less value of Rs. 8,186. Continental India supplied kilos 602, of the value of Rs. 2,250 in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Soap.

Ordinary.—Decrease of kilos 22,687 in weight and of Rs. 18,897 in value, due to short supplies from France (Rs. 1,105) and from the United Kingdom (Rs. 17,826).

Soda.

Caustic.—Kilos 6,395, of the value of Rs. 1,227, were received in 1906, against kilos 63,812, of the value of Rs. 12,921, in 1905. There was a decrease of kilos 57,417 in weight and of Rs. 11,694 in value. From the quantities mentioned there were received kilos 26,007 less than in 1905 (with a shortage of Rs. 5,185 in value) of caustic soda, imported for use in local manufactures and paying duty at the lower rate of 30 cents per 1,000 kilos.

Nitrate.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 1,361,495, of the value of Rs. 257,054, against, for the previous year, kilos 1,264,093, of the value of Rs. 218,753, showing an increase of kilos 97,402 in weight and of Rs. 38,301 in value, due chiefly to Chili, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 28,040. In 1906 the United Kingdom supplied kilos 41,180, of the value of Rs. 10,261, against nil in the previous year.

Silicate.—There was a decrease of kilos 70,608 in weight and of Rs. 5,575 in value, due chiefly to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Specie.

Gold.—The value of gold specie received from the United Kingdom in 1906 amounted to Rs. 39,385, against nil in 1905.

Paper Currency.—The value of paper currency received from the United Kingdom amounted to Rs. 30,600 for 1905, against nil in 1906.

Silver.—The value of silver currency imported in 1906 amounted to Rs. 560,646, against Rs. 738,265 for 1905, showing a falling off of Rs. 177,619 in value. From Continental India there was a decrease of Rs. 212,984, while from France there was an increase of Rs. 35,365.

Spices.

Chillies.—Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed an increase of kilos 42,897 in weight and of Rs. 4,748 in value, due to more supplies from Continental India (Rs. 4,584) and Pondichery (Rs. 164).

Cloves.—Only 113 kilos, of the value of Rs. 69, were received in 1906 from Continental India, against, for the previous year, kilos 5,901, of the value of Rs. 3,129, from Continental India, Réunion, and Zanzibar, the two last-mentioned countries supplying kilos 1,110, of the value of Rs. 690, and kilos 3,569, of the value of Rs. 1,611, in 1905, against nil in the past year.

Pepper, black.—Increase of kilos 18,446 in weight and of Rs. 3,130 in value, due to more supplies from Continental India (Rs. 1,889) and Singapore (Rs. 1,473).

Spirits.

Brandy.—The imports for 1906 amounted to litres 59,244, of the value of Rs. 91,194, against, for the previous year, litres 41,184, of the value of Rs. 73,360, showing an increase of litres 18,060 in measure and of Rs. 17,834 in value. France supplied litres 15,699 more, with a surplus of Rs. 14,411 in value. An increase of litres 2,173 in measure and of Rs. 2,782 in value, was also noted from the United Kingdom.

Geneva.—Increase of 1838 litres in measure and of Rs. 2,633 in value, due to more supplies from the United Kingdom and Holland amounting to Rs. 1,488 and Rs. 1,216, respectively.

Rum.—The imports for 1906 amounted to litres 4,462, of the value of Rs. 2,320, against, for the previous year, litres 41,077, of the value of Rs. 8,451, showing a decrease of litres 36,615 in measure and of Rs. 6,131 in value, due principally to Hong Kong, which supplied litres 38,132, of the value of Rs. 7,490, in 1905, against nil in 1906. From Réunion there was an increase of litres 1,387, with a surplus of Rs. 905 in value.

Whisky.—Increase of litres 5,647 in measure and of Rs. 3,040 in value, due principally to more supplies from the United Kingdom. Litres 448, of the value of Rs. 171, were received from Holland in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Of other sorts.—Only 45 litres, valued Rs. 27, were received in 1906 from the United Kingdom, against litres 1,428, of the value of Rs. 1,646, received in 1905 from the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, the latter country supplying litres 1,000, of the value of Rs. 1,316 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Starch.

Compared with 1905, the imports for the past year showed an increase of kilos 19,563 in weight and of Rs. 9,725 in value, due chiefly to Singapore, which provided kilos 6,913 more, with a surplus of Rs. 7,764 in value. Kilos 12,305, of the value of Rs. 1,960, were received in 1906 from China, against nil in 1905.

Stationery.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 99,780, against Rs. 119,080 in 1905, showing a decrease of Rs. 19,300, due to short supplies from Continental India (Rs. 384), Belgium (Rs. 1,642), France (Rs. 2,933), Germany (Rs. 954), and the United Kingdom (Rs. 16,034). Increases were from Austria (Rs. 1,652) and China (Rs. 342). Small supplies were received from Switzerland and the United States in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Steel.

Unwrought.—Increase of kilos 4,539 in weight and of Rs. 5,817 in value, due to more supplies from the United Kingdom and France amounting to Rs. 1,426 and Rs. 4,390, respectively.

Stones.

Marble.—Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed an increase of 67 in number, but a shortage of Rs. 2,247 in value. The shortage in value was due to the importation of three marbles, of the value of Rs. 2,412, from Italy in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Sugar.

Raw.—Kilos 103, of the value of Rs. 52, were received in 1905 from Germany, while for 1906 there were received from Continental India kilos 60, of the value of Rs. 8. Kilos 52,383 of raw sugar, of the value of Rs. 19,096, forming part of the original cargo, laden at Jamaica on board the vessel "Jules Simon," bound for Nantes, were sold here as damaged cargo, as the vessel entered this port in distress on her way to France in 1906.

Sulphur.

Common.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 993,770, of the value of Rs. 106,074, against kilos 503,390, of the value of Rs. 44,150, for 1905, showing an increase of kilos 490,380 in weight and of Rs. 61,924 in value. The United Kingdom and France showed increases of kilos 35,620 and kilos 454,760 in weight and of Rs. 2,617 and Rs. 59,308 in value, respectively.

Tallow.

Kilos 14,273, of the value of Rs. 8,222, were received in 1906, against kilos 40,684, of the value of Rs. 19,076, in 1905. There was a decrease of kilos 26,411 in weight and of Rs. 10,854 in value, due chiefly to Australia, which provided for a less value of Rs. 11,155. A small increase of Rs. 261 was noted under the United Kingdom.

Tamarinds.

Increase of kilos 6,499 in weight and of Rs. 2,367 in value, due exclusively to more supplies from Continental India.

Tarpaulins.

Eighty tarpaulins, of the value of Rs. 7,160, were received in 1906, against 35, of the value of Rs. 2,390, in 1905. There was an increase of 45 in number and of Rs. 4,770 in value. Tarpaulins were exclusively received from the United Kingdom.

Tea.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 46,132, of the value of Rs.. 41,437, against, for the previous year, kilos 54,675, of the value of Rs. 53,617, showing a decrease of kilos 8,543 in weight and of Rs. 12,180 in value. From Ceylon there was a decrease of kilos 12,811 in weight and of Rs. 14,225 in value. Continental India and China showed increases of kilos 1,579 and kilos 3,059 in weight and of Rs. 1,079 and Rs. 1,576 in value, respectively.

Tin.

Plates.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 155,756, of the value of Rs. 35,861, against, for the previous year, kilos 147,353, of the value of Rs. 31,908, showing an increase of kilos 8,403 in weight and of Rs. 3,953 in value, due principally to the United Kingdom, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 3,831.

Slabs.—Kilos 8,875, of the value of Rs. 36,510, were imported in 1906, against kilos 8,749, of the value of Rs. 23,221, in 1905. There was an increase of kilos 126 in weight, with a surplus of Rs. 13,289 in value. This large surplus in value was due to difference in the market prices of Straits Settlements, which supplied kilos 1,552 less, with a shortage of Rs. 382 only in value. There were received from Singapore kilos 1,359 more, with a surplus of Rs. 10,056 in value, and from the United Kingdom kilos 861 more, with a surplus of Rs. 3,261 in value. The Cape Colonies supplied kilos 1,028, of the value of Rs. 2,038, in 1905, against nil in 1906, while from Germany kilos 486, of the value of Rs. 2,391, were received in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Tobacco.

Manufactured.—The value of the imports amounted to kilos 155,530, of the value of Rs. 354,561, in 1906, against kilos 171,431, of the value of Rs. 353,162, in 1905, showing a decrease of kilos 15,901 in weight but an increase of Rs. 1,399 in value, due to difference in market prices from Réunion, which supplied kilos 2,756 less, but with an increase of Rs. 17,702 in value. From France there was an increase of Rs. 2,274, while from the United States a decrease of Rs. 18,590 was noted.

Cigars.—Decrease of kilos 3,532 in weight, but surplus of Rs. 3,202 in value. From Continental India there was a decrease of kilos 4,007 in weight and of Rs. 8,184 in value, but an increase of kilos 181 in weight and of Rs. 9,779 in value was noted from the United States.

Unmanufactured.—Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed a decrease both in weight of kilos 16,930 and in value of Rs. 7,657, due to short supplies from Continental India.

Tortoise and Pearl Shell.

Kilos 4,010, of the value of Rs. 14,046, were received in 1905, out of which kilos 4,000 were from Madagascar. No import was received in 1906.

Turmeric.

Increase of kilos 53,254 in weight and of Rs. 15,493 in value, due chiefly to Continental India, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 15,720.

Turpentine.

Increase of 29 hectolitres in measure and of Rs. 4,053 in value, due to the United Kingdom, which supplied hectolitres 29 more, with a surplus of Rs. 4,093 in value. France provided for Rs. 40 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Twine.

Hemp.—Increase of kilos 4,161 in weight and of Rs. 4,335 in value, due to more supplies from the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,607), Continental India (Rs. 355) and France (Rs. 1,408).

Of other sorts.—Increase of kilos 15,218 in weight and of Rs. 9,938 in value, due principally to more supplies from Continental India.

Umbrellas and Parasols.

Cotton.—Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of 5,156 in number and of Rs. 6,165 in value. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 9,396) and France (Rs. 933). From Continental India there was an increase of Rs. 2,361.

Varnish.

Decrease of hectolitres 126 in measure and of Rs. 4,325 in value. France and the United Kingdom showed decreases of hectolitres 10 and hectolitres 118, of the value of Rs. 1,704 and Rs. 2,853, respectively.

Vermicelli and Macaroni.

Decrease of kilos 10,073, with a shortage in value of Rs. 4,302, as compared with 1905. From France there was a falling off of kilos 10,235 in weight and of Rs. 4,296 in value.

Vinegar.

The imports for 1906 amounted to hectolitres 449, of the value of Rs. 8,356, against hectolitres 742, of the value of Rs. 13,205, for 1905, showing a decrease of hectolitres 293 in measure and of Rs. 4,849 in value. France showed a falling off of hectolitres 300, with a shortage of Rs. 4,982 in value.

Wine.

Champagne.—Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of litres 1,419, with a shortage of Rs. 21,401 in value, due exclusively to more supplies from France.

Claret in casks.—The imports for 1906 amounted to hectolitres 15,396, of the value of Rs. 516,761, against hectolitres 17,625, of the value of Rs. 604,945, showing a decrease of hectolitres 2,229 in measure and of Rs. 88,184 in value. France, Algeria, and Spain supplied, respectively, hectolitres 2,014, hectolitres 71, and hectolitres 155 less, with decreases of Rs. 83,717, Rs. 2,053, and Rs. 2,684 in value, respectively.

Claret in bottles.—2,027 litres more, with a surplus of Rs. 2,614 in value, were received in 1906, due chiefly to more supplies from France.

Pontac in casks.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase of hectolitres 12 and of Rs. 4,253 in value. Pontac is exclusively received from Cape Colony.

Port in casks.—Hectolitres 85 less were received in 1906, giving a shortage of Rs. 3,874 in value. Portugal and Spain supplied hectolitres 31 less, with a shortage of Rs. 3,080 in value, and hectolitres 46 less, with a shortage of Rs. 644 in value, respectively, as compared with 1905.

Port in bottles.—Litres 701, giving a shortage of Rs. 836 in value, were received in 1906. Decreases were noted from Portugal (Rs. 132) and Spain (Rs. 1,182).

Sherry in casks.—There was a decrease of hectolitres 51, with a falling off of Rs. 1,939 in value. Spain supplied hectolitres 65 less, with a shortage of Rs. 2,616 in value. From Portugal hectolitres 24, of the value of Rs. 933, were received in 1905, against nil in 1906, while from Algeria hectolitres 41, of the value of Rs. 1,767, were received in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Sherry in bottles.—1,192 litres more, with a surplus of Rs. 1,977 in value, were received in 1906, due chiefly to more supplies from Spain.

Vermouth in casks.—France supplied none in 1906, against hectolitres 176, of the value of Rs. 8,234, in 1905.

Vermouth in bottles.—Litres 18,785 more, with a surplus of Rs. 25,924 in value, were received in 1906. France supplied litres 18,663 more, with a surplus of Rs. 25,808 in value. Small quantities were received from Italy and Germany in 1906.

White Wine in bottles.—There was an increase of litres 1,426 in measure and of Rs. 847 in value. France supplied litres 825 more, with, however, a shortage of Rs. 177 in value. From Germany litres 601, of the value of Rs. 1,024, were received in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Of other sorts.—None received in 1906, against, for 1905, hectolitres 17, of the value of Rs. 2,012, from France, and hectolitres 5, of the value of Rs. 248, from Spain.

Wood.

Board and Planks.—The imports for 1906 amounted to cubic metres 6,746, of the value of Rs. 329,083, against cubic metres 5,693, of the value of Rs. 373,914, in 1905, showing an increase of cubic metres 1,053 in content but a decrease of Rs. 44,831 in value. From Singapore 357 cubic metres more, with a surplus of Rs. 55,183, were received in 1906. Australia supplied cubic metres 2,092, of the value of Rs. 230,293, in 1905, against nil in 1906, while from the United Kingdom cubic metres 1,782, of the value of Rs. 88,353, were received in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Casks, empty.—The imports for 1906 amounted to casks 2,502, of the value of Rs. 9,066, against, for the previous year, 196, of the value of Rs. 981, showing an increase of 2,306 in number and of Rs. 8,085 in value, due chiefly to the United Kingdom, which supplied 2,289 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 8,039.

Shingles.—There was a decrease of 299,625 in number but an increase of Rs. 3,305 in value. From Singapore there was a decrease of 473,425, with a falling off of Rs. 7,236 in value. From Madagascar 55,500, of the value of Rs. 916, were received in 1905, against nil in 1906, while Continental India supplied 225,000, of the value of Rs. 11,409, in 1906, against nil in 1905. A few thousand shingles were also received from Réunion in 1906.

Shooks.—The imports for 1906 amounted to bundles 96,426, of the value of Rs. 528,671, received from the United Kingdom, Continental India, and France, against, for the prêvious year, bundles 61,286, of the value of Rs. 233,225, from the United Kingdom. There was, therefore, an increase of bundles 35,140 and of Rs. 295,446 in value. The United Kingdom provided bundles 26,669 more, with a surplus of Rs. 247,359 in value. France and Continental India provided for Rs. 23 and Rs. 48,064, respectively, in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Timber.—There was an increase of 311 cubic metres in bulk, but a shortage of Rs. 32,063 in value. Cubic metres 44 more were received from the United Kingdom in 1906, with a surplus of Rs. 5,011 in value. From Australia 502 cubic metres more, with a surplus of Rs. 29,238 only in value. From Continental India cubic metres 256 less, with a shortage of Rs. 58,238 in value were received. From Madagascar cubic metres 61 more were received, with, however, a shortage of Rs. 6,936 in value.

Woodenware.—The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 8,737, against, for the previous year, Rs. 12,887, showing a decrease of Rs. 4,150. The chief decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 3,196), France (Rs. 1,152), and China (Rs. 527).

Woollen Manufactures.

Blankets.—There was a decrease of Rs. 1,390, due to Holland, which provided for Rs. 2,549 in 1905, against nil in 1906. Increases were from France (Rs. 203), China (Rs. 953), and the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,001). From Continental India there was a shortage of Rs. 920.

Mixed with Cotton and Silk.—Decrease of metres 29,316 in measure and of Rs. 16,196 in value. Decreases were from France (Rs. 12,194) and Germany (Rs. 3,720). Italy provided for Rs. 1,780 in 1905, against nil in 1906. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of Rs. 2,162.

Shawls.—Compared with the previous year, the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of 578 shawls, with a shortage of Rs. 1,525 in value, due chiefly to Austria, which supplied 1,485 shawls less, with a falling off of Rs. 2,398 in value. Slight increases were noted from France and Germany. Switzerland provided for Rs. 209 in 1905, against nil in the past year.

EXPORTS.

The principal articles exported from Mauritius are sugar, rum, molasses, cocoanut oil, aloe fibre and vanilla—the produce of the Colony. The quantities and values exported in the last five years are shown hereunder:—

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Sugar—					
Kilos. ...	150,305,678	170,416,541	197,825,666	164,194,858	186,389,239
Rupees ...	30,598,229	34,495,795	40,512,462	34,537,625	37,763,843
Rum—					
Litres ...	171,908	45,453	96,278	267,266	48,943
Rupees ...	28,952	10,345	22,468	39,411	11,020
Molasses—					
Kilos. ...	15,378,066	11,412,425	18,404,540	11,095,122	18,596,798
Rupees ...	1,144,021	402,052	668,935	405,258	763,116
Cocoanut Oil—					
Hecto. ...	5,280	4,462	3,848	1,707	3,915
Rupees ...	142,658	122,197	121,309	50,607	110,247
Aloe Fibre—					
Kilos. ...	2,144,609	1,518,684	1,920,078	1,673,922	1,949,878
Rupees ...	937,877	551,234	627,519	564,548	737,602
Vanilla—					
Kilos. ...	4,787	3,486	3,305	5,268	4,128
Rupees ...	137,224	110,239	88,066	108,322	29,177

The quantity and value of the principal minor exports are shown below :—

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Vacoa bags—					
Number	57,625	42,847	11,600	131,000	45,000
Rupees	3,973	1,835	1,160	4,263	2,200
Salted Fish—					
Kilos	27,224	18,526	4,705	16,218	60,795
Rupees	11,204	5,030	1,865	6,660	23,543
Hides, Raw and salted—					
Kilos	11,562	37,695	19,121	66,553	74,683
Rupees	4,960	18,043	7,107	27,105	47,405
Horns—					
Number	1,425	2,120	—	7,958	9,660
Rupees	48	312	—	359	2,987
Soap—					
Kilos	655	202	137	3,262	—
Rupees	151	62	18	783	—
Tea—					
Kilos	288	361	25	19	853
Rupees	312	498	50	36	1,041
Machinery and Millwork—					
Kilos	55,319	100,194	22,795	36,015	12,650
Rupees	40,826	65,196	18,140	21,128	9,453

The Countries to which the principal products have chiefly been exported with the quantities shipped are shown below.

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Sugar—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India.	92,645,867	121,386,848	115,490,180	94,982,357	113,069,839
Cape Colonies	26,611,758	18,505,947	38,144,051	30,550,946	28,788,806
Natal ...	61,857	1,525,052	7,353,090	7,015,170	4,479.408
Ceylon ...	72,164	116,722	176,485	113,809	118,410
Australia ...	6,512,595	4,888,497	3,546,594	3,171,835	4,761,325
United Kingdom.	16,618,750	18,681,580	26,409,059	7,701,796	10,310,952
United States of America.	—	—	—	—	3,446,491
France ...	150	—	—	184	86
Delagoa Bay...	—	—	3,658.915	2,714,234	4,759,835
Hong Kong...	7,433,620	4,800,558	1,450,830	6,407,524	15,906,072
Aden ...	7,377	31,367	38,195	328,109	447,193
Seychelles ...	201,093	238,307	267,916	201,284	198,244
Madagascar ...	1.790	—	—	—	—
Mombassa ...	12,757	—	—	—	—
Singapore ...	24,705	113,707	—	—	—
Straits Settlements.	12,091	—	—	—	—
Pondichery ...	—	—	1,476	—	3,798
Cochin China	—	37,538	15.068	—	—
Philippine Islands.	—	—	2,152	—	—
Barbados ...	—	—	1,177,645	—	—
Italy... ...	—	150	—	—	—
Japan ...	—	—	—	99,392	—
Canada ...	—	—	—	10.488,237	—
Rum—	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.
United Kingdom.	71,486	—	—	191,348	—
Seychelles ...	66,703	30,255	51,881	29,857	33,914
Hong Kong...	—	—	32,005	—	—
Aden ...	14,545	15,198	12,392	8,616	13,240
Cape Colonies	—	—	—	—	—
France ...	18,009	—	—	24,611	33
Glorieuse Island.	1,165	—	—	—	—
Continental India.	—	—	—	973	1,756
Germany ...	—	—	—	11,861	—
Molasses—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India.	15,311,666	11,207,800	17,723,300	11,088,082	18,583,775
United Kingdom.	—	—	—	—	400
Ceylon ...	58,000	25	—	—	—
Cape Colonies	8,400	—	3,720	7,040	12,623
Hong Kong...	—	204,600	677,520	—	—
Cocoanut Oil—	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.	Hectolitres.
Réunion ...	—	—	—	19.95	23.70
Natal ...	—	7.20	6.93	50.75	171,78

Countries to which Principal Products have been Exported—cont.

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Cocoanut Oil—*cont.*	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.
Cape Colonies	209.84	—	—	—	—
United Kingdom.	4,563.04	4,454.50	3,245.19	631.75	3,041.70
France ...	500.60	—	—	—	675.75
Continental India.	—	—	596.00	1,005.00	—
Germany ...	—	—	—	—	2.45
Aloe Fibre—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
United Kingdom.	1,253,999	964,864	1,544,409	1,236,755	1,678,807
France ...	890,610	553,820	364,515	399,847	188,781
Australia ...	—	—	—	—	—
Germany ...	—	—	11,154	28,800	15,000
Continental India.	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium ...	—	—	—	8,520	—
United States of America.	—	—	—	—	67,290
Vanilla—					
France ...	1,665	2,047	82	1,158	30
United Kingdom.	3,085	1,405	3,123	4,019	814
Australia ...	32	34	54	32	—
Natal ...	—	—	12	—	—
Cape Colonies	5	—	31	—	—
Continental India.	—	—	3	—	—
Germany ...	—	—	—	59	—
Madagascar...	—	—	—	—	9

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in Mauritius. Sugar, of course, rum, vinegar, and soap are manufactured in the Colony. There is a small quantity of tea grown, and there are several factories for the extraction of fibre from the aloe plant, which grows abundantly in the Colony. There does not appear to have been any special incident of interest in connection with local manufactures during the year under review.

The fisheries are protected by special laws and by the creation of Crown reserves, as well as by the establishment of private barachois, by the creation of a close season, and by the prohibition of the capture of an illegal size of fish and the prohibition of illegal nets.

There are 11 private barachois or enclosures communicating with the sea, duly registered under Ordinance No. 21 of 1902. These private barachois are walled ponds or "fish paddocks," which, by permission, may be replenished from Government reserves.

Certain parts of the coast are set apart, which are called "reserves," and in which no fishing can take place except by rod and line or by basket net. The protection of these reserves is left to the Inland Revenue Branch of the Receiver General's Department, consisting of one superintendent, five inspectors, and twenty-five guards. The police have also concurrent jurisdiction in detecting offences under the fishery laws.

The fisheries of the Colony, in so far as the food supply is concerned, have in no way improved during the year. Mauritius is still almost entirely dependent on the Island dependencies of the Colony, and on British and foreign countries and Colonies for the supply of dried, salted, and pickled fish.

The exports of fish and fishing products are chiefly restricted to the "Bambara," or sea slugs, which are not consumed in the Colony, but sent to Hong Kong and Singapore. This industry is chiefly in the hands of the Chinese.

FORESTRY AND BOTANY.

The approximate area of lands of various descriptions under the care of the Forest Department was at the end of the year:

	acres.
Crown Lands	66,699
Mountain Reserves	11,000
River Reserves	6,000
Curatelle Lands	830
	84,529

There are three botanical stations at different altitudes which, besides being centres of acclimatisation of large numbers of plants, both tropical and subtropical, are also and chiefly forest nurseries of increasing importance.

The Royal Botanical Gardens, Pamplemousses.

These gardens, of a total extent of 91 acres, are resorted to both by large numbers of inhabitants of the Colony and by strangers. The foreign relations have also increased lately through the free exchange system, which correspondents all over the world have accepted to adhere to. 173,000 forest plants in 1906 were sold to the public for a sum of Rs. 1,887·87. To Government forests and public Institutions 9,428 Filao (Casuarina) and Eucalyptus plants, 49,980 other forest plants, 629 palms, 18,119 ornamental plants, 1,300 fruit trees and 64 pounds of seeds were sent free. For the local exchange, over 6,000 plants and 74 lbs. of seeds were supplied in return. The foreign exchange gave rise to a supply of 420 plants and 43 lbs. of seeds of various species from the gardens, and a reception of 1,683 plants and 44 lbs. of seeds.

The Governor has been pleased to reduce by half the price of all forest plants sold to the public, and the transport of planting material by rail is free to the public for orders exceeding

500 plants, the Forest Department repaying the cost to the Railway Department.

The Nursery Gardens, Curepipe.

These gardens, of an area of 56½ acres, are in the most populous town of the Island at an altitude of 1,800 feet, have gained some more importance this year through the increase of forest nurseries, which are now on an extensive footing.

Over 195,000 pine seedlings were transplanted successfully and about 130,000 are still on seed beds for the supply of forest plantations. In addition, over 268,000 forest plants were disposed of in favour of the public, of Government plantations, &c.

Five horticultural apprentices selected from primary schools were trained here in 1906.

The Réduit Gardens.

These are included in the Réduit domain, where resides the Governor of the Colony. The forest plantations made here in previous years supply useful seeds for other nurseries (eucalyptus, camphor, sandal, &c.).

Horticultural Society.

The Horticultural Society of Mauritius, formed in November 1904, reckons now over 100 members. Its object is the introduction of useful seeds and plants, and the promotion of horticulture in the Colony. It has a nursery at the Curepipe Gardens. It has already held two shows at Curepipe in 1905 and 1906, and they were largely attended and were a success, the society distributing to the exhibitors numbers of certificates and prizes worth Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. Sugars and sugar canes were very attractive at each of the exhibitions and formed with other products of the farm, vegetables and economics, &c., a useful annexure to the flower show.

The Horticultural Society has been favoured this year with a pecuniary assistance from the Government in token of its useful action and as an encouragement for the future.

Statement of Revenue derived from Pas Géométriques leased under "Planting Conditions" of Ord. 19 *of* 1895.

Districts.	Annual Rents.
	Rs.
Pamplemousses	1,116.00
Riviere du Rempart	1,086.00
Flacq	2,177.00
Grand Port	1,436.00
Savanne	1,066.00
Black River	1,344.12
Total	8,225.12

LAND GRANTS.

Lands are granted by the Government by lease and by sale. Lands which are situated on the sea coast beyond the limits of Port Louis, known as Pas Géométriques, can only be leased by public auction, except those forming part of settlements which have been proclaimed as villages. The sales are invariably made by public auction. There is, however, an exception to this rule in cases where lands are desired for charitable, religious, or educational purposes.

No sale of Crown land took place in 1906.

SHIPPING.

The shipping for the five years 1902-6 can be thus summarized:—

—	1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared (exclusive of Coasting trade, *i.e.*, Dependencies).	469	746,517	442	767,977	425	801,154	372	731,470	433	805,924
2. British Vessels	324	546,155	306	539,542	290	572,440	245	490,378	270	522,101
3. Foreign Vessels	145	200,362	136	228,435	135	228,714	127	241,092	163	283,823
4. Sailing Vessels	134	88,957	101	65,308	96	66,449	73	50,471	89	59,822
5. Steam Vessels	335	657,560	341	702,669	329	734,705	299	680,999	344	746,102

Coasting Trade (i.e., Dependencies).

—	1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared—	63	11,531	63	11,802	60	12,845	55	9,263	51	9,636
2. British Vessels	57	10,721	63	11,802	60	12,845	55	9,263	51	9,636
3. Foreign Vessels	6	810	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Sailing Vessels	63	11,531	62	11,607	56	12,065	55	9,263	51	9,636
5. Steam Vessels	—	—	1	195	4	780	—	—	—	—

The nationality and description of the vessels are shown in statement on page 57.

The number and tonnage of steam vessels which entered and cleared from and to all countries viâ the Suez Canal, and the value of goods (including bullion and specie) imported into, and exported by that Canal into and from, Mauritius are shown in the following table:—

Suez Canal.

Years.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared.		Value of Goods (including Bullion and Specie).	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.
					Rs.	Rs.
1902	26	50,849	27	52,242	3,887,611	2,189,981
1903	32	65,515	27	53,541	6,542,071	2,483,481
1904	32	71,428	20	42,717	3,149,920	234,010
1905	35	84,975	28	68,734	2,437,479	893,257
1906	37	89,109	27	61,980	2,554,574	1,358,512

The first table is a return of all vessels entered and cleared, excluding the coasting trade vessels, *i.e.*, vessels trading with the Dependencies, which are exclusively dealt with in the second table.

The total number of vessels entered and cleared during 1906 show an increase of 61 in number and of 74,454 in tonnage as compared with the figures for 1905.

Compared with 1905 the following differences are noted:—

—	Increase of	
	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels	26	9,351
Steam Vessels	45	65,103
British Vessels	25	31,723
Foreign Vessels	36	42,731

Of the 433 vessels which entered and cleared during 1906, 3 British steamers and 2 French steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 7,958, called at this port for the purpose of coaling, showing an increase of 4 in number and of 5,681 in tonnage as compared with 1905.

Coasting Trade—Dependencies.

The number of vessels entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies during 1906 is 51, with a tonnage of 9,636, against, during 1905, 55 with a tonnage of 9,263, showing a falling off of 4 in number but an increase of 373 in tonnage.

No steamer entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies in 1905 and 1906.

The coasting trade has been exclusively performed by British vessels during 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906.

Suez Canal.

The value of goods imported through the Suez Canal in 1906 amounted to Rs. 2,554,573.66, against Rs. 2,437,478.93 in 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 117,094.73.

Goods exported from Mauritius through the said canal in 1906 amounted to Rs. 1,358,512.18, against Rs. 893,257.07 in 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 465,255.11.

Vessels with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered with cargoes during 1906 amounted to 384,459, and the tonnage cleared to 291,942, as against 332,236 entered and 257,787 cleared for 1905.

The aggregate tonnage of the coasting trade amounted to 4,723 entered and 4,913 cleared in 1906, against 4,661 entered and 4,602 cleared in 1905.

Vessels touching at this Port.

Two French steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 3,812, one Norwegian sailing vessel of 337 and one American sailing vessel of 365 tons touched at this port without entering the harbour during 1906.

Statement of number and tonnage of British and foreign sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for 1905 and 1906:—

Entered.

—	1905.		1906.		Difference. + Increase, — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	64	29,429	71	34,967	+ 7	+ 5,538
Steamers ...	148	335,606	173	375,073	+25	+ 39,467
Total ...	212	365,035	244	410,040	+32	+ 45,005

Cleared.

—	1905.		1906.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage
Sailing vessels	64	30,305	69	34,491	+ 5	+ 4,186
Steamers ...	151	345,393	171	371,029	+20	+ 25,636
Total ...	215	375,698	240	405,520	+25	+ 29,822

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities:—

Entered.

Nationality.	1905.		1906.		Difference + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	99	224,112	113	246,176	+14	+ 22,064
Sailing ...	50	20,966	48	20,037	— 2	— 929
French—						
Steamers	45	105,906	52	119,510	+ 7	+ 13,604
Sailing ...	3	374	3	1,263	—	+ 889
German—						
Steamers	4	5,588	5	5,671	+ 1	+ 83
Norwegian—						
Steamers	—	—	2	1,423	+ 2	+ 1,423
Sailing ...	3	2,120	13	7,579	+10	+ 5,459
Dutch—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,293	+ 1	+ 2,293
Danish—						
Sailing ...	2	1,226	2	1,758	—	+ 532
Italian—						
Sailing ...	2	1,613	2	2,778	—	+ 1,165
American—						
Sailing ...	—	—	1	365	+ 1	+ 365
Russian—						
Sailing ...	2	1,860	—	—	— 2	— 1,860
Swedish—						
Sailing ...	2	1,270	2	1,187	—	— 83

Cleared.

Nationality.	1905.		1906.		Difference.	
					+ Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	102	235,071	112	242,515	+10	+ 7,444
Sailing ...	49	19,492	48	21,009	— 1	+ 1,517
French—						
Steamers	44	103,915	52	119,510	+ 8	+ 15,595
Sailing ...	3	1,611	3	1,263	—	— 348
German—						
Steamer	4	5,569	5	5,671	+ 1	+ 102
Norwegian—						
Steamer...	1	838	1	1,040	—	+ 202
Sailing ...	4	3,233	11	6,131	+ 7	+ 2,898
Dutch—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,293	+ 1	+ 2,293
Danish—						
Sailing ...	2	1,226	2	1,758	—	+ 532
Italian—						
Sailing ...	2	1,613	2	2,778	—	+ 1,165
American—						
Sailing ...	—	—	1	365	+ 1	+ 365
Russian—						
Sailing ...	2	1,860	—	—	— 2	— 1,860
Swedish—						
Sailing ...	2	1,270	2	1,187	—	— 83

TRANSPORTS AND MEN-OF-WAR.

The following transports and men-of-war visited this port during the year 1906:—

	Registered tonnage.
British—	
The "Soudan" (29th January)	6,680
"Soudan" (25th February)	6,680
"Crescent"	7,700
"Pelorus"	2,135
"Forte"	4,360
"Terpsichore"	3,400
"Terrible"	4,306
"Dufferin"	3,966
"Hardinge"	2,976
French—	
The "D'Entrecasteau"	8,114
"Descartes"	4,200
German—	
The "Planet"	800
"Seadler"	1,640

III.—LEGISLATION.

During the Session of 1906, 23 Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor.

The following enactments call for special mention:—

1. By Ordinance No. 4 the amount of security to be furnished under the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund, is raised from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 12,000, and for any amount in excess of Rs. 12,000 security is to be given by means of an approved guarantee company.

2. Ordinance No. 6 declares the mean solar time of longitude 60° East of Greenwich to be, from 1st January, 1907, standard time throughout Mauritius and its Dependencies, except the Chagos Archipelago, where the standard time shall be the mean solar time of longitude 75° East of Greenwich.

3. Ordinance No. 7 regulates the employment of natives and residents of the Colony for services to be performed beyond the limits thereof, and provides for their due return to the Colony on completion of their term of service.

4. By Ordinance No. 9 the privilege attaching under the Imperial Statute, I William and Mary, Ch. II., to petitions to the Sovereign is extended to the Colony.

5. Ordinance No. 10 improves the classification of juvenile offenders in the Reformatory School.

6. The Quarantine law is amended by Ordinance No. 15, which deals with the admission in certain cases of vessels into the harbour previous to pratique, and with the issue of certificates of clearance in time of epidemics.

7. Ordinance No. 21 regulates the practice of dentistry in the Colony.

8. Ordinance No. 22 re-organises the pilot service of Mauritius by providing for the payment of pilots by fixed salary instead of by fees as hitherto.

9. All the laws dealing with the care and treatment of lunatics are consolidated under one enactment by Ordinance No. 23.

Two Bills were also passed by the Council in 1906, and were reserved by the Governor for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure thereon; the first "To amend the Letters Patent of the 16th September, 1885, as to the qualification of Elected Members" subsequently received His Majesty's gracious assent; the second, "To amend the duty payable on tea," was disallowed.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

In the year 1906 there were 67 Government and 88 Grant-in-Aid schools in the Colony.

The average number of pupils on the roll for the year at the Government schools was 8,919, and at the Grant-in-Aid schools 9,807, the average number in attendance being 5,491 and 6,425, respectively.

Of the Grant-in-Aid schools, 66 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, two Presbyterian, and one Mohammedan.

In these schools pupils are taught six standards, English, French, and arithmetic being the compulsory subjects for passes in the standards; in addition, at the great majority of the schools, an extended programme is taught in one or more of the subjects, English, French, arithmetic, geography, elementary science (for boys), and needlework (for girls).

Examinations are conducted annually by the Inspectors of Schools, who also pay frequent visits of inspection to the schools during the year.

All the schools are open, without payment of fee, to children of all classes and creeds between the ages of 5 and 16, or in some cases 18.

Religious instruction is imparted to the pupils of Christian creeds in both Government and Grant-in-Aid schools at hours specially set apart in the curriculum of each school, by the clergy of their various denominations.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Royal College, and Schools in connexion.

Secondary education is given at the Royal College with its preparatory schools, the schools associated with the Royal

College, and the girls' schools working under the scheme for the higher education of girls.

The number of pupils at the Royal College and its two schools in December was:—

College proper	240
Curepipe School	69
Port Louis School	43
Total	352

Of these, 257 were paying and 95 free pupils.

The free pupils belonged to the following classes:—

(1) Indigent pupils whose fees have been paid for two years	7
(2) Holders of eleemosynary scholarships	13
(3) Scholars and exhibitioners from primary schools...	30
(4) Scholars and exhibitioners whose free tuition has been extended	11
(5) Holders of scholarships and exhibitions won at the College and associated schools	34
Total	95

In the Royal College, pupils are prepared for the London Matriculation and the Cambridge Senior Local Examinations.

The passing of these examinations qualifies the successful candidates for entrance to the highest classes of the College on the Classical and Modern sides, respectively.

For the London Matriculation, 14 pupils were presented, and 5 passed.

For the Cambridge Senior, 68 College pupils and 23 outsiders entered; 23 College pupils and 2 outsiders passed.

In each of the highest classes a scholarship is annually given, of the value of about £1,000, to enable the successful student to follow some special course of study abroad, in general at some institution in the United Kingdom.

Numerous small scholarships, exhibitions, and other awards are given to students in the other classes.

The preparatory schools of the College and the 25 associated schools prepare students for the classes of the College proper.

Religious instruction is given at the College and its two schools, and annual examinations are held in this subject.

HIGHER GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

The girls' schools, in the scheme for the higher education of girls, provide a course of study suitable for girls between the ages of 11 and 17.

The principal subjects taught are English, French, history, geography, mathematics, Latin, music, drawing, needlework, and religious instruction.

Annual examinations are held for these schools, and on the results, prizes and certificates are awarded and grants are paid.

The number of these schools working in connexion with the Department and earning grants from Government was 22.

The examinations, however, are open to all the girls in the Colony who are of age to compete, except those who are pupils of the Government and Grant-in-Aid primary schools.

The number of girls who competed was 286; of these, 124 obtained certificates.

INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The Government training school for men teachers accommodates about 20 students in training, and that for women about 12 students. At the last examination for teachers, four men and four women from these schools obtained certificates.

Provision was made for the establishment of Grant-in-Aid training schools, but no such school has yet been established.

Eight mechanical engineering apprenticeships, tenable at the Government railway works, and two horticultural apprenticeships, tenable at the Government botanical gardens, are awarded every year on the results of competitive examinations.

Agricultural chemistry is taught at the Royal College to special classes of students.

Under the regulations in Code B, for the teaching of handicrafts to pupils in the primary schools, classes were conducted at four primary schools during the year.

In Code A provision is made for the teaching of handicrafts by means of a system of apprenticeships to promising students.

A scheme exists, as part of Code A, for the yearly appointment of two students in civil engineering.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

During the year under review, the hospitals and asylums of the Colony numbered 14, including the two small hospitals attached to Flacq and Souillac Prisons.

The following table supplies the usual statistical information concerning the admissions, cases treated, &c., in each of these institutions during the year 1906:—

Hospitals.	Remaining at end of 1905.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Total Cases Treated.	Remaining at end of 1906.
Civil	168	5,784	404	5,952	125
Port Louis Prisons...	18	898	6	916	12
Long Mountain ...	15	644	62	659	10
Poudre d'Or... ...	25	1,385	73	1,410	28
Flacq	37	2,045	133	2,082	25
Flacq Prisons ...	—	77	1	77	9
Mahébourg	26	2,218	90	2,244	39
Savanne	27	1,102	62	1,129	19
Savanne Prisons ...	10	280	2	290	6
Barkly Asylum ...	104	3,518	282	3,622	84
Lunatic Asylum ...	24	441	30	465	24
Beau Bassin Prisons	15	996	29	1,011	18
Reformatory ...	—	79	1	79	—
Moka...	13	904	46	917	5
Total... ...	482	20,371	1,221	20,853	404

There were 423 patients on the roll of the lunatic asylum at the close of the year under review, exclusive of one female patient who was then under observation on interim order. This total shows an increase of 12 over the number of the previous year. The daily average number of male lunatics confined in the asylum during 1906 was 248·10, and that of female patients 171·22.

Taking into account the number of patients in the lunatic asylum and the lunatic branch wards of the Barkly Asylum, as well as those out on probation, the number of insane is 1 in 632 of the population of the Colony.

The sanitary condition of the Colony has, on the whole, been slightly more satisfactory than that which obtained during the previous year. Fever and dysentery prevailed to a lesser extent, whilst the plague epidemic, with the exception of that of 1905, has been the lowest recorded since the introduction of the disease in 1899.

The total rainfall recorded for the year amounted to 41·66 inches, showing a reduction of 7·39 inches on the normal. This low rainfall, which was evenly distributed throughout the year, apparently helped in producing the amelioration noticed in the sanitary state of the island, especially as regards the prevalence of fever and dysentery.

The number of admissions into the hospitals and asylums was 20,371 in 1906, against 20,735 in 1905, which shows a reduction of 364.

Malarial Fever is responsible for 3,674 admissions in the hospitals. This figure is lower than that of the previous year by 1,449.

Dysentery.—The number of patients, 794, who resorted to the different hospitals on account of that complaint shows a considerable reduction, when compared with that of the previous year, when it stood at 1,013.

Enteric Fever.—Only six admissions for that disease were registered in the hospitals. In addition to these cases, 75 others were notified from the different districts of the Colony in compliance with the Contagious Disease Ordinance.

Influenza has given rise to 1,768 admissions, showing an increase of 729 over the number recorded in 1905. This disease prevailed in an epidemic character during the winter, and its incidence reached its acme in July, when 1,023 cases were reported from the different district hospitals.

Tuberculosis.—Under that heading, 972 admissions were recorded in 1906, showing a decrease of 36 when compared with the figure of the previous year.

Pertussis, which had only existed in a sporadic form during a number of years, occurred more frequently at the end of 1905 and assumed an epidemic character in 1906. The number of cases admitted into hospital was 169, of which five proved fatal, while the number of deaths ascribed to it at the civil status reached 216 during the year under review.

Plague.—As already remarked, the plague epidemic has been more limited than those of the previous years, 1905 excepted. The death rate, though it showed a diminution on that recorded in 1905, reached the high figure of 79·3 per cent. during the year under review.

The following table shows the yearly incidence of the disease since its appearance in 1899, as well as the deaths and death rate:—

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate.
			Per cent.
1899	1,416	1,117	78·9
1900	796	593	74·5
1901	1,093	805	73·6
1902	506	386	76·3
1903	1,395	1,035	74·2
1904	568	449	79·0
1905	308	251	81·5
1906	434	344	79·3

The campaign for the destruction of rats, which play such an important part in the dissemination of plague, was prosecuted with unabated vigour throughout the year under review, 105,568 rats being destroyed by the official rat catchers alone.

Surra has existed throughout the year, but to a lesser extent than during the previous one. A rapid decline in the epizootic took place after the month of March, and the virulence of the disease appeared to be diminished.

POOR RELIEF.

There are no poorhouses, in the English sense, in Mauritius, but relief, both indoor and outdoor, is extensively given to the poor.

The indoor relief is given at the public hospitals of the Colony, at the Barkly Asylum for the aged and infirm poor, and at the various convent infirmaries and the public dispensaries. The outdoor relief consists of grants of food, money, clothes, and medicines.

The expenditure of the Poor Law Department for the year 1906 amounted to Rs. 221,040.35 c.

The number of patients treated at the several hospitals was 16,091, and the number of paupers who received outdoor relief was 2,113. The number of pauper orphans maintained in convents at the expense of the Poor Law Commission amounted to 40, and 939 infirm paupers were maintained in infirmaries. The number of sick paupers who applied at the public dispensaries, and who received either medicines or medical treatment, was 45,182.

The following table shows the total number of persons who received indoor and outdoor relief in 1906, namely:—

(*a*) Recipients of indoor relief:—	
Sick in country district hospitals	11,527
Sick in Civil Hospital	4,332
Sick in Convent Hospital, Canal Street ...	232
Inmates of Barkly Asylum	816
Lepers at St. Lazare	190
Inmates of Lunatic Asylum	504
Orphans in Convents	40
Inmates of Calebasses and Convent branch infirmaries	939
(*b*) Recipients of outdoor relief:—	
Alimentary and pecuniary	2,113
Medical (sick at dispensaries)	45,182
Total ...	65,875

There is also a leper asylum (St. Lazare) in Port Louis, into which 80 pauper lepers were admitted last year; and a lunatic asylum at Beau Bassin, into which there were admitted 81 males and 44 females, making a total of 125 inmates admitted in 1906.

REFORMATORY.

The admissions show a decrease of five, and the discharges a decrease of three, compared with 1905.

The daily average number of convicted and unconvicted increased by 4·46, compared with 1905.

The daily average number of admissions decreased by ·01, compared with 1905.

Six escapes took place, showing a decrease of four as compared with those of 1905. Seven were re-captured, one of whom escaped in 1905.

The total number of admissions into hospital shows an increase of seven, and therefore an increase of ·02 in the daily average number of admissions.

The daily average number of sick in hospital shows a decrease of ·04.

There was one death during the year. None occurred in 1905.

The total cost of maintaining and guarding the boys was Rs. 13,765.89 c., against Rs. 13,543.44 c. in 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 222.45 c. as compared with 1905.

The total cost per head on average number of boys detained was Rs. 212.56, against Rs. 224.60 c. in 1905, a decrease of Rs. 12.04 c. per head for 1906.

The earnings amounted to Rs. 3,288.09 c., against Rs. 3,068.85 c. in 1905. The increase is therefore Rs. 219.24 c.

The total earnings per head on average number of boys was Rs. 50.77 c., against Rs. 50.89 c. in 1905, a decrease of 12 cents per head for 1906.

SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits at the Government Savings Bank, at 3 per cent. interest, amounted to Rs. 2,850,234 on the 30th of June, 1906, as compared with Rs. 2,845,052 at the same date in 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 5,182.

The following return shows the number of depositors, and the amount standing to the credit of the general and the Indian populations at the end of the years 1904-05 and 1905-06.

Number of depositors and amount to credit of general and Indian populations:—

—	1904–5.		1905–6.	
	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.
General Population	16,299	1,724,622	17,629	1,669,038
Indian Population	9,498	1,120,430	10,054	1,181,196
Total	25,797	2,845,052	27,683	2,850,234

The financial position of the bank on 30th of June, 1906, was as follows:—

	Rs.
Investments	3,127,295.37
Cash in hand	3,674.86
Receiver-General (interest due by Treasury for 1905-06)	82,099.56
	3,213,069.79
Liabilities due to depositors and to Treasury	2,912,372.42
Balance in favour of the bank	300,697.37

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE, PRISONS, AND CRIMINAL.

The total effective strength of the police force on the 31st of December, 1906, was 721; the actual strength, however, was 718.

The force comprised nine nationalities, but 534 were natives of Mauritius.

Ninety-one constables were enlisted during the year, and 11 were dismissed.

Fifty-four sub-officers and constables resigned, or were discharged on pension or gratuity during the year.

Detection and Repression of Crime.

The number of offences coming to the knowledge of the police during 1906 totalled 22,817, in connexion with which 12,628 persons were apprehended or summoned before the magistrates.

The following return will show the nature of the various offences:—

Nature of Offences.	No. of cases.	No. of persons charged.
(*a*) Serious offences reported to, or detected by, the Police, in which persons were charged.	2,417	3,034
(*b*) Serious offences reported to the Police, which, in certain cases, formed the subject of enquiries, but in which no persons were charged.	9,863	481°
(*c*) Minor offences reported to, or detected by, the Police in which persons were charged.	4,054	6,152
(*d*) Minor offences reported to the Police in which no persons were charged.	3,535	—
(*e*) Offences against the Labour Law	1,438	1,451
(*f*) Vagrancy	1,510	1,510
Total	22,817	12,628

° On suspicion.

CASES of CRIMES in which PERSONS were CHARGED.

Offences.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons Charged.	Number of Persons Convicted or Committed to Assizes.	Number of Persons otherwise disposed of.	Pending.	Amount of Property Stolen.	Amount of Property Recovered.	
							By all Agencies.	By Police only.
						Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs.
Murder, including parricide, infanticide, wife murder, &c., and poisoning causing death.	12	18	12	5	1	—	—	—
Attempt at foregoing: and attempt at poisoning not causing death.	7	9	5	1	3	—	—	—
Manslaughter, including wounds and blows causing death...	8	9	8	—	1	—	—	—
Rape, including attempt upon chastity	19	21	11	4	6	—	—	—
Larceny at night by breaking, or with violence to the person.	114	186	141	33	12	14,825.77	1,722.21	1,611.47
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	46	57	38	10	9	—	663.41	660.91
Prædial or other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement, and swindling.	1,283	1,548	1,236	186	126	27,031.17	8,745.51	7,555.25
Removing, receiving or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	240	283	198	66	19	—	3,358.08	3,080.67
Arson or other malicious injuries to property	10	17	12	3	2	—	—	—
All other offences not included in above	678	886	612	152	122	—	—	—
Total	2,417	3,034	2,273	460	301	41,856.94	14,489.21	12,908.30

It will be observed that of the serious offences reported to, or detected by, the police, there were 2,417 cases, in which 3,034 persons were charged, and of these 2,273 or 74·91 per cent., were either summarily convicted or committed to assizes.

The amount of property declared to have been stolen was Rs. 41,856.94, of which Rs. 14,489.21, or 34·61 per cent., was recovered.

The following return records all serious offences reported to, or detected by, the police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged:—

Offences.	No of cases.	No. of persons arrested on suspicion.	Amount of Property alleged to have been stolen.	Amount of Property recovered.	
				By all Agencies.	By Police only.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Murder, including parricide, wife murder, and poisoning causing death	2	1	—	—	—
Attempt at foregoing, and attempt at poisoning not causing death	2	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the person	6,078	76	—	—	—
Larceny at night by breaking, or with violence to the person	437	62	37,297.83	1,065.26	333.94
Prædial or other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement, and swindling ...	2,935	299	67,963.00	13,346.57	8,002.73
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property	33	17	—	192.94	156.93
Arson or other malicious injuries to property	27	12	—	—	—
Other offences against property...	321	9	—	—	—
All other offences not included in above	28	3	—	—	—
Total	9,863	481	105,260.83	14,604.77	8,493.60

The total number of fires which formed the subject of police investigation in 1906 was 246, and the total value of the property destroyed was Rs. 38,980.36 c.

The following is another classification of the offences reported:—

Offences against the person	8,281
Prædial larceny	380
Offences against property other than prædial larceny	5,142
Other offences	9,014
Total	22,817

PRISONS.

During the year 1906, in addition to the two Central Prisons of Port Louis and Beau Bassin, as well as the District Prison of Savanne already open, the Flacq District Prison was reopened in June.

The total number of prisoners admitted after conviction during the year was 5,539 males and 245 females. These numbers show a decrease of 441 males and an increase of 69 females as compared with the returns of 1905.

The number committed under the different headings, compared with the previous year, is as follows:—

Year.	Debt.	Non-payment of fines and costs.	Safe custody till trial or for want of security.	For purposes of penal imprisonment.
1905 ...	10	1,610	3,392	6,156
1906 ...	9	1,496	3,332	5,784

There is a decrease of 4 males and an increase of 69 females previously convicted, as compared with the number so convicted in 1905.

Under the classification "Duration of Sentences," a decrease in short sentences and an increase in long sentences, in periods of "5 to 10 years," as well as decrease in life sentences is shown, the figures being:—

Five to 10 years—	
1906	18
1905	10
Increase	8
Life—	
1905	11
1906	3
Decrease	8

The daily average number under detention, as compared with 1905, shows an increase of 23·04.

Daily average—	
1906	1,027·87
1905	1,004·83
Decrease	23·04

Sickness and Mortality.

The following were the prevailing diseases:—

Port Louis Central Prison.	Beau Bassin New Central Prison.	Savanne District Prison.	Flacq District Prison.
Malarial Fever. Dysentery. Influenza.	Malarial Fever. Diarrhœa. Dysentery. Influenza.	Malarial Fever. Dysentery. Influenza.	Malarial Fever.

Thirty-nine deaths occurred during the year:—1 at Flacq, 2 at Savanne, 29 at Beau Bassin, and 7 at Port Louis Prisons, compared with 46 in 1905.

The causes were as hereunder:—

Diseases.	No.	Diseases.	No.
Port Louis Prisons—		Beau Bassin Prisons—	
Pneumonia...	3	Influenza ...	3
Dysentery ...	1	Dysentery ...	4
Rupture of Spleen	1	Tuberculosis	3
Phthisis	1	General Debility ...	5
Tuberculosis	1	Congestion of Brain	2
		Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2
Total	7	Pericarditis	1
		Pneumonia...	5
		Pleurisy ...	1
		Peritonitis ...	1
		Diarrhœa ...	1
		Gangrene ...	1
Savanne District Prison—		Total	29
Pernicious Fever ...	1		
Pleurisy and Pneumonia...	1		
		Flacq District Prison—	
Total	2	Influenza ...	1

The death-rate for the prisons, taking the rate per cent. of deaths on the daily average number under detention, was 3·79. compared with 4·58 in 1905.

Taking the prisons separately, it was as follows:—

—	1905.	1906.
Port Louis Prisons	2·97	2·73
Beau Bassin Prisons	4·28	4·58
Flacq District Prison	Not open.	2·54
Savanne District Prison	10·36	2·04

The daily average number of sick in the prison hospitals was 50·48, as compared with 50·44 in 1905.

Escapes.

There were in all 31 escapes of prisoners during the year, as against 39 in 1905, including one escape from within the precincts (Savanne District Prison), 29 whilst at outdoor labour, and one while under police escort.

Of the above, 24 were recaptured, 7 still remaining at large on 31st December, 1906.

The total cost of maintenance during the year under review was Rs. 75,336.25, as compared with Rs. 71,325.76 in 1905.

The gross earnings were Rs. 136,598.14, as against Rs. 132.44 in the previous year. The yearly earnings per head averaged Rs. 143.71.

The prisoners were employed as carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, tinsmiths, and at making rattan goods and mats.

They were also employed at stone-breaking and sanitary works, and other kinds of out-door labour.

Criminal Statistics.

The following table gives the judicial statistics for 1906:—

Information in the Supreme, District, and Stipendiary Courts of **Mauritius.**

How cases tried ended.	Total.	Murder, other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter.	Attempt at murder.	The numbers include attempts to commit the several offences.												
					Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Child murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injuries to property.	Robbery with violence.	Prædial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Vaccination.	Miscellaneous offences.
Judgment for the Crown	17,524	1	8	—	2	—	1	—	3	3	720	38	101	350	1,465	1	14,831
Judgment for the prisoner	1,504	5	5	56	2	—	1	—	4	—	400	12	16	19	333	—	651
Prisoners found insane	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cases which fell through for want of prosecution, including cases which the Procureur-General declined to take at the Assizes.	2,937	1	1	3	4	1	—	—	2	—	188	2	9	40	977	—	1,709

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

—	Numbers	
The population on the 1st January, 1906 was		377,532
The number of births registered in 1906 was	11,363	
The number of births unregistered owing to death intervening before registration was made, was	1,306	
Total births	12,669	
The number of deaths registered was	15,118	
Showing a decrease of		2,449
		375,083
Arrivals in the Island	4,526	
Departures from the Island	4,209	
Difference in favour of arrivals		317
Total Civil Population		375,400
Military stationed in the Island		2,234
Total population of the Island		377,634
Estimated population of Dependencies and outlying Islands		5,572
Estimated total population of the Colony		383,206

The crews of non-Colonial shipping in the harbour have not been included in the above estimate.

The Indian population, included in the above, numbered 262,572, composed of 143,390 males and 119,182 females, showing an increase of 290 males and 3,196 females on the Census of 1901.

The general population (excluding Indians) numbered 112,828, of which 57,462 are males and 55,366 females, thus showing an increase of 1,010 males and a decrease of 119 females.

It will be noticed that while both populations show an increase when compared with the Census figures, they show a decrease when compared with the figures for last year.

The public health of the Colony during 1906 has been slightly better than that of 1905.

The death-rate shows a slight decrease, having fallen from 40·6 in 1905 to 40·0 in 1906.

The birth-rate has decreased from 37·0 per 1,000 to 33·5.

An unsatisfactory feature is to be found in the high infantile mortality for the year.

Unfortunately, a very high proportion of still-births, 8·9 per cent., must at the same time be recorded.

The following statement shows the different classes of occupations of the population*: —

Employment.	General Population.		Indo-Mauritians.		Other Indians.		Grand Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Class I.— Professional ..	3,225	624	712	29	373	19	4,310	672	4,982
Class II.— Domestic ..	2,874	3,087	5,183	1,047	1,656	192	9,713	4,326	14,039
Class III.— Commercial ..	5,681	110	3,744	473	3,350	369	12,775	952	13,727
Class IV.— Agricultural ..	3,605	157	41,069	3,779	27,675	1,606	72,349	5,542	77,891
Class V.— Industrial ..	18,211	3,269	1,824	227	756	33	20,791	3,529	24,320
Class VI.— Indefinite and Non-productive.	22,856	48,238	50,438	90,353	6,320	17,859	79,614	156,450	236,064
Total	56,452	55,485	102,970	95,908	40,130	20,078	199,552	171,471	371,023

Births.

There were 12,669 births registered during the year. The birth-rate in the general population was 33·6 per 1,000, and in the Indian population 33·5.

Deaths.

15,118 deaths occurred during the year. The death rate was, in the general population, 38·1 per 1,000, and in the Indian population 40·8. The deaths consequently exceeded the births by 2,449.

Marriages.

There were 976 marriages celebrated during the year. Of these marriages, 514 belonged to the general population, and 462 to the Indian population.

The following return shows the mortality for the last five years: —

Year.	Mortality.	Rate per 1,000.
1902	12,716	34·0
1903	15,034	39·9
1904	12,064	32·2
1905	15,379	40·6
1906	15,118	40·0

---

* From the Census of 1st April, 1901.

CLIMATE.

General.

The Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory reports as follows:—

Mauritius lies between the meridians of 57° 18′ and 57° 49′ E. longitude, and the parallels of 19° 58′ and 20° 32′ S. latitude. To the north extends the equatorial belt of calms and variable winds, with its hot, damp, and rarefied atmosphere; and to the south the sub-tropical belt of high pressure, from which a current of air blows nearly continuously, in a curved path, towards the equator, being deflected to the west by the rotation of the earth.

The migrations of these belts north and south with the sun produce the seasonal variations of weather at Mauritius. With the system in its most southerly position the Island is under the influence of the belt of low pressure, and in its most northerly position the influence of the high pressure belt is felt; so that in the summer months—December to April—the atmospheric pressure is below the mean for the year, and the weather is hot and sultry with occasional very heavy rain, produced principally by the cyclones which form to the north-east of Mauritius and travel usually on a south-westerly course, passing sometimes to eastward and sometimes to westward, but seldom immediately over the island.

The mean atmospheric pressure varies from 29·919 ins. in February to 30·202 ins. in August, and the mean temperature of the air from 79° in January to 68° in July. (At Curepipe, a town situated on the central plateau, 1,800 ft. above sea-level, the temperature varies from 74° in January to 62° in July). The mean wind direction varies from east in December and January to south-east by east in June; its velocity varies from 10 miles per hour in March to 12·4 miles per hour in August. The rainfall in very variable in different parts of the island; the wettest station is Cluny, in Grand Port, with a mean annual rainfall of 145 ins.; the driest is Albion, on the west coast, with a mean rainfall of 31 ins. The mean monthly rainfall for the whole island decreases from 12 ins. in March to 2·6 ins. in September and October.

In addition to the annual variation there is a marked diurnal variation in all elements; amounting to 0·070 ins. in atmospheric pressure, from 12° in winter to 17° in summer in air temperature, from 25 to 50 per cent. in relative humidity, 7 miles an hour in wind velocity, 20° in wind direction and 0·7 in. in rainfall.

SPECIAL FEATURES IN 1906.

Barometric Pressure.

The barometric pressure decreased, relatively to the normal, until April, oscillated about normal till July, then increased steadily till the end of the year.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. + 0·006	Ins. — 0·023	Ins. — 0·016	Ins. + 0·030

Air Temperature.

Relatively to the normal, the temperature fell generally from February to the end of the year, showing promise of a cold summer. The greatest positive wave culminated at the beginning of March, during the most rapid decrease of pressure relatively to the normal.

The greatest negative wave culminated at the end of the year, and was coincident with the greatest positive wave of pressure.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
+ 0·8°	0·0°	— 0·7°	— 1·5°

Vapour Tension.

The departures from average vapour tension followed the temperature curve very closely, and, inverted, followed the pressure curve approximately.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. + ·052	Ins. — ·028	Ins. — ·007	Ins. — ·033

Relative Humidity.

The abnormality curve of relative humidity followed closely that of the vapour tension, showing greater variation than usual, during the first half of the year.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. + 2·9	Per cent. — 3·8	Per cent. + 0·5	Per cent. — 0·1

Rainfall.

The rainfall decreased generally, relatively to the normal, from November 1905 to April 1906, with, however, an increase in March. It then increased generally until July, decreasing again until November.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. — 23	Per cent. — 38	Per cent. + 44	Per cent. — 12

Wind Velocity.

The wind velocity was again below normal, except in May and July, when it was normal; a large negative wave which culminated in February was coincident with large positive waves of temperature, vapour tension and relative humidity.

(Comparisons made with a small anemometer, tested at the Kew Observatory, indicated that the Observatory Standard gives identical results with Kew Standard at velocities of 11 miles per hour, the mean for Mauritius.)

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
M.p.h. — 2·8	M.p.h. — 1·2	M.p.h. — 1·3	M.p.h. — 1·3

Means and Extremes of Meteorological Elements.

The means and extremes of the various meterorological elements for the year 1906 are given below:—

—	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.
	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.
Atmospheric Pressure ...	30·069	30·370	29·376
Air Temperature	73·1°	90·1°	51·6°
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Relative Humidity ...	75·0	97·8	40·7
	M.p.h.	M.p.h.	
Wind Velocity	9·4	48·0	—
Wind Direction	S. 69° E.	—	—
	Total.		
Rainfall	41·66	—	—

Results of Magnetic Observations.

The magnetographs were at work throughout the year, and absolute values of the magnetic elements determined, as a rule, four times a month. The following are the mean results for 1906:—

Declination (west)	9°12′76
Dip (south)	53°52′9
Horizontal force (C.G.S. units) ...	0·23527
Vertical force (C.G.S. units)	0·32243
Total force (C.G.S. units)	0·39913

The largest magnetic disturbances occurred on July 11-12, August 7-8, September 22-23, December 22-23.

MISCELLANEOUS WORK AT THE ROYAL ALFRED OBSERVATORY.

Actinometric observations were taken with high and low sun on 42 days, and single observations on 42 other days.

Sixty-three earthquakes were recorded by the Milne seismograph during the year. The hourly measures of the seismograms, which were discontinued at the end of the year 1903, owing to the effect of the lamp used at night to check tremors, were resumed at the beginning of the year 1906, the instrument having been removed to the magnet basement.

Rainfall returns were collected from 64 stations in different parts of the island. The mean rainfall for the whole island during the year was 72·37 ins., as compared with an average of 79·52 inches.

Observations made on board vessels trading with Mauritius were tabulated, and detailed accounts of gales and hurricanes recorded. From observations thus obtained daily synoptic charts were prepared for the hurricane months, and the tracks of five cyclones laid down.

From May to December cablegrams giving a résumé of the weather at Mauritius for the preceding week were, as usual, despatched to the Director-General of Indian Observatories in connexion with the monsoon predictions and monthly cablegrams to the Director of the Geological Survey Department, Cairo.

Photographs of the sun were taken daily when the weather permitted. Spots were observed on 309 days, and faculæ on 314 days.

The installation of an electric time-ball in Port Louis, with the necessary accessories at the Observatory, was commenced in July last, but was not completed by the end of the year.

PUBLICATIONS.

Papers on a connexion between the rainfall at Durban and in Mauritius, and on the errors of minimum thermometers were published in the Transactions of the South African Philosophical Society.

INTRODUCTION OF STANDARD TIME.

In the month of August an Ordinance was passed by the Council of Government provided for the introduction of standard time (60° East of Greenwich) in Mauritius and its Dependencies on the 1st of January, 1907.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

The contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, was renewed in 1906 for another year for a four-weekly service between Colombo and Mauritius. Besides the British India steamers, our mails to and from the East are conveyed by other British and French steamers. The Messageries Maritimes Company performed their bi-monthly voyages from Marseilles to Mauritius and vice-versâ, calling at Aden, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Réunion. The mails for and from South African ports were conveyed by the Union Castle steamers.

Statement of letters, postcards, newspapers, and postal parcels, &c., dealt with during the year 1906:—

—	Internal.	Mail Packets.				Other Vessels.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	
Insured Letters	—	—	—	170	51	—	—	—	—	221
Express Delivery	17,280	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,280
Post Cards	174,436	3,741	5,006	4,758	5,789	—	6,615	2,791	6,988	210,124
Paid Letters	840,727	191,102	75,304	203,745	146,714	—	14,602	36,468	125,143	1,683,805
Unpaid Letters	16,424	6,979	261	8,115	3,114	—	131	4,572	1,711	41,307
Registered Letters	64,579	2,608	4,882	15,028	14,338	—	645	2,963	5,527	110,570
Service	263,648	198	967	2,601	865	—	702	1,512	3,140	273,633
Newspapers	836,516	111,704	60,419	180,211	129,718	—	4,817	26,471	19,545	1,369,401
Postal Parcels	7	4,317	771	8,889	1,439	—	—	—	—	15,423

MONEY ORDERS.

Inland money Orders were issued during the year 1906 for a total sum of Rs. 344,686, against an aggregate sum of Rs. 341,133 during the previous year.

The foreign money orders show the following comparison:—

	Rs.
1905 … … … … … …	351,618
1906 … … … … … …	318,610

The British postal order system was extended to Mauritius in 1905. Amount sold in 1906 Rs. 7,768, and paid Rs. 4,123.

The total Post Office expenditure for 1906 was Rs. 142,331, as follows:—

	Rs.
Personal emoluments … … … …	101,174
Other Charges:—	
Overtime … … … … …	3,045
Sea and territorial transit … … …	1,060
Maintenance of telegraphs … … …	5,466
Porterage of telegrams … … …	10,571
Uniform … … … … …	1,623
Gratuities to masters of vessels … …	2,184
Miscellaneous and special expenditure …	17,208
Total … …	Rs. 142,331

And the total revenue for the same period was Rs. 133,906, collected under the following heads:—

	Rs.
Postal correspondence … … …	94,347
Telegraph receipts … … … …	22,255
Commission on money orders (Inland, Foreign, and Indian) … … …	10,170
Postal parcel service … … … …	[illegible] 358
Transit of correspondence … … …	2,[illegible]1
Private boxes … … … … …	[illegible]69
Commission on postal orders … … …	132
Forfeited money orders … … …	569
Miscellaneous … … … … …	15
Total … …	Rs. 133,906

IX.

MILITARY (TROOPS AND EXPENDITURE).

The troops in the Colony on 31st December, 1906, numbered 1,394 of all ranks. The total military expenditure, as shown by the following statement, was £147,631, of which the Colony contributed £32,576.

No. of Vote.	Particulars.	Amount.
		£
1	Pay, &c., of the Army	64,839
2	Medical Establishments	2,814
6	Quarterings, Transport, and Remounts ...	18,782
7	Supplies and Clothing	41,561
8	Ordnance Department Establishments, &c.	1,608
9	Armaments and Engineer Stores	78
10	Works and Buildings	9,731
11	Establishments for Military Education ...	399
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services	476
13	War Office and Army Accounts Department	1,412
14 to 16	Army non-Effective Services	614
—	Military Works Loan	5,317
	Total	147,631

X.—RAILWAYS.

The earnings of 1906 were Rs. 2,507,411, showing an increase of Rs. 182,587 on those of 1905. These figures are exclusive of Government traffic which amounted to Rs. 180,947 in 1906.

The working expenses in 1906 were Rs. 1,693,284, against Rs. 1,581,749 in 1905, an increase of Rs. 111,535.

The percentage of working expenditure to earnings in 1906 was 62·98, against 63·20 in 1905.

The total length of line open in 1906 was 120 miles—exclusive of sidings.

XI.—RODRIGUES.

The following statements give in a comparative form the value of the imports and exports, and the revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the last three years:—

Trade.

Year.	Exports.	Imports.
	Rs.	Rs.
1904	201,861	226,190
1905	210,671	180,276
1906	199,375	172,660

The following were the principal exports:—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Horned Cattle	11,160	3,300	—
Goats	49,188	14,060	12,508
Pigs...	9,750	2,525	2,350
Salt Fish	97,933	161,460	143,760
Tobacco	27,300	15,330	13,800

Revenue and Expenditure.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1904	12,155	30,706
1905	15,450	33,616
1906	15,047	34,333

XII.—GENERAL.

The price of sugar ranged as follows from May, 1906, to April, 1907:—For ordinary white crystallized vesous suitable for the Indian markets:—

Year.	Month.	Prices.
		Rs. c.
1906	May	7.80
"	June	7.75
"	July	7.70
"	August ...	8.00
"	September ...	8.25
"	October ...	8.25
"	November ...	7.75
"	December ...	8.00
1907	January ...	7.50
"	February ...	7.75
"	March	7.50 to 7.75
"	April	7.50 to 7.75

GRAHAM BOWER,

Colonial Secretary.

23rd August, 1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
514	British Guiana	1905–1906
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1904–1905
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906–1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906–1907
538	Leeward Islands	"
539	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
43	Caicos Islands	Fibal.

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No. 581.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 547.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
October, 1908.

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No. 581.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 547.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Port Louis,
18th August, 1908.

MY LORD,

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1907, together with the report of the Colonial Secretary thereon.

I have, &c.,

CAVENDISH BOYLE.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1907.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Comparative statements of revenue and expenditure during the financial years 1906-7 and 1905-6:—

A.—*Revenue.*

Heads of Revenue.	1906-7.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Customs	3,600,029.52	3,486,682.04	113,347.48	—
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues.	283,401.17	263,073.55	20,327.62	—
Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	2,443,766.72	2,530,444.46	—	86,677.74
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific services and Reimbursements in Aid.	252,058.32	269,353.06	—	17,294.74
Post Office and Telegraphs ...	147,007.49	139,479.45	7,528.04	—
Government Railways ...	2,500,409.10	2,437,510.65	62,898.45	—
Rent of Government Property	61,576.36	64,745.79	—	3,169.43
Interest	890,831.41	936,025.50	—	45,194.09
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	150,362.66	159,865.80	—	9,503.14
Land Sales	175.50	641.33	—	465.83
	10,329,618.25	10,287,821.63	204,101.59	162,304.97
Recovered from Loan Fund ...	—	881,961.58	—	881.961.58
Total	10,329,618.25	11,169,783.21	204,101.59	1,044,266.55
Result—Net decrease ...	—	—	—	840,164.96

The revenue of the financial year 1906-7 therefore exceeded that of the previous year (exclusive of Rs. 881.961.58 recovered from Loan Funds) by Rs. 41,796.62.

B.—*Expenditure.*

Heads of Service.	1906-7.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Public Debt (Charges) ...	1,261,001.62	1,264,583.79	—	3,582.17
Pensions	585,281.87	585,799.58	—	517.71
Governor and Legislature ..	96,822.08	94,307.63	2,514.45	—
Colonial Secretariat	56,950.80	58,001.83	—	1,051.03
Treasury	158,831.23	143,451.30	15,379.93	—
Customs	130,386.02	126,542.87	3,843.15	—
Audit	57,028.06	56,273.28	754.78	—
Port and Marine	231,063.02	336,413.87	—	105,350.85
Observatory	21,673.26	21,185.96	487.30	—
Public Library and Museum...	10,205.32	10,426.34	—	221.02
Registrar General	18,017.11	19,751.94	—	1,734.83
Registration and Mortgage ...	43,215.50	43,806.59	—	591.09
Archives	6,824.77	6,794.28	30.49	—
Supreme Court	129,790.07	124,646.68	5,143.39	—
Procureur General	76,052.41	81,627.28	—	5,574.87
District Magistrates	223,889.07	222,764.24	1,124.83	—
Stipendiary Magistrates ...	33,225.73	34,156.32	—	930.59
Ecclesiastical	152,679.21	152,698.96	—	19.75
Brought forward ...	3,292,937.15	3,383,232.74	29,278,32	119,573.91

B.—*Expenditure*—continued.

Heads of Service.	1906-7.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c	Rs. c.
Carried forward ...	3,292,937.15	3,383,232.74	29,278.32	119,573.91
Police	551,288.09	553,479.85	—	2.191.76
Prisons	166,055.82	165,186.35	869.47	—
Reformatory	16.226.33	13,865.62	2,360.71	—
Medical and Health	738,360.02	734,705.64	3,654.38	—
Quarantine	12,106.32	15,122.09	—	3,015.77
Plague, &c.	170,273.93	170,259.49	14.44	—
Royal College	210,374.84	202,005.01	8,369.83	—
Primary Education	393,715.75	382,345.55	11,370.20	—
Poor	227,121.14	202,297.57	24,823.57	—
Storekeeper-General	35,952.12	36,665.14	—	713.02
Immigration	97,408.23	109,653.89	—	12,245.66
Dependencies, Rodrigues ...	57,036.65	40,908.91	16.127.74	—
" Oil Islands ...	14,326.08	14,304.42	21.66	—
Military Expenditure	443,184.96	476,550.11	—	33,365.15
Miscellaneous	474,780.53	479,079.98	—	4,299.45
Charitable Allowances ...	9,926.86	10,004.20	—	77.34
Interest and Exchange ...	209,760.99	206,845.02	2,915.97	—
Post Office	148,614 41	150,079.92	—	1,465.51
Railway Department	2,139,921.03	1,741,273.00	398,648.03	—
Forests and Gardens	167,495.68	142,377 81	25,117.	—
Public Works and Suveys ...	103.463.81	105,073.61	—	1,609.80
Public Works (Recurrent) ...	477,626.74	530,209.88	—	52,583.14
" (Extraordinary)	4,610.76	37,951.18	—	33,340.42
Loan Office	11,940.34	12.391.54	—	451.20
Total	10,174,508.58	9,915,868.52	523,572.19	264,932.13
Result—Net increase ...	—	—	258,640.06	—

The increase in expenditure in 1906-7 may be attributed chiefly to railway rolling stock indented for in 1905-6 having been supplied and paid for in 1906-7.

POSITION OF THE COLONY AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1906-7.

	Rs.
Surplus on 1st July, 1906	1,172,195
Excess of revenue over expenditure (1906-7)	155,109
Surplus on 30th June, 1907 ... Rs.	1,327,304

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years, and the Treasury balances at the close of each year, were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.	Debit Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	£	Rs.
1902-3 ...	9,221,600	9,575,182	1,263,430	—
1903-4 ...	9,473,112	10,664,115	82,247	—
1904-5 ...	10,399,554	10,563,521	—	81.720
1905-6 ...	11,169,783	9,915,868	1,172,195	—
1906-7 ...	10,329,618	10,174,509	155,109	—

During the financial year 1906-7 the Colony of Mauritius was fortunate in reaping a crop producing 217,000 tons of sugar. The consequent comparative prosperity had its effect on the finances of the Government as is apparent from the above financial statements. The increase in the revenue and expenditure of the railway department, for instance, was due to the fact that whilst more was earned by the carriage of sugar on the Government railways, more coal had to be consumed in carrying it, and more overtime paid for.

But for years the passenger traffic has shown a tendency to decline, and the earnings of this very important branch are not so satisfactory as could be wished.

It is not easy to explain this falling off in passenger earnings, and any explanation given must be mainly conjectural, but the following appear to be some amongst other possible explanations:—

1. Increased use of motor cars and bicycles.
2. Increased facilities for local shopping.
3. A lowering of the spending power of all classes.

The last is probably the more important factor, for there can be hardly any doubt but that even in prosperous years the pressure of population in Mauritius reduces the possible earnings of the labouring classes, and that the general tendency of employés of all sorts is in the direction of lower standards of earnings of wages and of living. The pressure of competition compels employers to economise, and the necessity for cheap production requires that the labour bill shall be kept low. It may be said, therefore, that whilst a good year gives more employment, the purchasing power of the community is low and shows a distinct tendency to become lower. The productivity of the Island has almost reached its maximum, the population is on the increase, the wages bill of the community cannot be increased so long as the margin of profit remains low, and there is consequently an increasing competition for the division of a limited wages fund. The economic result so far as the Government finances are concerned must be that whilst the importation of all articles not of prime necessity must diminish, the claims on poor law relief, hospital accommodation, &c., must increase. More sad still, the expenditure on prisons shows an automatic increase, which is still increasing.

It may seen strange to mention the increased use of motor cars in a paragraph describing an increase of poverty, but for some years the draught animals of the Island have been exposed to an epidemic of surra, a disease fatal to all equides, which has forced the Colony into increased use of mechanical traction and means of locomotion.

With an abundant supply of cheap labour the question naturally suggests itself: it is not possible to establish new industries which could profit by the cheap labour? But it must be remembered that Mauritius is in the Indian Ocean. If labour is cheap in Mauritius it is cheaper still in India. Moreover the necessaries of life are cheaper in India than in Mauritius, for Mauritius lives on Indian rice, and India is not only nearer to any possible market, but has a large home market of its own.

It is impossible to doubt therefore that the financial position of Mauritius must give cause for anxiety and watchfulness, but the sugar industry is still a profitable investment and likely to remain so. There is therefore a sound basis for sound finance, and with proper economy and a gradual lightening of the burdens on productive industry and commerce there is no reason why the Colony should not emerge successfully from the difficulties and trials it has had and still has to sustain.

Assets and Liabilities on 30th June, 1907.

1. Commissioners of Currency:—

	Rs.
Assets	7,073,667
Liabilities	6,876,255
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...	197,412

2. Government savings bank:—

	Rs.
Assets	3,134,574
Liabilities	2,835,470
Balance in favour of bank	299,104

3. Treasury proper:—

	Rs.
Assets	3,637,025
Liabilities	2,309,721
Balance in favour of Treasury ...	1,327,304

4. Public Debt:—

The public debt stood as follows on 30th June, 1907:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
(1) 6 per cent. railway debenture under Ordinance 15 of 1864 (Matured bond unclaimed)	1,000	0	0
(2) Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings (maturing in 1919)	33,400	0	0
(3) Moka Railway 4 per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings ...	500	0	0
Carried forward	34,900	0	0

4. Public Debt—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	34,900	0	0
(4) 4 per cent. debentures conversion loan payable by annual drawings ...	48,300	0	0
(5) Mauritius 4 per cent. inscribed stock, under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887, including loan made for Mare-aux-Vacoas (£34,000)	482,390	16	0
(6) Hurricane loan 3 per cent. Imperial guaranteed stock, under Ordinance 4 of 1892	600,000	0	0
(7) 3½ per cent. inscribed stock, under Ordinances 31 of 1904 and 39 of 1905	150,000	0	0
	£1,315,590	16	0

For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock, the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the trustees on the 30th June, 1907, amounted to £235,965, the amount duly provided as required by law.

The sum at the credit of the sinking funds on 30th June, 1907, showed an increase of £18,681 on the previous year.

Currency.

Amount of currency notes on 30th June, 1907:—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents)...	483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,405	0	0
	£3,888	16	5

Rupee notes, under Ordinance 28 of 1876:—

	Rs.
1. In the Commissioners' vault	3,261,005
2. In the hands of the public (including the banks and financial officers)	3,615,250
	6,876,255

CHANGES IN TAXATION.

The Customs tariff has been amended by Ordinance No. 5 of 1907, which provides for a reduction of the duty on Hessian cloth when imported for the packing of hemp, and narrows the application of a nominal tariff on machinery or apparatus to the cases where such machinery is imported for the manufacture of any produce of the Colony.

SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits at the Government Savings Bank, at 3 per cent. interest, amounted to Rs. 2,754,763 on 30th June, 1907, as against Rs. 2,850,234 on 30th June, 1906, showing a decrease of Rs. 95,471.

The following return shows the number of depositors, and the amount standing to the credit of the general and the Indian populations at the end of the years 1906-7 and 1905-6:—

—	1906–7.		1905–6.	
	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.
General population	15,712	1,571,330	17,629	1,669,038
Indian "	10,802	1,183,433	10,054	1,181,196
Total	26,514	2,754,763	27,683	2,850,234

The financial position of the bank on 30th June, 1907, was as follows:—

	Rs.
Investments	3,127,295.37
Cash in hand	7,279.16
Receiver-General (interest due by Treasury for 1906-7)	76,775.00
	3,211,349.53
Liabilities due to depositors and to Treasury	2,931,175.32
Balance in favour of the bank ...	280,174.21

MUNICIPALITY.

Statement of the revenue and expenditure of the municipality of Port Louis for the year ended 31st December, 1907:—

	Rs.
Balance in hand on 1st January, 1907 ...	47,740.16
Revenue, including receipts on account during 1907	553,157.37
	600,897.53
Expenditure, including payments on account during 1907	572,765.21
Balance in hand on 31st December, 1907...	28,132.32

The following is a comparative statement of the normal revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1903	422,351	451,346
1904	501,365	502,601
1905	548,139	492,785
1906	537,366	510,588
1907	512,172	502,916

Statement of the debt of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis on 31st December, 1907, showing provision for payment in 1908:—

Loan.	Amount.			Repayments to be made in 1908.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Conversion Loan	118,700	0	0	1,700	0	0
Electric Lighting Loan ...	9,333	6	8	333	6	8
	Rs.			Rs.		
Colonial Loan	15,600			7,800		
Grand River Bridge Loan...	8,000			2,000		
Manure Establishment Loan	18,000			2,000		
Government Hurricane Loan	77,879			6,487		
Flood Loan	4,167			4,167		
Municipality Loan	22,000			2,000		
Total	145,646			24,454		

Provision for payment of capital and interest on the above loans has been duly made in the annual budget of the Corporation.

Besides the Municipal Council of Port Louis, which is an elective assembly, there are three township boards: Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes, appointed annually by the Governor to administer the affairs of those places.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CUREPIPE.

Comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for last five years:—

—	Half-year. 1903.	1903–4.	1904–5.	1905–6.	1906–7.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	35,536	82,772	68,934	65,776	67,496
Expenditure	34,261	81,158	67,729	64,740	66,885

The debt of the Curepipe Board amounts to Rs. 66,625.*

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* Provision is made annually for repayment.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

Comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for last five years:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1905–6.	1906–7.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	29,270	29,345	26,645	26,831	30,995
Expenditure	29,235	26,260	28,187	25,783	30,164

The Beau Bassin and Rose Hill Board is indebted to the extent of Rs. 9,500 to Government.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, QUATRE BORNES.

Comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for last five years:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1905–6.	1906–7.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	15,461	12,725	12,549	13,202	12,957
Expenditure	14,000	13,274	12,572	12,416	12,800

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statements show the value of goods imported into, and exported from Mauritius during the year 1907:—

Imports.

Countries.	Value in Rupees of Total Imports, exclusive of Charges and Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	4,442,062	3,518,737	7,960,799
British Possessions	13,600,784	3,071,137	16,671,921
Foreign Countries	3,756,041	2,772,334	6,528,375
Total	21,798,887*	9,362,208	31,161,095

* Including bullion and specie, Rs. 2,628,821.

Exports.

Countries.	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Shipping Charges on Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	6,264,506	355,651	404,458	7,024,615
British Possessions ...	32,533,962	2,071,756	2,686,200	37,291,918
Foreign Countries ...	1,679,645	91,030	260,508	2,031,183
Total	40,478,113*	2,518,437	3,351,166	46,347,716

* Including bullion and specie, Rs. 2,683,935.

Comparative statement showing the total value of imports and exports for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports (including charges and exchange).	Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).
	Rs.	Rs.
1903	39,269,847	35,670,597
1904	35,416,624	42,005,674
1905	26,944,399	34,728,022
1906	29,588,255	38,759,826
1907	31,161,095	43,829,280

Comparative Statement of the Value of the Chief Imports and Exports.

Articles.	Imports including charges and exchange.		Exports.			
			1907.		1906.	
	1907.	1906.	Home produce, exclusive of shipping charges.	Foreign produce.	Home produce, exclusive of shipping charges.	Foreign produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	1,343,526	933,952	85	1,600	—	500
Apothecary wares	159,393	181,546	—	1,469	2	1,692
Apparel, wearing	131,479	138,336	—	1,828	25	2,438
Bags and pockets	1,091,044	1,268,363	2,748	13,577	2,200	8,005
Bicycles	14,644	13,814	—	115	—	325
Brass and copper wares ..	27,458	49,281	—	98,888	—	50,074
Coals	1,655,615	1,788,351	—	140	—	—
Clocks and watches ..	11,742	13,518	—	150	—	2,026
Corn, grain, meal, &c. ..	9,953,956	9,723,245	2,630	7,558	12	58,455
Cotton manufactures ..	981,669	1,759,327	—	1,050	—	29,749
Earthen and china wares	56,661	61,886	—	106	—	534
Fibre—aloe	—	—	948,465	—	709,233	—
Carried forward ..	15,427,187	15,931,619	953,928	126,481	711,472	153,798

Comparative Statement of the Value of the Chief Imports and Exports—continued.

Articles.	Imports, including charges and exchange.		Exports.			
			1907.		1906.	
	1907.	1906.	Home produce, exclusive of shipping charges.	Foreign produce.	Home produce, exclusive of shipping charges.	Foreign produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward..	15,427,187	15,931,619	953,928	126,481	711,472	153,798
Glass and glasswares ..	40,875	73,206	—	582	—	1,370
Haberdashery :.. ..	595,660	648,274	—	3,833	—	14,253
Hardware and cutlery ..	1,172,907	1,539,362	2,394	52,368	1,129	25,791
Hats	71,598	71,143	—	—	—	185
Leather, wrought and unwrought.	215,682	209,264	111,592	949	47,406	16,508
Machinery for agricultural purposes.	396,318	333,308	—	6,875	—	—
Machinery and mill-work	472,818	410,038	18,512	400	—	9,453
Manures and fertilisers ..	2,340,608	2,412,549	—	—	—	1,258
Malt liquors, wines and spirits.	933,271	1,104,905	30.426	1,661	10,647	3,315
Matches	86,671	37,217	—	490	—	3,003
Molasses	—	—	358,486	—	545,083	—
Meat, fresh and frozen ..	29,859	128,778	—	—	—	—
Oils—of all kinds	1,057,245	851,013	18,158	36,809	98,876	69,176
Painters' colours	88,803	102,774	—	192	—	657
Paper, cigarette	62,488	35,658	—	—	—	—
Provisions—preserved ..	1,605,878	1,791.513	29,476	19,369	37,461	23,871
Seeds—of all sorts	63,746	64,312	1,131	235	335	3,128
Soap	379,932	219,388	—	2,992	—	1,033
Stationery	127,057	99,780	—	397	—	1,255
Sugar	481	19.850	38,884,537	3	35,226,267	—
Timber and woodenware	809,576	1,070,771	755	3,386	1,860	4,428
Tobacco	426,145	412,024	—	829	—	1,818
Toys	40,201	42,539	—	—	—	—
Umbrellas and parasols ..	38,887	34,339	—	6	—	45
Vanilla	—	—	43 935	—	28,605	—
Woollen manufactures ..	132,390	154,320	—	—	—	187
Miscellaneous	1,414,387	830,837	24,784	388,322	46,685	224,750
Baggage and postal parcels	370,411	338,495	—	21,052	—	35,743
Total ..	28,401,081	28,967,276	40,478,114	667,231	37,155,826	595,023
Bullion and specie	2,760,014	620,979	—	2,683,935	—	1,008,977
Total .. Rs.	31,161,095	29,588,255	40,478,114	3,351,166	37,155,826	1,604,000

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

(*General Remarks.*)

The general lesson to be gathered from the imports is that the United Kingdom is being pressed hard by the competition of Germany, Belgium, and France. But this competition cannot be taken as evidence of any falling off on the part of the United Kingdom; it is due rather to the shortness of cash in Mauritius. The superiority of English articles is generally admitted, and experience has taught, or is teaching, that nothing is so expensive as a cheap article; but a general scarcity of money deprives purchasers of any real choice. If, for instance, a clock is required by a purchaser, he, as a rule, selects the cheaper article under the conviction that it will last his time. It is the same with hardware and cutlery: the better article is purchased only by people who can afford it. Similarly it will be noticed that although English matches are generally recognised as the best in the world, none, or practically none, are imported; the cheap foreign matches are preferred. But in partially-manufactured articles, such as iron bars, the United Kingdom seems to be more than holding its own; in such articles the question of quality does not arise to the same extent as in fully manufactured goods.

Broadly speaking it would not be incorrect to say that purchasers prefer the English articles when they can afford them, and it is noticeable that in such articles as automobiles, steam road engines, locomotives, wagons, and trucks, and wire rope for agricultural purposes the United Kingdom supplied articles to the value of Rs. 14,454 in 1907, against nil in 1906. Planters are beginning to learn that cheap articles are not profitable.

It might be well also to call attention to the falling off in the importation of cocoa and chocolate from the United Kingdom, and the increase in the importation from Germany. The amounts are small, but they suggest the enquiry whether this trade is in any way affected by the sugar duty

IMPORTS.

(*Detailed Remarks.*)

Acids.

Carbolic.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 2,549, of the value of Rs. 747, against kilos 7,080, of the value of Rs. 1,763 in 1906, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 4,531 and in value of Rs. 1,016. The decrease was chiefly due to the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 4,954 less than in 1906, with a shortage in value of Rs. 1,084.

Kilos 408, of the value of Rs. 80, were received from Belgium in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Phosphoric.—This article was exclusively received from the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 14,547 more than in 1906, with a surplus of Rs. 4,622 in value.

Sulphuric.—Compared with 1906, the imports for 1907 showed a decrease in weight of kilos 10,876, with a shortage of Rs. 3,946 in value. The decrease was due principally to France, which supplied kilos 10,154 less than in 1906, with a shortage of Rs. 3,809 in value.

Ammonia, Sulphate.

Exclusively received from the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 4,516,831, of the value of Rs. 990,890 in 1907, against kilos 4,300,071, of the value of Rs. 954,650 in the preceding year, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 216,760 and in value of Rs. 36,240.

Apothecaries' Wares.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 155,907, against Rs. 177,775 in 1906, showing a falling off of Rs. 21,868. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,311), Continental India (Rs. 1,651), China (Rs. 819), and France (Rs. 15,668). Australia and Belgium provided for Rs. 1,689 and Rs. 3,472 respectively in 1906, against nil in 1907. Increases were from Germany (Rs. 1,359), the United States (Rs. 1,579), and Switzerland (Rs. 505).

Apparel, Wearing.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 131,479, against Rs. 138,336 in 1906, showing a decrease of Rs. 6,857. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 4,700), China (Rs. 5,980), France (Rs. 2,514), and Pondichery (Rs. 12,195). Increases were from Continental India (Rs. 9,115), Germany (Rs. 6,537), Switzerland (Rs. 3,421), and Japan.

Beef, Salted.

Kilos 50,215, of the value of Rs. 26,433, were imported in 1907, against kilos 291,058, of the value of Rs. 144,585 in 1906. The imports therefore show a decrease both in weight of kilos 240,843, and in value of Rs. 118,152, due chiefly to short supplies from the United States, which provided kilos 225,835 less, with a decrease of Rs. 110,233 in value. The United Kingdom and Australia supplied kilos 13,081, valued at Rs. 7.057, and kilos 3,211, valued at Rs. 1,479 respectively in 1906, against nil in 1907, while small supplies were received from France and Madagascar in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Beer and Ale.

In casks.—There was a decrease of hectolitres 1,923 in measure, and of Rs. 43,435 in value. This article was exclusively imported from the United Kingdom.

In bottles.—There was a decrease of 16,150 litres in quantity, with a shortage of Rs. 8,229 in value. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 8,034), France (Rs. 837), Germany, and Holland. From Denmark there was an increase of Rs. 1,034.

Bicycles.

166 bicycles, of the value of Rs. 14,643, were imported in 1907, against 140, of the value of Rs. 13,814, in 1906: there was an increase of 26 in number, and of Rs. 829 in value. The United Kingdom supplied 10 more with a shortage, however, of Rs. 1,025 in value. In 1907 Switzerland supplied 11, of the value of Rs. 1,417, and Germany 3, of the value of Rs. 246, against nil in 1906.

Blue-Ultramarine.

In 1907, kilos 1,687, of the value of Rs. 1,351, were imported, against kilos 2,416, of the value of Rs. 1,324, in 1906. There was therefore a decrease in weight of kilos 729, with a surplus of Rs. 27 in value. From Germany kilos 1,075 less were received in 1907, with a shortage of Rs. 515 in value. France supplied kilos 366 more, with a surplus of Rs. 519 in value.

Books, Printed.

Increase both in weight of kilos 2,420, and in value of Rs. 3,719. The United Kingdom and France showed increases of Rs. 1,204 and Rs. 3,245 in value respectively. From Continental India there was a decrease of Rs. 1,293.

Brass Ornaments.

Compared with 1906 the imports in 1907 showed a decrease of Rs. 3,070, due principally to Continental India, which provided for a less value of Rs. 4,505. The United Kingdom showed an increase of Rs. 1,496.

Bricks and Tiles.

In 1906 the United Kingdom supplied 327,126 pieces, of the value of Rs. 19,987, Natal 29,675 pieces, of the value of Rs. 657, and France 2,026 pieces, of the value of Rs. 323, aggregating 358,827 in number, and Rs. 20,967 in value, against 165,578 pieces, of the value of Rs. 8,107 received exclusively from the United Kingdom in 1907. There was therefore a decrease of 193,249 in number, and of Rs. 12,860 in value, due principally to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Bullion (Silver).

Decrease both in weight of kilos 195-300 grs. and in value of Rs. 13,520, due chiefly to Continental India, which supplied kilos 197-300 grs. less, with a shortage of Rs. 13,672 in value.

Butter.

The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 54,666, of the value of Rs. 133,257, against in the previous year kilos 20,895, of the value of Rs. 52,714, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 33,771, and in value of Rs. 80,543.

Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 13,237), Australia (Rs. 3,656), Belgium (Rs. 925), Denmark (Rs. 51,059), France (Rs. 12,753), Italy (Rs. 828), and Holland Rs. 271). Continental India provided for Rs. 253 in 1907, against nil in 1906, while Germany provided for Rs. 2,438 in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Cabinet and Upholstery Wares.

Compared with 1906 the imports in 1907 showed a decrease of Rs. 3,866. Decreases were chiefly from the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,876), Singapore (Rs. 667), China (Rs. 652), France (Rs. 3,370), and Germany (Rs. 326). The United States and Austria showed increases of Rs. 1,108 and Rs. 2,496 respectively.

Candles.

Composition.—Increase both in weight of kilos 14,844 and in value of Rs. 14,326. Increases were from Continental India (Rs. 3,480) and France (Rs. 14,728). The United Kingdom and Belgium showed decreases of Rs. 1,766 and Rs. 2,116 respectively

Caoutchouc and India-rubber.

Manufactured.—Kilos 1,729 less, with a shortage of Rs. 13,484 in value, were received from the United Kingdom.

Carriages.

Five, of the value of Rs. 2,044, were received in 1907, against 11, of the value of Rs. 6,146, in 1906. There was a decrease of 6 in number and of Rs. 4,102 in value. The United Kingdom and the United States show decreases of Rs. 1,826 and Rs. 1,055 in value. France supplied 4 carriages, of the value of Rs. 1,742, in 1906, against nil in 1907, while Canada supplied 1, of the value of Rs. 521, in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Carts and Waggons.

Three, of the value of Rs. 214, were received in 1907 from the United States, against nil in 1906.

Cement.

Compared with 1906 the imports in 1907 show a decrease of kilos 105,185 in weight, with a shortage of Rs. 6,254 in value, due specially to France, which provided kilos 208,000 less, with a shortage of Rs. 7,236 in value.

Chocolate and Cocoa.

Kilos 12,634, of the value of Rs. 22,467, were imported in 1907, against kilos 21,648, of the value of Rs. 33,474, in the previous year. There was therefore a decrease both in weight of kilos 9,014, and of Rs. 11,007 in value; France, the United Kingdom, and Belgium showing decreases of Rs. 7,635, Rs. 2,236, and Rs. 2,750 respectively in value. There was, however, an increase of Rs. 1,654 in value from Germany.

Clocks and Watches.

2,631 pieces, of the value of Rs. 11,741, were imported in 1907, against 2,476 pieces, of the value of Rs. 13,518 in the previous year. There was therefore an increase of 155 in number with a shortage of Rs. 1,777 in value. The United Kingdom supplied 103 pieces less with a shortage of Rs. 447 in value; France supplied 138 pieces less with a shortage of Rs. 1,345 in value. Germany supplied 377 pieces more with a surplus of Rs. 876 only in value. The United States supplied 8 pieces less with a shortage of Rs. 1,054 in value. Switzerland supplied 30 pieces more with a surplus of Rs. 221 in value.

Coals.

The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 45,375,727, of the value of Rs. 1,655,615, against kilos 48,945,018, of the value of Rs. 1,788,351 in the previous year, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 3,569,291, and of Rs. 132,736 in value. From the United Kingdom kilos 7,430 more were received with, however, a shortage of Rs. 73,056 in value; from Natal kilos 13,748,510 more with a surplus of Rs. 396,256 in value; from Australia kilos 14,217,031 less were received with a shortage of Rs. 387,701 in value; from Continental India kilos 3,241,042 less were received with a shortage of Rs. 70,925 in value; Cape Colony and Transvaal provided kilos 46,736, of the value of Rs. 1,559, and kilos 106,426, of the value of Rs. 1,920 respectively, in 1907, against nil in the previous year, while Belgium supplied kilos 20,320, of the value of Rs. 790, in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Confectionery.

The imports in 1907, as compared with the previous year, show a decrease of Rs. 12,425. Decreases were chiefly from the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,458), Australia (Rs. 4,024), France (Rs. 5,122), China (Rs. 945), and Reunion (Rs. 657).

Copper.

Old.—Exclusively received from the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 6.556 less, with a shortage of Rs. 4,557 in value, as compared with 1906.

Sheets and Nails—(red).—Shortage of kilos 7,427 in weight, and of Rs. 11,152 in value, due chiefly to short supplies from the United Kingdom. France provided for Rs. 616 less than in 1906.

Cordage.

Coir.—Compared with 1906, kilos 17,194 less, with a shortage of Rs. 2,061 in value were received in 1907, due chiefly to more supplies from Continental India. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 3,099, of the value of Rs. 1,956, in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Oiled.—Kilos 9,799 more, with a surplus of Rs. 3,352 in value, were received in 1907. The increase was due chiefly to more supplies from Continental India.

Hemp.—Kilos 7,524 less, with a shortage of Rs. 3,311 in value, were received in 1907. Continental India shows a decrease of Rs. 8,274, but Hong Kong a surplus of Rs. 5,250 in value.

Cordials and Liquors.

Litres 5,358, of the value of Rs. 14,697, were received in 1907, against litres 8,340, of the value of Rs. 21,485 in the previous year. There was therefore a decrease of 2,982 litres in quantity and of Rs. 6,788 in value, due principally to France, which supplied for a less value of Rs. 7,159. Small decreases are from the United Kingdom, China, Spain, and Denmark.

Corn Flour.

There was a decrease of kilos 8,594 in weight, with a shortage of Rs. 4,345 in value, as compared with the importation in 1906, due principally to smaller supplies from the United Kingdom.

Corn, Grain, and Meal.

Rice.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 59,430,743, of the value of Rs. 7,497,693, against kilos 60,787,183, of the value of Rs. 6,865,624, in the previous year. There was therefore a decrease of kilos 1,356,440 in weight, but an increase of Rs. 632,069 in value, accountable as under:—

Continental India.—Decrease of kilos 981,864 in weight, but increase of Rs. 653,366 in value.

China.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 157,348 and in value of Rs. 16,659.

Madagascar.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 3,078 and in value of Rs. 1,035.

Straits Settlements.—Increase both in weight of kilos 619,000 and in value of Rs. 96,511.

Cochin China.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 1,801,500 and in value of Rs. 215,654.

Singapore.—Increase both in weight of kilos 968,350 and in value of Rs. 115,540.

Wheat.—Compared with the previous year, the imports in 1907 show a decrease both in weight of kilos 378,577 and in value of Rs. 41,898, due principally to short supplies from Continental India.

Wheat Flour.—Compared with 1906, the importation in 1907 shows a decrease in weight of kilos 2,116,203 and in value of Rs. 187,563, accountable as under:—

From Australia: decrease both in weight of kilos 2,174,204 and in value of Rs. 291,158.

From Continental India: decrease in weight of kilos 301,667, but increase in value of Rs. 44,961.

The Argentine Confederation supplied kilos 363,606, of the value of Rs. 59,370, in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Cotton Manufactures.

Coloured.—2,131,792 metres, of the value of Rs. 429,682, were imported in 1907, against 5,454,328 metres of the value of Rs. 831,121 in 1906. There was a decrease of 3,322,536 metres in measure, and of Rs. 401,439 in value, due specially to the United Kingdom, which showed a decrease of Rs. 396,105. Belgium, France, Italy, and Pondichery showed also decreases of Rs. 5,639, Rs. 7,280, Rs. 1,057, and Rs. 837 respectively. Increases were from Continental India (Rs. 6,539), Germany (Rs. 1,086), and Switzerland (Rs. 2,169).

Hosiery.—There was a decrease of Rs. 6,427 in the importation of 1907, as compared with the previous year, due to short supplies from Germany and the United Kingdom, amounting to Rs. 5,347 and Rs. 905 respectively.

Plain.—3,764,911 metres, of the value of Rs. 501,830, were imported in 1907, against 4,937,394 metres, of the value of Rs. 862,577, in 1906: there was therefore a decrease of 1,172,483 metres in measure and of Rs. 360,747 in value. The United Kingdom, Continental India, and France showed decreases amounting to Rs. 348,684, Rs. 4,995, and Rs. 8,851 respectively in value. From Switzerland there was an increase of Rs. 2,694.

Thread for sewing.—The United Kingdom supplied kilos 2,808 less, with a shortage of Rs. 9,292 in value, during the year 1907. From France, kilos 16, valued Rs. 75, were received in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Eastern and China Wares.

323,188 pieces, of the value of Rs. 56,660, were received in 1907, against 475,367 pieces, of the value of Rs. 61,886, in the previous year, thus showing a decrease of 152,179 pieces in number, and of Rs. 5,226 in value. Decreases were from Austria (Rs. 2,834), Belgium (Rs. 409), China (Rs. 958), France (Rs. 13,286), Continental India (Rs. 125), Singapore, and Switzerland. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 11,085) and Germany (Rs. 1,322).

Glass.

Bottles (empty).—9,411 bottles less, with a shortage of Rs. 616 in value, were received in 1907. The United Kingdom supplied 2,714 bottles more, with a falling off of Rs. 55 in value. France supplied 12,125 bottles less, with a shortage of Rs. 561 in value.

Looking Mirrors.—2,746 pieces less, with a shortage of Rs. 2,222 in value, were received in 1907. Decreases were from Continental India (Rs. 208), France (Rs. 2,273), the United Kingdom (Rs. 369), Germany (Rs. 299), and China. From Belgium there was an increase of Rs. 1,034. Hong Kong provided for Rs. 260 in 1906, against nil in 1907, while Switzerland provided for Rs. 121 in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Windows.—5,208 metres more were received in 1907 with, however, a shortage of Rs. 691 in value. The United Kingdom supplied 4,566 metres more, with a surplus of Rs. 894 only in value. Belgium supplied 216 metres less, with a shortage of Rs. 956 in value. France supplied 586 metres more with however, a shortage of Rs. 715 in value.

Glassware.

The imports in 1907, as compared with the previous year, show a decrease of 42,293 pieces in quantity, and of Rs. 14,261 in value. The United Kingdom, Austria, and France show decreases of Rs. 3,606, Rs. 1,214, and Rs. 12,871 respectively, in value, and Germany an increase of Rs. 4,584 in value.

Haberdashery.

Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of Rs. 55,822. Decreases were from Continental India (Rs. 8,487), China (Rs. 1,609), France (Rs. 59,745), Japan (Rs. 964), and Hong Kong. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 623), Austria (Rs. 1,076), Belgium (Rs. 1,921), Germany (Rs. 1,042), Holland (Rs 3,844), and Switzerland (Rs. 5,992).

Hardware and Cutlery.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 744,119, against Rs. 1,021,629, in 1906, showing a decrease of Rs. 276,510. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 247,123), continental India (Rs. 1,223), Austria (Rs. 601), Belgium (Rs. 17,669), China (Rs. 318), Holland (Rs. 316), Germany (Rs. 5,134), the United States (Rs. 7,054), and Sweden (Rs. 268). Australia, Hong Kong, Pondichery, and Japan supplied small quantities in 1906, against nil in 1907. Switzerland and France show increases of Rs. 2,391 and Rs. 641 respectively.

India Rubber Wares.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 20,087, against Rs. 24,542 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 4,455 in value. The United Kingdom shows a decrease of Rs. 6,800 and France a surplus of Rs. 2,082 in value.

Iron.

Bars.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 643,846, of the value of Rs. 90,644, against kilos 703,755, of the value of Rs. 86,974, in 1906, showing a decrease of kilos 59,909 in weight, but a surplus of Rs. 3,670 in value. The United Kingdom shows an increase of kilos 33,047 in weight and of Rs. 13,079 in value, and Belgium a decrease of kilos 93,069 in weight and of Rs. 9,443 in value.

Nails.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 112,318, of the value of Rs. 31,437, against kilos 186,445, of the value of Rs. 49,931 in 1906, showing a decrease of kilos 74,127 in weight, and of Rs. 18,494 in value; the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, and Germany showing decreases of Rs. 14,339, Rs. 3,104, Rs. 210, and Rs. 1,741 respectively. Norway supplied for Rs. 655 in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Sheets.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 516,199, of the value of Rs. 106,662, against kilos 634,234, of the value of Rs. 124,253, in 1906, showing a decrease of kilos 118,035 in weight and of Rs. 17,591 in value. From the United Kingdom there was a decrease of kilos 116,690 in weight and of Rs. 17,368 in value. Belgium provided for Rs. 224 in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Wrought, of other sorts.—Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show an increase of kilos 175,557 in weight and of Rs. 13,676 in value, due specially to the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 195,647 more, with a surplus of Rs. 16,505 in value. From Belgium there was a decrease of kilos 19,966 in weight and of Rs. 2,815 in value.

Jewellery.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 71,807, against Rs. 41,198 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 30,609 in value. Increases were from Switzerland (Rs. 2,910), Continental India (Rs. 1,082), France (Rs. 25,956), and Germany (Rs. 4,808). The United Kingdom and Pondichery show decreases of Rs. 2,278 and Rs. 625 respectively. Austria provided for Rs. 1,156 in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Juice of Lemon or Lime.

Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of 189 hectolitres in measure, and of Rs. 2,207 in value, due principally to the United Kingdom, which provided 187 hectolitres less, with a shortage of Rs. 2,093 in value.

Lead.

Sheets and Pipes.—Exclusively received from the United Kingdom, which shows a decrease of kilos 18,897 in weight, and of Rs. 3,430 in value, as compared with 1906.

Leather.

Wrought, Boots, and Shoes.—35,059 pairs, of the value of Rs. 101,532, were received in 1907, against 42,048 pairs, of the value of Rs. 87,974, in the previous year, showing a decrease of 6,989 pairs in quantity, but an increase of Rs. 13,558 in value, accountable as under:—

From the United Kingdom: Increase of 4,303 pairs and of Rs. 18,020 in value.

From Continental India: Decrease of 9,958 pairs and of Rs. 3,132 in value.

From France: Decrease of 530 pairs, but increase of Rs. 2,076 in value.

From Pondichery: 549 pairs, of the value of Rs. 401, were received in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Sole.—Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of kilos 3,463 in weight, and of Rs. 5,685 in value, due to Australia, which provided kilos 3,466 less, with a shortage of Rs. 5,708 in value.

Wrought, of other sorts.—The value of the imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 72,904, against Rs. 74,799, in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,895. The United Kingdom and France showed decreases of Rs. 3,850 and Rs. 1,106 respectively; from Germany there was an increase of Rs. 2,068.

Linen Manufactures.

Canvas.—Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of kilos 10,567 in weight, and of Rs. 11,349 in value, due to the United Kingdom, which provided kilos 11,558 less, with a shortage of Rs. 13,045 in value. France supplied kilos 1,096, of the value of Rs. 1,633 in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Plain.—In 1907 the United Kingdom supplied metres 9,653, of the value of Rs. 1,797, while in 1906 Pondichery supplied 1,000 metres, of the value of Rs. 145. There was a decrease of 8,653 metres in quantity and of Rs. 1,652 in value.

Machinery and Mill-work.

Machinery and Mill-work.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 2,341,078, of the value of Rs. 472,818, against kilos 681,625, of the value of Rs. 410,038 in the previous year, showing an increase of kilos 1,659,453 in weight, and of Rs. 62,780 in value, due principally to the United Kingdom, which shows an increase of kilos 1,663,391 in weight, and of Rs. 55,364 in value. Belgium and France provided kilos 1,189 more, with a surplus of Rs. 2,547 and kilos 2,421 more, with a surplus of Rs. 3,394 respectively, in value. Germany shows a decrease of kilos 7,548 in weight, but an increase of Rs. 1,476 in value.

Machinery consisting of automobiles, steam road engines, locomotives, wagons and trucks, rails and accessories, and wire rope for agricultural purposes.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 2,424,377, of the value of Rs. 361,691, against kilos 2,095,676, of the value of Rs. 333,308, in the previous year, showing an increase of kilos 328,701 in weight, and of Rs. 28,383 in value. From Belgium there was an increase of kilos 255,266 and of Rs. 25,633; from Germany there was an increase of kilos 59,033 in weight, but a decrease of Rs. 10,693 in value; from France there was a decrease of kilos 21,305 in weight, and of Rs. 1,011 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 35,707, of the value of Rs. 14,454, in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Margarine.

Kilos 38,113, of the value of Rs. 34,810, were received in 1907, against kilos 45,415, of the value of Rs. 44,315, in 1906, showing a decrease of kilos 7,302 in weight, and of Rs. 9,505 in value. Decreases were from Denmark (Rs. 1,315), Germany (Rs. 1,641), Holland (Rs. 4,765), and the United States (Rs. 3,904). The United Kingdom, however, shows an increase of Rs. 2,120.

Matches.

Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show an increase of gross 30,171, with a surplus of Rs. 49,454 in value. Japan Sweden, and Austria supplied for surplus, quantities of 16,900 gross, 11,966 gross, and 675 gross, with increases in value of Rs. 34,232, Rs. 13,380, and Rs. 862 respectively. Belgium supplied 500 gross, of the value of Rs. 585, in 1906, against nil in 1907, while from Germany were received 1,875 gross, of the value of Rs. 2,169, in 1907, against nil in the previous year. China shows a decrease of 750 gross in quantity and of Rs. 630 in value.

Meat: Fresh, Frozen.

There was a substantial decrease in the importation of the article from Australia, as frozen meat does not appear to be appreciated by the population, and is now almost exclusively imported for the military, with whom the owners of the Frozen Meat Store are under contract. The decrease was as under:—

Cows and Oxen.—Only 98 carcasses, of the value of Rs. 23,003, were received in 1907, against 576, of the value of Rs. 109,696, in the previous year. Decrease: 478 in number and Rs. 86,693 in value.

Sheep.—Only 676 carcasses, of the value of Rs. 6,788, were imported in 1907, against 1,087, of the value of Rs. 14,856, in 1906. Decrease: 411 in number and Rs. 8,068 in value.

Swine.—None was received in 1907, against 143 carcasses, of the value of Rs. 4,226, in the previous year.

Poultry.—Poultry to the value of Rs. 68 were received in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Military Articles.

The value of the importation in 1907 amounted to Rs. 707,107, against Rs. 694,987, in 1906, showing an increase of Rs. 12,120 in value. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of Rs. 100,053, while from Continental India there was a decrease of Rs. 84,705. The United States provided for Rs. 3,622 in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Motor Cars.

Thirteen motor cars, of the value of Rs. 50,023, were received in 1907, against 8, of the value of Rs. 29,452, in the previous year, or an increase of 5 in number and of Rs. 20,571 in value. The United Kingdom supplied 10 more, with a surplus of Rs. 39,687 in value. From France, 5 less, with a shortage of Rs. 19,116 in value were received.

Painters', Dyers' Colours and Materials.

Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of Rs. 13,971, due specially to the United Kingdom, which provided for a less value of Rs. 13,669. France and Germany show slight increases, while slight decreases are noticeable under China, Continental India, and Australia

Paper.

Cigarette.—Compared with the previous year, the imports in 1907 show an increase of kilos 5,090 in weight and of Rs. 26,830 in value, due principally to France, which provided kilos 4,951 more, with a surplus of Rs. 26,967 in value. Germany supplied kilos 125, of the value of Rs. 309 in 1906, against kilos 315, of the value of Rs. 398 in 1907.

Packing.—Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a falling off of Rs. 7,978, due to France, which provided for Rs. 12,589 less. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of Rs. 2,069, while Germany provided for Rs. 2,995 in 1907, against Rs. 544 in 1906.

Plated and Gilded Wares.

Compared with the previous year, the imports in 1907 show an increase of Rs. 7,567 in value, due principally to France, which shows an increase of Rs. 6,653. From Germany also there was an increase of Rs. 1,000, while the United Kingdom and Switzerland show decreases of Rs. 262 and Rs. 136 respectively. Austria provided for Rs. 400 in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Postal Parcels.

The value of parcels imported shows an increase of Rs. 21,565 as compared with 1906. Increases were specially from the United Kingdom (Rs. 5,105), France (Rs. 4,658), Continental India (Rs. 5,192), Reunion (Rs. 987), Switzerland (Rs. 3,774), and Egypt (Rs. 468). Decreases were from Germany (Rs. 2,342), the United States (Rs. 910), Cape Colony (Rs. 149), and Natal (Rs. 42).

Saddlery and Harness.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 3,751, against Rs. 5,823, in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 2,072 in value, due to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Silk Manufactures.

Satin and Ribbons.—Metres 810 more, with a surplus of Rs. 2,971 in value, were received in 1907. The United Kingdom, France, and Japan show increases of Rs. 1,470, Rs. 2,713, and Rs. 1,538, respectively. Continental India, China, and Germany show decreases of Rs. 982, Rs. 523, and Rs. 631, respectively.

Soap: Ordinary.

The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 1,344,441, of the value of Rs. 379,932, against kilos 978,195, of the value of Rs. 219,388, in the previous year, showing an increase of kilos 366,246 in weight, and of Rs. 160,544 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 368,652 more, with an increase of Rs. 161,241 in value. France provided for Rs. 659 in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Specie.

Gold.—The United Kingdom provided in 1907 for Rs. 5,854 more than in the previous year.

Silver.—The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 2,707,295, against Rs. 560,646, in 1906, showing an increase of Rs. 2,146,649. Increases were from Continental India (Rs. 2,042,500) and France (Rs. 103,844). The United Kingdom provided for Rs. 304 in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Spirits.

Brandy.—There was a decrease of litres 26,033 in measure, and of Rs. 46,483 in value, due specially to France, which supplied litres 26,279 less, with a shortage of Rs. 44,012, in value. The United Kingdom also shows a decrease of litres 1,534 in measure, and of Rs. 3,075 in value. Holland supplied litres 1,968, of the value of Rs. 845, in 1907, against nil in the previous year, while small quantities were supplied by Australia and Germany in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Whisky.—The imports in 1907 amounted to litres 30,656, of the value of Rs. 53,031, against litres 46,862, of the value of Rs. 76,690, in 1906, showing a decrease of litres 16,206 in quantity, and of Rs. 23,659 in value. The decrease was due specially to the United Kingdom, which supplied litres 15,772 less, with a shortage of Rs. 23,515 in value.

Stationery.

The value of the imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 127,057, against Rs. 99,780, in 1906, showing an increase of Rs. 27,277. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 22,552), Continental India (Rs. 544), Austria (Rs. 952), Belgium (Rs. 260), France (Rs. 774), Germany (Rs. 2,540), and Switzerland. Slight decreases were from China and the United States.

Steel.

Unwrought.—Kilos 11,502, of the value of Rs. 5,240, were received in 1907, against kilos 10,644, of the value of Rs. 8,537, in 1906. There was therefore an increase of kilos 858 in weight, but a decrease of Rs. 3,297 in value. The United Kingdom shows an increase of kilos 3,657 in weight and of Rs. 1,128 in value. In 1906 France supplied kilos 2,799, of the value of Rs. 4,424, against nil in 1907.

Tea.

The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 49,959, of the value of Rs. 48,121, against kilos 46,132, of the value of Rs. 41,437, in 1906, showing an increase of kilos 3,827 in weight and of Rs. 6,684 in value, accountable as follows:—

From Ceylon: increase of kilos 3,973 in weight and of Rs. 4,568 in value.

From Continental India: increase of kilos 684 in weight and of Rs. 905 in value.

From China: decrease of kilos 320 in weight, but increase of Rs. 1,436 in value.

From Hong Kong: decrease of kilos 185 in weight and of Rs. 21 in value. Japan supplied kilos 300, of the value of Rs. 154, in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Tin.

Plates.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 68,945 in weight and to Rs. 19,842 in value, against kilos 155,756, of the value of Rs. 35,861, in the previous year, showing a decrease of kilos 86,811 in weight and of Rs. 16,019 in value, due to the United Kingdom, which provided kilos 88,221 less, with a shortage of Rs. 18,282 in value. From Continental India there was an increase of kilos 1,410 in weight and of Rs. 263 in value.

Slabs.—Kilos 5,719, of the value of Rs. 20,063, were imported in 1907, against kilos 8,875, of the value of Rs. 36,510 in 1906, showing a decrease of kilos 3,156 in weight and of Rs. 16,447 in value. The Straits Settlements and Singapore provided kilos 814 and kilos 3,141 less, with decreases of Rs. 3,726 and Rs. 14,914 respectively. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of kilos 563 in weight and of Rs. 3,101 in value. Continental India supplied kilos 722, of the value of Rs. 1,483, in 1907, against nil in the previous year, while in 1906 Germany supplied kilos 486, of the value of Rs. 2,391, against nil in 1907.

Tobacco.

Manufactured.—Compared with 1906, the imports for 1907 show an increase of kilos 26,654 in weight and of Rs. 20,154 in value, due to the United States, which provided kilos 23,876 more, with a surplus of Rs. 25,482 in value. From Reunion there was an increase of kilos 2,335 in weight, but a shortage of Rs. 6,711 in value. Slight increases are noticeable under the United Kingdom, France, Hong Kong, and China.

Cigars.—There was an increase of kilos 451 in weight, but a decrease of Rs. 5,106 in value, due to Continental India, which supplied kilos 298 more with, however, a shortage of Rs. 588 in value. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of kilos 248 in weight and of Rs. 2,110 in value; from the United States there was a decrease of kilos 777 in weight and of Rs. 11,380 in value; from France there was an increase of kilos 180 in weight and of Rs. 1,432 in value; from Switzerland there was an increase of kilos 448 in weight and of Rs. 2,749 in value. Small supplies were received from Germany (Rs. 41), Holland (Rs. 430), Ceylon (Rs. 85), Egypt (Rs. 253), and Turkey (Rs. 189), in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Unmanufactured.—Kilos 6,042 less were received in 1907, with a shortage of Rs. 33 in the value of the importation due to difference in the market price in Continental India.

Umbrellas and Parasols.

26,108, of the value of Rs. 32,822, were received in 1907, against 23,588, of the value of Rs. 29,485, in 1906, showing an increase of 2,520 in number and of Rs. 3,337 in value. France supplied 4,491 more, with a surplus of Rs. 4,646 in value. The United Kingdom showed an increase of 119 in number and of Rs. 220 in value, while from Continental India there was a decrease of 2,190 in number and of Rs. 1,977 in value. From Germany 100, of the value of Rs. 447, were received in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Silk.—There was an increase of 715 in number and of Rs. 1,211 in value, due to France, which supplied 834 more, with a surplus of Rs. 1,574 in value. From the United Kingdom there was a decrease of 110 in number and of Rs. 309 in value.

Woodenware.

The value of the imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 18,686, against Rs. 8,737 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 9,949. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 8,997), and France (Rs. 1,428), and Continental India. Slight decreases were noticeable under Reunion, Japan, Australia, Cochin China, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States.

Woollen Manufactures.

Blankets.—Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of 725 blankets, and of Rs. 3,124 in value. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,002), Continental India (Rs. 523), China (Rs. 589), and France (Rs. 480).

Mixed with cotton and silk.—The imports in 1907 amounted to 106,778 metres, of the value of Rs. 124,254, against metres 121,871, of the value of Rs. 141,808 in the previous year, showing a decrease of metres 15,093 in measure and of Rs. 17,554 in value. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 12,478) and France (Rs. 8,220). From Germany there was an increase of Rs. 2,608 in value.

Shawls.—1,353 shawls, of the value of Rs. 1,420, were received in 1907, against 1,957 shawls, valued Rs. 2,221 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 624 shawls and of Rs. 801 in value. The United Kingdom supplied 669 less, with a shortage of Rs. 485 in value; Austria 153 less, with a shortage of Rs. 143, and France 88 less, with a shortage of Rs. 266 in value. Germany supplied 110 more, with, however, a shortage of Rs. 235 in value. Continental India supplied 176 more with a surplus of Rs. 294 in value.

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in Mauritius and, so far as is known, no minerals, though traces of gold have been reported from a place called "Fressanges," in the southern portion of the Island, but in nothing approaching a payable proportion. The Island is purely agricultural, and such industries as exist are connected with agriculture, such as the manufacture of vacoas bags for the packing of sugar, &c.

The fisheries are protected by law, and give employment to a considerable population of fishermen. Fish to a great extent forms the principal food of the poorer classes who cannot afford meat.

FORESTRY AND BOTANY.

General Remarks.

Mauritius originally contained large forests with valuable trees; the wood from these trees was very durable, and in many cases exceedingly beautiful. But the need for land for sugar cultivation and the need for firewood has caused a disastrous shrinkage of the old indigenous forests. The necessity for a policy of reafforestation is universally recognised, and from time to time expert advice has been sought on the subject, the last being that of Mr. Gleadow, of the Indian Forest Department, in 1904. But owing to want of funds it has not been found possible to carry out any comprehensive scheme of reafforestation. Nevertheless the Forest Department is doing good work in the conservation and replanting of existing forest areas.

The mountain reserves and river reserves (private lands within which wood-cutting is forbidden) are carefully supervised, and a regular scheme has been started for the exploitation of the Government forests. From the æsthetic and historical point of view, it is to be hoped that every effort will be made to preserve the indigenous trees and to propagate them. Unfortunately they are so slow of growth that whilst the wood is often beautiful, as in the case of the ebony, the colophane and the tamalacoque, it pays better to plant conifers, casuarina trees, eucalyptus, or even acacia.

But the importance of forestation has been brought home to all in the Island, and though difficulties, mainly financial, stand in the way, planting is going on and the Forest Department sells large numbers of young plants to private landowners to be planted out, as will be seen from the more detailed statement given further on.

The foresters' enemies in Mauritius are monkeys, wood-eating beetles, dead trees which become the breeding ground of insect pests, and wood-cutting thieves. Cyclones should also be mentioned amongst the foresters' enemies.

Detailed Remarks.

The approximate area of lands of various descriptions under the care of the Forest Department was at the end of 1907:—

	Acres.
Crown lands	66,699
Mountain reserves	11,000
River reserves	6,000
Curatelle lands	830
	84,529

There are three botanical stations at different altitudes which, besides being centres of acclimatisation of large

numbers of plants, both tropical and sub-tropical, are also forest nurseries of importance.

1. *The Royal Botanical Gardens, Pamplemousses.*

These gardens, of a total extent of 91 acres, are visited by the inhabitants of the Island and by strangers. The free exchange system carried out with correspondents abroad results in useful acquisitions to the Colony in the way of economic and ornamental plants. 258,954 forest plants were sold for Rs. 2,548.61. To Government forests and public institutions 46,566 plants were sent free, and also 17,972 other plants, including economic and ornamental, and 250 pounds of seeds. Total 323,470 plants.

In local exchanges, 4,425 plants and 21 pounds of seeds were disposed of, and 6,723 plants were received, also 203 pounds of seeds.

For the foreign exchange 3,587 plants and 95 pounds of seeds were supplied, and 186 plants and 15 pounds of seeds were received.

The gardens do useful work also in experimental sugar cane cultivation and in experimental spice trees.

2. *The Nursery Gardens, Curepipe.*

These gardens, of an extent of 56½ acres, at an altitude of 1,800 feet, are chiefly managed in view of the forest nurseries they contain, and the conifers are most abundantly represented. 55,625 plants were sold to the public in 1907 for Rs. 680.43. To Government plantations and nurseries 144,700 plants were despatched, 4,760 to public establishments and river reserves. 3,930 plants, forest and ornamental, were given in exchange locally, and 91 plants and 5 pounds of seeds were received. Six apprentices received training during the year.

3. *The Réduit Gardens.*

These form part of the Réduit domain, the residence of the Governor. The forest plantations made here in previous years supply useful seeds for other nurseries (eucalyptus, camphor, sandal, &c.).

Horticultural Society.

The Horticultural Society of Mauritius, formed in November, 1904, receives encouragement both from the Government, in the way of an annual subsidy of Rs. 500, and from the public, who have at the several exhibitions given evidence of a desire to improve and utilise the economic and ornamental plants. Some beautiful fibres from the Ravenal or Travellers' palm were shown at the last exhibition.

Statement of revenue actually derived from all leases under the "planting conditions" of Ordinance No. 19 of 1895 (Pas Géométriques), for the year ended 30th June, 1907:—

Districts.	Rupees.
Port Louis	40
Pamplemousses	822
Rivière du Rempart	1,426
Flacq	2,360
Grand Port	1,620
Savanne	1,260
Black River	1,394
	8,922

LAND GRANTS.

Lands are granted by the Government by lease and by sale. Lands which are situated on the sea coast beyond the limits of Port Louis, known as Pas Géométriques, cannot be sold and can only be leased by public auction, except those forming part of villages which have been proclaimed as such. The sales are invariably made by public auction, except in cases where lands are desired for charitable, religious, or educational purposes, or for public utility. No sale of Crown land took place during the year ended 30th June, 1907.

SHIPPING

The shipping for the five years 1903-1907 can be thus summarised:—

—	1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared (exclusive of coasting trade, *i.e.*, dependencies.)	442	767,977	425	801,154	372	731,470	433	805,924	399	731,853
2. British vessels ..	306	539,542	290	572,440	245	490,378	270	522,101	248	501,491
3. Foreign vessels ..	136	228.435	125	228,714	127	241,092	163	283,823	151	230,362
4. Sailing vessels ..	101	65.308	96	66,449	73	50,471	89	59,822	39	20,682
5. Steam vessels.. ..	341	702,669	329	734,705	299	680,999	344	746,102	360	711,171

Coasting Trade (i.e., Dependencies).

—	1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared	63	11.802	60	12.845	55	9,263	51	9,636	48	11.624
2. British vessels ..	63	11.802	60	12,845	55	9,263	51	9,636	42	9,326
3. Foreign vessels ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2,298
4. Sailing vessels ..	62	11,607	56	12,065	55	9,263	51	9,636	40	7,576
5. Steam vessels ..	1	195	4	780	..	..	..	..	8	4,048

The nationality and description of vessels are shown at pages 35-6.

The number and tonnage of steam vessels which entered and cleared from, and to all countries *viâ* the Suez Canal and the value of goods (including Bullion and Specie) imported into, and exported by that Canal into, and from Mauritius are shown in the following table:—

Suez Canal.

Years.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared		Value of Goods (including Bullion and Specie).	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.
					Rs.	Rs.
1903	32	65,515	27	53,541	6,542,071	2,483,481
1904	32	71,428	20	42,717	3,149,920	234,010
1905	35	84,975	28	68.734	2,437,479	893,257
1906	37	89,109	27	61,980	2,554,574	1,358,512
1907	33	80,843	28	64,087	2,202,682	273,372

The first table is a return of all vessels entered and cleared, excluding the coasting trade vessels, *i.e.*, vessels trading with the dependencies which are exclusively dealt with in the second table.

In table 1, the total number of vessels entered and cleared during 1907 shows a decrease of 34 in number and of 74,071 in tonnage, as compared with the figures for 1906.

Compared with 1906 the following differences are noted:—

Sailing vessels—decrease of 50 in number and also of 39,140 in tonnage.

Steam vessels—increase of 16 in number but decrease of 34,931 in tonnage.

British vessels—decrease of 22 in number and also of 20,610 in tonnage.

Foreign vessels—decrease of 12 in number and also of 53,461 in tonnage.

Of the 399 vessels which entered and cleared during 1907, four British steamers and one Norwegian steamer, with an aggregate tonnage of 9,169, called at this Port for the purpose of coaling, showing an increase of 1,211 in tonnage, as compared with 1906.

Coasting Trade—Dependencies.

The number of vessels entered and cleared from and to the dependencies during 1907 is 48, with a tonnage of 11,624, against, during 1906, 51 with a tonnage of 9,636, showing a falling off of 3 in number, but an increase of 1,988 in tonnage.

Eight steamers, with a tonnage of 4,048, entered and cleared from and to the dependencies during 1907, against nil during 1906.

Six foreign vessels, with a tonnage of 2,298, entered and cleared from and to the dependencies during 1907, against nil during 1903 to 1906 inclusively.

Suez Canal.

The value of goods imported through the Suez Canal in 1907 amounted to Rs. 2,202,681.75, against Rs. 2,554,573.66 in 1906, showing a decrease of Rs. 351,891.91.

Goods exported from Mauritius through the canal in 1907 amounted to Rs. 273,371.50, against Rs. 1,358,512.18 in 1906, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,085,140.68.

Vessels with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered with cargoes during 1907 amounted to 351,375, and the tonnage cleared to 279,067, as against 384,459 entered and 291,942 cleared during 1906.

The aggregate tonnage of the coasting trade amounted to 5,669 entered and 5,955 cleared in 1907, against 4,723 entered and 4,913 cleared in 1906.

Vessels touching at this Port.

One British steamer of 875 tons, three British sailing vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 2,627, one French sailing vessel of 705 tons and one Norwegian sailing vessel of 270 tons touched at this Port without entering the harbour during 1907.

The number and tonnage of ships visiting Mauritius is naturally dependent on the amount of trade, and the trade varies with the crop. A large sugar crop requires more vessels or larger vessels to carry it, a small crop fewer. The year 1907 was a year of a small crop. But the general tendency is towards larger ships—and large ships require quick discharge, as the cost of detention is greater than in the case of small ships. Unfortunately owing to Quarantine regulations and to insufficient lighterage, the demands of the shipping companies have not been completely satisfied, but harbour improvements have been carried out, and it is to be hoped that some further measure of satisfaction may be given. For it is now generally recognised that quick despatch and greater facilities are the best means of securing lower freights.

Statement of number and tonnage of British and Foreign sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for 1907 and 1906:—

—	1907.		1906.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Entered.						
Sailing vessels	39	13,214	71	34,967	−32	− 21,753
Steamers ...	186	362,300	173	375,073	+13	− 12,773
Total ...	225	375,514	244	410,040	−19	− 34,526
Cleared.						
Sailing vessels	40	15,044	69	34,491	−29	− 19,447
Steamers ...	182	352,919	171	371,029	+11	− 18,110
Total ...	222	367,963	240	405,520	−18	− 37,557

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities:—

Entered.

—	1907.		1906.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	112	247,559	113	246,176	— 1	+ 1,383
Sailing ...	35	12,321	48	20,037	—13	— 7,716
French—						
Steamers	40	96,021	52	119,510	—12	— 23,489
Sailing ...	2	131	3	1,263	— 1	— 1,132
German—						
Steamers	4	5,051	5	5,671	— 1	— 620
Norwegian—						
Steamers	30	13,669	2	1,423	+28	+ 12,246
Sailing ...	2	762	13	7,579	—11	— 6,817
Dutch—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,293	— 1	— 2,293
Danish—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,758	— 2	— 1,758
Italian—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	2,778	— 2	— 2,778
American—						
Sailing ...	—	—	1	365	— 1	— 365
Swedish—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,187	— 2	— 1,187

Cleared.

—	1907.		1906.		Difference.	
					+ Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	108	238,178	112	242,515	— 4	— 4,337
Sailing ...	35	12,759	48	21,009	—13	— 8,250
French—						
Steamers	40	96,021	52	119,510	—12	— 23,489
Sailing ...	1	75	3	1,263	— 2	— 1,188
German—						
Steamers	4	5,051	5	5,671	— 1	— 620
Norwegian—						
Steamers	30	13,669	1	1,040	+29	+ 12,629
Sailing ...	4	2,210	11	6,131	— 7	— 3,921
Dutch—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,293	— 1	— 2,293
Danish—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,758	— 2	— 1,758
Italian—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	2,778	— 2	— 2,778
American—						
Sailing ...	—	—	1	365	— 1	— 365
Swedish—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,187	— 2	— 1,187

III.—LEGISLATION.

During the session of 1907 twenty-two Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor. The following enactments call for special mention:—

1. Ordinance No. 1 amends the Letters Patent of the 16th September, 1885, as to the qualification of elected members.

2. Ordinance No. 8 restricts the introduction into the Colony of destitute persons likely to become chargeable to the Colony, and of vicious and criminal persons.

3. By Ordinance No. 9 the law relating to vagrancy is amended, and an improvement is effected on that portion of the Labour Law which deals with certain immigrants as vagrants.

4. Ordinance No. 11 amends articles 227, 307, and 333 of the Penal Code dealing respectively with blackmail and extortion, and with embezzlement, and makes further provision for the repression of bribery.

5. By Ordinance No. 16 power is given to the local Boards to acquire land for the improvement of roads in the townships and rural districts.

6. Ordinance No. 19 empowers the Governor to grant licences for the establishment of telephones and generally regulates the use of telephones in the Colony.

7. Ordinance No. 23 amends articles 205 and 767 of the Civil Code, dealing respectively with alimony and with the rights of the surviving spouse in the succession of the deceased spouse in case of intestacy.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

In Mauritius primary education is free. There are two classes of schools: Government schools and grant-in-aid schools. The latter are denominational, but receive pupils of all religions.

The religious compromise on which primary education is based in Mauritius will be found in two sub-sections of the Education Ordinance. Section III., article 15, sub-section 3 runs as follows:—

"(3) Religious teaching shall not form part of the instruction to be given at any Government school; but any minister of a christian religion shall be authorised to give religious instruction to the children of the religious denomination to which the minister belongs at such times and places as may be agreed upon between him and the Director" of Public Instruction.

In regard to the grant-in-aid (denominational) schools the following is the law:—

Article 18, sub-section IV.: "That no child receive any religious instruction objected to by its parent or guardian or be present while such instruction so objected to is given to other children."

As a result of the system in force the schools were attended as follows:—

The Government schools contained:

5,395	Roman Catholics,
259	Anglicans,
78	Other Christian denominations.
937	Mahommedans, and
1,970	Hindoos.

The Roman Catholic schools contained:

6,501	Roman Catholics,
31	Anglicans,
25	Other Christian denominations,
411	Mahommedans, and
1,082	Hindoos.

The Church of England schools contained:
457 Roman Catholics,
229 Anglicans,
2 Other Christian denominations,
322 Mahommedans, and
1,085 Hindoos.

The Presbyterian schools contained:
30 Roman Catholics,
3 Anglicans,
65 Other Christian denominations,
19 Mahommedans, and
9 Hindoos.

The Mahommedan school contained:
16 Roman Catholics,
7 Anglicans,
77 Mahommedans, and
64 Hindoos.

There were 67 Government schools, 67 Roman Catholic, 20 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 1 Mahommedan school, with an annual average of 19,212 pupils on the roll, and an average attendance of 12,489. The general tendency is towards increased attendance at the grant-in-aid schools.

Lectures on hygiene were given to 225 teachers, who will, when qualified, teach hygiene to the school children.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Secondary Education is provided at the Royal College and its two Schools. During 1907 there were 268 paying pupils at the Royal College and 96 free pupils. Free railway travelling is granted to the boys attending the Royal College at Curepipe from Port Louis.

Two English scholarships of the value of a thousand pounds each, with a handsome allowance for passage to England and back, are granted annually to enable boys to qualify for some profession or to attend a University.

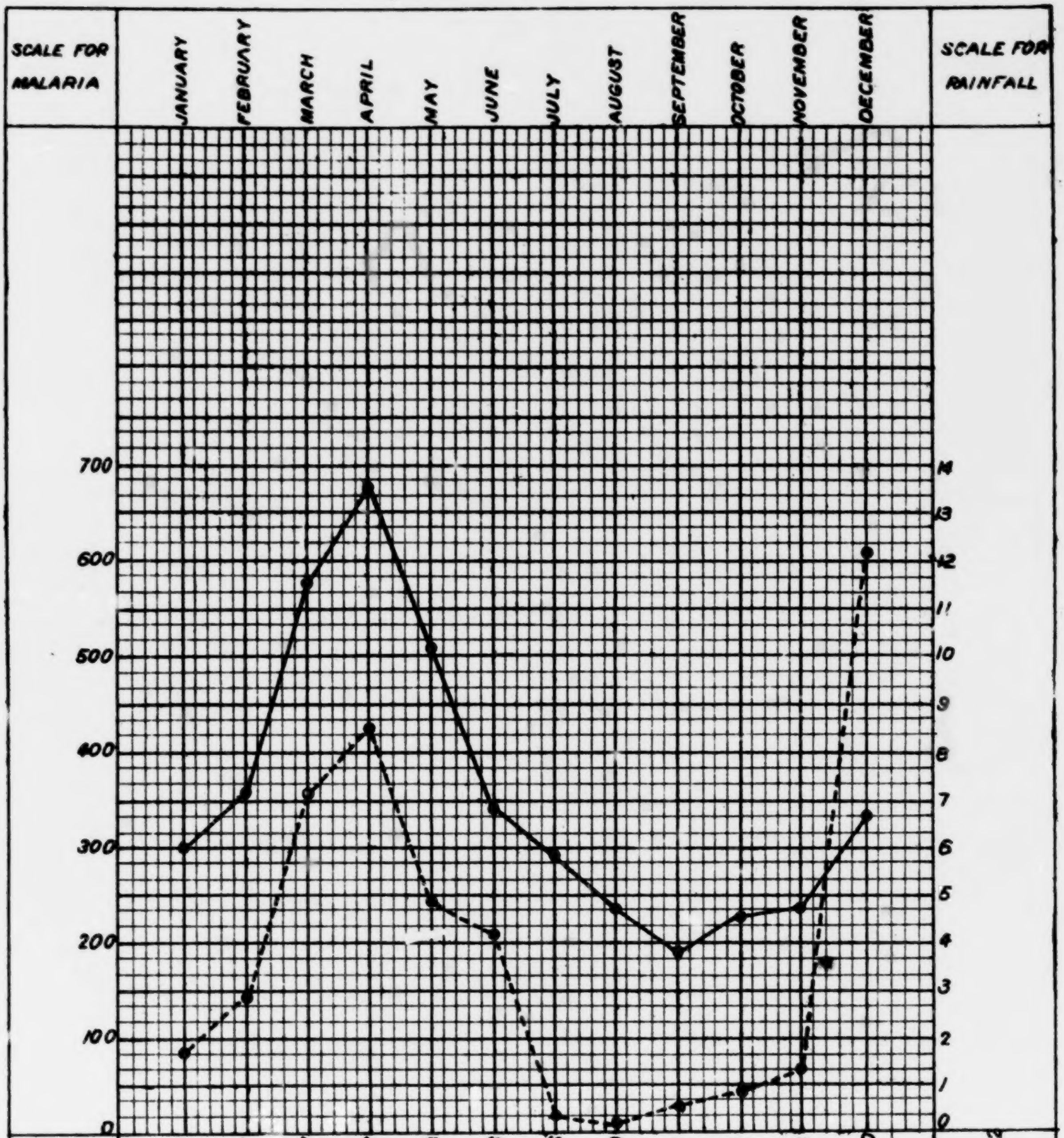
Money prizes, called scholarships, are also given to boys who may gain them in the schools, and it may fairly be said that in few countries does the State do so much for the individual boy or so much to relieve parents of their pecuniary responsibilities in respect of their children. During the year education cost Rs. 578,049, to which the parents contributed Rs. 45,792.

The Director of Public Instruction is of opinion that the expenditure could be reduced or better results could be obtained with the same expenditure if it were not for the inefficient or unnecessary schools which still continue to exist, and that it is extremely difficult to obtain the closing of an aided school.

This experience is not peculiar to Mauritius: it must exist everywhere, and the manager of a denominational school may

CHART I

CHART SHOWING MONTHLY ADMISSIONS FOR MALARIA AND MONTHLY RAINFALL DURING 1907.



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	
NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS	300	346	577	676	503	346	296	239	180	225	238	330	TOTAL–4,272
RAINFALL	1·72	2·77	7·31	8·57	4·75	4·21	·36	·12	·48	·67	1·33	12·16	

MALARIA = ●———————

RAINFALL = ●- - - - - - -

2324

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well be excused if he hesitates to turn adrift an old schoolmaster whose methods and teaching may be antiquated, but who has won the affection of the children.

Financial necessity is, however, likely to act as a persuasive force in the direction of reform, and it is likely that economical pressure will lead to the gradual suppression of the inefficients. The cause of education will not, however, suffer.

V.—MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The expenditure on the Medical Department during the financial year ended 30th June, 1907, amounted to Rs. 920,740 (including quarantine and plague services). This is a large sum and bears a large proportion to the general revenue of the Colony, but it is difficult to see how it could be materially reduced unless the war against disease is to be relaxed. The diseases prevalent in Mauritius, though not directly caused by poverty, may be considered to be consequent on poverty, that is to say, on over-crowding, insufficient or bad food, want of clothing, and bad sanitation. It is impossible to legislate against poverty or to control economic conditions, and the Government is reduced to alleviating or curing diseases which under existing economic conditions it is powerless to prevent. The question of public health has never been approached in a niggardly spirit, and whilst the wisdom of some of the measures taken is disputed by different schools of thought in the medical profession, there is no sound of any reproach on the ground of niggardliness.

The hospitals, asylums, and dispensaries are as well equipped as the resources of a poor Colony allow, and the medical department has always had the first claim on the Treasury. It is disappointing, therefore, to find that, except under the heading of plague, there is no material improvement, but neither medical zeal nor medical talent can fight against poverty or the consequences of poverty.

But whilst putting poverty in the first rank as the chief predisposing factor in disease, the influence of climate cannot be ignored. Referring to the annexed chart for malaria, it will be seen that the number of cases rose steadily from February to April, and then rapidly diminished to reach a minimum in September. This curve runs practically parallel with that for the rainfall, the influence of which has been so often demonstrated that it is not necessary to again lay stress on the correlation which exists. But contrary to what should have been expected, no further increase has followed the high rainfall of April. This can apparently be explained partly by the fall in temperature which was coincidentally established, and the higher wind velocity which ruled during April and May.

Again, the influence of climatic conditions on the production of dysentery is clearly demonstrated by the second chart, to which further weight is added by the consideration of the conditions which have been enumerated above. Indeed, with the advent of rain in the early months of the year during which the fields are manured, a considerable amount of organic matter is washed to the rivers which, up to the present, constitute the only water supply of the greater number of the inhabitants. But the condition is made still worse when there happens to be a very high rainfall, which sweeps in addition the more or less decomposing organic matter which have accumulated along the banks of the rivers.

These factors, usually at work in the early months of the year, cease to ply their influence once the rivers and streams have been washed, so to speak; but in 1907, owing to the severe drought which set in, the water in the rivers ran so low that in some places it practically remained stagnant and allowed of the fermentation and decomposition of the leaves and fruits which fell into the beds of the rivers from the trees in the reserves. Hence dysentery and the diarrhœic diseases continued to run high during the later months of the year against what usually holds, the curve representing practically a plateau.

The following is a description of the work done by the hospitals, asylums, and dispensaries during the year 1907.

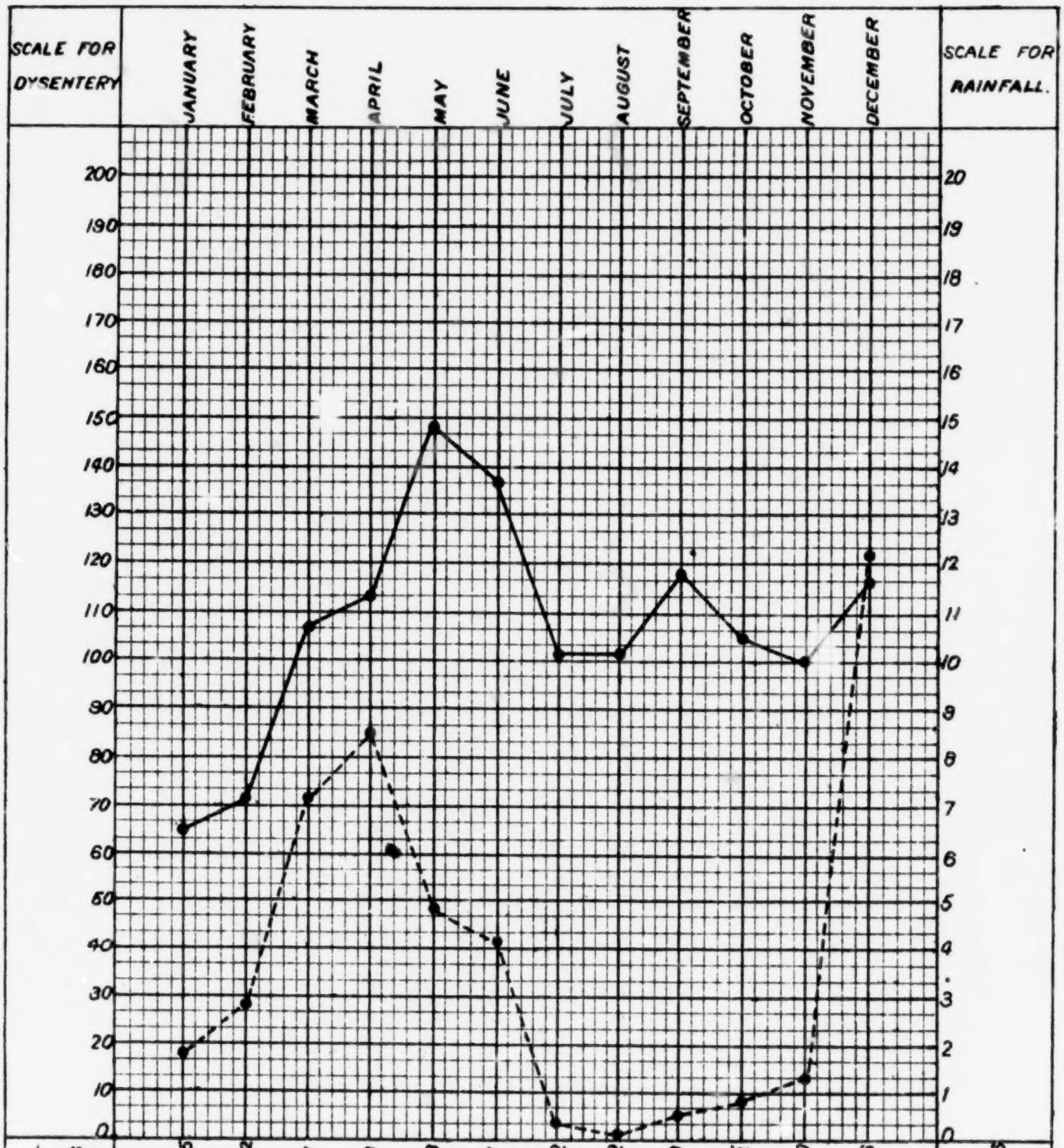
The number of hospitals and asylums has remained the same as in 1906, *i.e.*, fourteen, including those attached to the jails of the Colony.

The statistical table in the next paragraph shows the admissions and deaths, as well as the hospital population at the end of the year in each of these Institutions.

Institutions.	Remaining on 1st January, 1907.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Total Cases Treated.	Remaining on 31st December, 1907.
Civil Hospital ...	125	6,230	423	6,355	180
Port Louis Prisons...	12	997	2	1,009	22
Long Mountain ...	10	840	74	850	22
Poudre d'Or... ...	28	1,417	49	1,445	32
Flacq	25	2,227	114	2,252	40
Flacq Prisons ...	9	143	4	152	1
Mahébourg	39	3,030	140	3,069	39
Souillac	19	1,291	71	1,310	21
Souillac Prisons ...	6	254	1	260	4
Barkly Asylum ...	84	3,856	275	3,940	176
Lunatic Asylum ...	24	466	23	490	14
Beau Bassin Prisons	18	1,375	34	1,393	29
Reformatory Hospital	—	116	1	116	4
Moka	5	1,113	58	1,118	24
Total ...	404	23,355	1,269	23,759	608

CHART II

CHART SHOWING MONTHLY ADMISSIONS FOR DYSENTERY AND MONTHLY RAINFALL. DURING 1907.



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS	65	72	107	113	148	137	102	102	118	105	100	116	TOTAL 1,286
RAINFALL	1·72	2·77	7·31	8·57	4·75	4·21	·36	·12	·48	·67	1·33	12·16	

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The number of admissions—23,355—shows an increase of 2,984 over the previous year's figures; but the case-mortality, 5·34 per cent., is lower than that of 1906 by ·51.

55,635 cases were treated in the dispensaries of the Colony. This figure, on comparison with that of the previous year, shows a decrease of 719.

The number of inmates under confinement in the lunatic asylum on 31st December, 1907, amounted to 435, including 5 patients admitted on interim order, who were then under observation. The asylum population gave a daily average of 258·35 males and 172·49 females, against 248·10 and 171·22 respectively in 1906.

The proportion of certified lunatics in the Colony has been 1 in every 629 of the population during the year under review.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

The sanitary condition of the Colony has been more satisfactory in 1907 than in the previous year as is evidenced by the diminished death-rate, the increased birth-rate, reduced number of attendances at the Dispensaries, and lower case-mortality in the hospitals.

It should here be remarked that the increase already referred to in the number of admissions in hospital is due not to a higher morbidity, but to other factors, the principal being the straitened circumstances of many consequent on the financial crisis which had made itself felt already towards the end of 1907.

Prevalence of Sickness.

Malarial Fever accounts for 4,272 admissions, against 3,674 in 1906.

Dysentery is answerable for 1,286 admissions, which figure is considerably higher than that of the previous year, when only 794 patients were admitted for that complaint. The higher incidence of dysentery is attributable principally to the prolonged drought which was experienced notably from July to November, and the consequent stagnation and pollution of the streams and rivers from which a great proportion of the population derive their water supply.

Influenza gave 1,264 admissions, against 1,768 in 1906, during which the disease prevailed epidemically.

Tuberculosis.—1,114 admissions were registered in the hospitals for that complaint, showing an increase of 142 over the number recorded in the previous year.

Pertussis.—Only one case of that complaint came under notice in the hospitals during the year under review, the epidemic referred to in 1906 having come to an end in that year.

Enteric Fever.—The number of cases notified in accordance with the Contagious Diseases Ordinance was 145, showing an increase of 64 over that of 1906. This increase is more apparent than real, being explained by the greater facility now afforded for the differentiation of the existing fevers by the creation of the bacteriological laboratory.

Diphtheria is answerable for 60 notifications, against 33 in the previous year. Here again the increase in the incidence of the disease is probably only apparent, and brings out the influence of the bacteriological laboratory in determining the final diagnosis in doubtful cases.

Measles.—An epidemic of that disease broke out in August. In spite of early precautionary measures, the infection spread rapidly, 347 cases having been notified between August and December.

Beri-beri, which is not endemic in the Island, broke out simultaneously in three out of the four prisons of the Colony in February. The source of the infection was traced to the use of a decorticated unstoved white rice from the East, which had been supplied to the prisons for some time. The epidemic at once subsided after a change of diet—from the incriminated rice to bread at first and to ordinary Indian rice later on—had been prescribed and carried into effect. Out of a total of 65 cases treated, 38 occurred in the prisons.

An outbreak of the disease, apparently traceable to the same source, was also reported from Six Islands during the year.

Plague.—The epidemic of the year has been the lowest on record since the appearance of the disease in 1899, the number of cases detected being 224, of which 178 proved fatal, giving a death-rate of 79·5 per cent.

The yearly incidence of the disease since 1899 is shown in the following tabular statement:—

Plague.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
			Per cent.
1899	1,416	1,117	78·9
1900	796	593	74·5
1901	1,093	805	73·6
1902	506	386	76·3
1903	1,395	1,035	74·2
1904	568	449	79·0
1905	308	251	81·5
1906	434	344	79·3
1907	224	178	79·5

It will probably be of interest to compare the alternations of malaria with those of plague. It will be noticed that both favour alternate years.

Malaria.

Years.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
No. of cases	4,152	2,848	4,182	3,360	4,788	3,039	5,123	3,674	4,272

The campaign against rats was carried on with increased vigour during the year under report, 125,558 of these vermin having been destroyed by the rat-catchers employed by the Department. This figure compares very favourably with that for 1906, which was only 105,568.

Surra.—The epizootic continued throughout the year, though with less virulence. Its existence was detected, however, in the southern part of Black River, which had at first escaped contamination.

A bacteriological laboratory was established in temporary buildings at Moka pending the construction of a more permanent home at Réduit.

Much good research work has been done, but it is too early yet to speak of definite results. Nevertheless the work in regard to surra is most hopeful.

Good work has been done also by assisting the medical profession in cases of doubtful diagnosis.

POOR LAW RELIEF.

In Mauritius there is a Poor Law Commissioner who presides over the Poor Law Department, but it is not easy to define precisely where poor relief begins or ends. The greater part, or at all events a great part, of the services rendered by the Medical Department are gratuitous, or when a charge is made it is insignificant and in no way proportionate to the expense incurred. To estimate properly the assistance given to the poor in Mauritius it would be necessary to add together the money spent on gratuitous education, the poor law relief proper given under the poor law, and the medical services rendered gratuitously by the Medical Department. Indeed these figures would not give a measure of the work of the Mauritius Government as a charitable institution, for it would be necessary to add the cost of the free railway tickets given to poor scholars and apprentices, and other details.

Poverty is undoubtedly on the increase in Mauritius, and there is a general tendency towards pauperism. The paternal system of Government seems to have undermined or to be undermining the spirit of independence and of self-help. There is an almost universal disposition to look to the Government for help and succour at all times. The appeals for charity are constant, and they are almost all of the same tenour.

The writers describe themselves as *mère* or *père de famille sans emploi et dans la plus grande misère.* These statements are only too often true, but the saddest thought is that the most deserving poor are as a rule concealed amongst those who never write and never beg, people of whom the Government officials never hear, and whose misery is known only to discreet neighbours or possibly to a benevolent and equally discreet priest.

It must not be supposed, therefore, that the statistics of poor relief give any measure of the poverty in Mauritius, but they serve as an indication of what the Government does to deal with the class of poverty that appeals to the law and comes within the law.

The total number of paupers of every description maintained and relieved by the Poor Law Department throughout the Colony during 1907 was 70,066, as follows:—

(a) *In-door Relief.*

In country district hospitals	13,430
In Civil Hospital, Port Louis	4,790
In Canal Street Convent Hospital	225
In Barkly Asylum	930
Lepers at St. Lazare	210
Lunatic Asylum	515
Orphans in Convents	47
Inmates of Branch Infirmaries	1,013

(b) *Out-door Relief.*

Alimentary and pecuniary	2,167
Sick in Dispensaries	46,739
	70,066

It is not possible to obtain any estimate of the charitable work done by the various charitable institutions, both Catholic and Protestant; but the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the various Convents, the Church Missionary Society, and the numberless semi-private charitable societies of ladies which have been formed in Mauritius, have all taken their part in the cause of charity. Without such volunteer aid the secret cases of poverty, which never come within the knowledge of the official organisation, would escape notice altogether.

There are no rich in Mauritius, and those who give to charity do so at the price of genuine deprivation. The private charity of the Mauritian people is therefore one of the strongest evidences of the genuine kindness of heart which is so often concealed from those who do not look below the surface.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE, PRISONS, &c.

The police force of Mauritius on the 31st December, 1907, was 722, of 18 nationalities—a somewhat mixed force; but the population of Mauritius is itself somewhat heterogeneous, and the police force naturally reflects the character of the population. The numbers given must not, however, be taken as representing the effective strength, for large deductions must be made for men on leave of absence, sick in hospital, &c.

The work done by the force in 1907 is represented by the following table:—

Nature of Offences.	No. of cases.	No. of persons charged.
(*a*) Serious offences reported to, or detected by, the Police, in which persons were charged.	3,251	4,130
(*b*) Serious offences reported to the Police, which, in certain cases, formed the subject of enquiries, but in which no persons were charged.	10,948	624°
(*c*) Minor offences reported to, or detected by, the Police in which persons were charged.	5,254	7,492
(*d*) Minor offences reported to the Police in which no persons were charged.	3,411	—
(*e*) Offences against the Labour Law	1,262	1,262
(*f*) Vagrancy	1,355	1,355
Total	25,481	14,863

° Arrested on suspicion.

Of the 14,359 cases under (b) and (d) of the foregoing summary, 9,986 cases were not of a nature to warrant prosecution by the Crown, and their classification is as follows:—

Assaults	1,483
Threats	2,933
Disturbance	85
Abusive language	1,135
Stone throwing	13
Petty wounds and blows	3,383
Fictitious larcenies	500
Offences against property	376
Offences against the person	78
	9,986

The balance, *i.e.*, 4,373 cases, represent cases which remained undetected at the close of the year.

With the increase of poverty in the Island, it is natural to expect an increase in prædial larceny, by which is meant robbing provision grounds and homesteads (thefts of fowls, goats, or other animals excepted); and the following table shows the increase in this the poor man's form of crime:—

Year.	No. of cases declared or reported to police.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of persons otherwise disposed of.	Pending.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Percentage of convictions on number charged.	Percentage of property recovered on property lost.
								Per cent.	Per cent
1903.. ..	314	244	213	30	1	166	65	87·29	39·33
1904.. ..	271	158	132	22	4	275	125	83·54	45·59
1905.. ..	345	230	194	26	10	303	130	84·34	42·91
1906.. ..	380	286	253	27	6	449	196	88·46	43·60
1907.. ..	642	513	448	49	16	694	288	87·32	44·28

PRISONS.

There are four prisons in Mauritius:—

The Central Prison at Beau Bassin,
The Savanne Prison,
The Flacq Prison, and
The Port Louis Prison.

During the year 1907 the number of prisoners admitted after conviction were:—

Males	6,453
Females	296
Total	6,749

These figures show an increase of 914 in the number of males and 51 in the number of females, or a total increase of 965, as compared with 1906. Unfortunately the prison population is still on the increase: the most probable explanation is the great increase of poverty amongst the population, and there is little hope that any improvement is likely to take place in this respect. The people in Mauritius are poor, and are becoming poorer.

In 1880 the number of prisoners' rations issued was 7,099: in 1907 it was 27,625. But in 1880 the Island was comparatively prosperous; now there are many who are living on the margin of existence.

The religions of prisoners are shown by the following statement:—

Year.	Christians.	Mahommedans.	Hindus.	Buddhists.	Others.
1906 ...	1,364	629	3,764	14	13
1907 ...	1,755	612	4,367	14	1

The decreases, as will be seen, are in Mahommedans and "Others"; but Christians and Hindus show an increase. There is a decrease under the heading "Read and write," and an increase under "illiterate."

The longest time spent by any prisoner waiting trial was 218 days.

There were 44 deaths, as against 39 in 1906. The most prevalent disease was malarial fever, but dysentery was also very prevalent. There were 3 deaths from beri-beri, but the epidemic was quickly checked by an alteration in the prison diet.

In 1906 the daily average of patients in the prison hospitals was 50·48: in 1907 it rose to 68·57.

The work done for the Government, such as carpentering, repairs to buildings, breaking stones for macadam, and work on the public roads, was valued at Rs. 139,000.

The average cost of a prisoner's rations for the year was Rs. 52·58, but the hospital charges were more than double those of the previous year. The total cost of all prisons was Rs. 181,327 after taking credit for cash receipts, value of goods supplied, and work done for the Government. The net cost per prisoner was Rs. 117·73.

REFORMATORY.

The number of admissions to the Reformatory (including untried boys) during 1907 was 364, showing an increase of 115 on the previous year. Of the 270 boys convicted, 233 were sentenced for six months or less.

The boys were taught carpentering, tinsmith's work, basket-making, and gardening, and were frequently visited by clergy of the various denominations. But the system of short sentences, and the impossibility of carrying out a proper system of classification prevents any substantial improvement in the boys. During 1907, 70 ex-reformatory boys were committed to prisons for post-reformatory offences. On the whole, however, the Reformatory is giving better results. The discipline is improving, and the petty larcenies from the gardens were less than half.

The cost of the Reformatory was Rs. 17,474.

It would be easy to suggest improvements in an admittedly imperfect system, but in this, as in all other matters in Mauritius improvements cost money, and it is impossible to increase expenditure; all that can be said it that the best that can be done is done with the funds available.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the Magistrates in 1907 was 22,506, or 817 more than in the previous year.

The total number of convictions in the inferior Courts during the year was 18,490, or 1,072 more than in 1906; and in the Supreme Court 84, or 22 less than in 1906.

The acquittals were as follows: in the inferior Courts 1,562, as against 1,384 in 1906; and in the Supreme Court 56, as against 120 in 1906.

The total number of cases which fell through during the year for want of prosecution, amounted to 4,231, as against 2,937 in 1906.

One prisoner was found insane in 1907, as against two in the previous year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population on the 1st January, 1907, was		375,400
Number of births registered in 1907	12,901	
Number of unregistered owing to death intervening before registration was made	1,285	
Total births	14,186	
Number of deaths registered in 1907	13,037	
Showing an increase of		1,149
Arrivals in the Island	4,264	
Departures from the Island	4,178	
Difference in favour of arrivals		86
Total civil population		376,635
Military stationed in the Island		1,009
Total population of the Island		377,644
Estimated population of dependencies and out-lying Islands		5,764
Estimated total population of the Colony		383,408

The crews of non-Colonial shipping in the harbour have not been included in the above estimate.

The Indian population included in the above numbered 263,983, composed of 143,930 males and 120,053 females, showing an increase of 830 males and 4,067 females on the census of 1901.

The general population (exclusive of Indians) numbered 112,652, of which 57,055 were males and 55,597 females, thus showing an increase of 603 males and 112 females.

It will be noticed that while both populations show an increase when compared with the census figures, the Indian population shows an increase and the general population a decrease when compared with the figures for last year. But the variation of population for years past has been in the direction of an increase in the Indian population and a decrease in the creole population.

The public health of the Colony during 1907 has been much better than that of 1906.

The death-rate shows a sensible decrease, having fallen from 40·0 in 1906 to 34·7 in 1907.

The birth-rate has increased from 33·5 per 1,000 to 37·7.

An unsatisfactory feature is to be found in the high infantile mortality for the year, and a very high proportion of still-births, 8·5 per cent., must at the same time be recorded.

According to the census of 1st April, 1901, the following statement shows the different classes of occupations of the population at that time:—

Employment.	General Population.		Indian Population.		Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Class I.—Professional	3,225	624	1,085	48	4,310	672	4,982
Class II.—Domestic	2,874	3,087	6,839	1,239	9,713	4,326	14,039
Class III.—Commercial	5,681	110	7,094	842	12,775	952	13,727
Class IV.—Agricultural	3,605	157	68,744	5,385	72,349	5,542	77,891
Class V.—Industrial	18,211	3,269	2,580	260	20,791	3,529	24,320
Class VI.—Indefinite and Non-productive.	22,856	48,238	56,758	108,212	79,614	156,450	236,064
Total	56,452	55,485	143,100	115,986	199,552	171,471	371,023

Marriages.

There were 967 marriages celebrated during the year. Of these marriages, 503 belonged to the general population and 464 to the Indian population.

The following return shows the mortality for the last five years:—

Year.	Mortality.	Rate per 1,000.
1903	15,034	39·9
1904	12,064	32·2
1905	15,379	40·6
1906	15.118	40·0
1907	13,037	34·7

CLIMATE.

General.

Mauritius lies close to the edge of the southern tropic, and has the climate which is to be expected in such a latitude. It is also in the direct line of the track of the cyclones of the Southern Indian Ocean. But the climate at the lower levels, though unfavourable to man, is very favourable to vegetation; even a hurricane may prove to be a blessing in disguise, and the heat and rain of the summer months, though they fill the hospitals, push the growth of the sugar cane and thus help also to fill the pockets of the sugar planters. The higher levels, though damp owing to the condensation of the trade wind, are not unhealthy; and it is poverty rather than climate which should bear the responsibility of the sickness and mortality amongst the population in the higher levels.

SPECIAL FEATURES IN 1907.

Barometric Pressure.

The barometric pressure decreased, relatively to the normal, from January to July; increased until August, and then decreased generally. The decrease from January to July was unusually large and steady.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. + 0·044	Ins. — 0·040	Ins. — 0·014	Ins. — 0·026

Air Temperature.

Relatively to the normal, the temperature increased from January to April, decreased generally till August, and increased rapidly until November.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
— 0·8°	— 0·3°	— 0·9°	+ 0·9°

Vapour Tension.

The departures from average vapour tension followed very closely those of air temperature and, inverted, showed the usual agreement with those of atmospheric pressure.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. — ·037	Ins. — ·005	Ins. — ·045	Ins. + ·040

Relative Humidity.

The relative humidity departures followed the temperature and vapour tension departures, particularly in the latter part of the year.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. — 1·6	Per cent. 0·0	Per cent. — 4·2	Per cent. + 2·2

Rainfall.

The inverted rainfall departures followed generally the departures of barometric pressure. This is probably because the latter were more pronounced than usual.

The most striking feature in the four last mentioned elements was the large regular increase from August to the end of the year.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. — 53	Per cent. + 74	Per cent. — 84	Per cent. + 70

Wind Velocity.

The wind velocity was again below normal throughout the year: the variations (inverted) followed approximately the pressure variations.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
m.p.h. —3·12	m.p.h. —1·60	m.p.h. —2·01	m.p.h. —2·03

The wind velocity, as recorded by the Robinson anemometer, has been above normal in only 6 of the 70 months beginning March, 1902. The total defect of wind during this period was over 86,000 miles. As mentioned last year, from comparisons with a smaller instrument which had been previously tested at the Kew Observatory, it appeared that the anemometer gives results practically identical with the Kew Standard. The comparisons are being continued, and the results for several months may give some indication of the cause of the above mentioned defect, which is almost certainly not climatic.

Means and Extremes of Meteorological Elements.

The means and extremes of the various meteorological elements for the year 1907 are given below:—

Element.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.
Atmospheric Pressure	Ins. 30·063	Ins. 30·347	Ins. 29·403
Air Temperature	73·1°	90·3°	49·9°
Relative Humidity	Per cent. 74·0	Per cent. 98·0	Per cent 40·0
Wind Velocity	m.p.h. 8·9	m.p.h. 36·6	—
Wind Direction	S. 73° E.	—	—
Rainfall	Ins. 44·19	Ins. 3·37 (in 24 hours)	—

Results of Magnetic Observations.

The magnetographs were at work throughout the year, and absolute values of the magnetic elements determined, as a rule, four times a month. The following are the mean results for 1907:—

Declination (west)	9°13′64
Dip (south)	53°49′00
Horizontal force (C.G.S. units)... ...	0·23461
Vertical force (C.G.S. units)	0·32075
Total force (C.G.S. units)	0·39739

The largest magnetic disturbances occurred on January 11-12; February 9-10; March 10-11, 21-22; May 29; June 19-20; September 10-11; October 13-15, 22-23; November 21-22.

MISCELLANEOUS WORK IN 1907.

Actinometric observations were taken on 44 days with both high and low sun, and on 47 other days single sets of observations only were made.

Fifty-six earthquakes were recorded by the Milne seismograph during the year. The hourly measures of the seismograms have been continued throughout the year.

Rainfall returns were collected from 69 stations in different parts of the Island. The mean rainfall for the whole Island during the year was 67·38 inches, as compared with an average of 80·53 inches.

Observations made on board vessels trading with Mauritius were tabulated, and detailed accounts of gales and hurricanes recorded. From observations thus obtained daily synoptic charts were prepared for the hurricane months, and the tracks of four cyclones laid down. Four other cyclones occurred in the South Indian Ocean whose tracks have not yet been determined owing to want of observations.

From May to December cablegrams giving a resumé of the weather at Mauritius for the preceding week were, as usual, despatched to the Director-General of Indian Observatories in connection with the monsoon predictions, and monthly cablegrams to the Director of the Geological Survey Department, Cairo.

Photographs of the sun were taken daily when the weather permitted. Spots were observed on 301 days and faculæ on 302 days.

The installation of an electric time ball at Port Louis, which was commenced in July, 1907, was completed early in the year. During the first two months of working several failures occurred, but since then it has worked satisfactorily.

On the 1st January, 1907, the standard time of the 60th meridian East of Greenwich was introduced in Mauritius and all its Dependencies, except the Chagos Archipelago, where the standard time of the 75th meridian has been adopted.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

The contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company was renewed in 1907 for another year, for a four-weekly service between Colombo and Mauritius. Besides the British India steamers, the mails to and from Europe are conveyed by other British and French steamers. The Messageries Maritimes Company performed their bi-monthly voyages from Marseilles to Mauritius and *vice versa*, calling at Aden, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Madagascar and Reunion. The mails for and from African ports were conveyed by the Union Castle steamers.

Statement of letters, post cards, newspapers, and postal parcels dealt with during the year 1907:—

—	Internal.	Mail Packets.				Other Vessels.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	
Insured Letters	—	—	—	173	38	—	—	—	—	211
Express Delivery	20,155	—	12	—	7	—	—	—	—	20,174
Post Cards	79,568	3,500	15,090	4,506	24,968	—	—	1,629	4,912	134,173
Paid Letters	649,305	178,227	70,768	201,825	150,321	—	20,321	32,714	128,604	1,432,085
Unpaid Letters	15,317	2,000	200	7,000	3,500	—	—	2,795	581	31,393
Registered Letters	58,075	2,427	4,927	15,321	14,815	—	720	3,182	7,243	106,710
Official Letters	241,503	705	509	568	660	—	—	528	812	245,285
Newspapers	1,320,944	59,927	2,314	120,021	7,628	—	—	3,412	9,904	1,524,150
Postal Parcels	135	5,577	675	8,390	1,969	—	—	—	—	16,746

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

There are 323 miles of telegraphs in Mauritius, and 63 miles of telephones (exclusive of private telephone services).

MONEY ORDERS.

Inland money orders were issued during the year 1907 for a total sum of Rs. 318,255, as against an aggregate sum of Rs. 344,686 during the previous year.

The foreign money orders show the following comparison:—

	Rs.
1907	333,745
1906	318,610

POSTAL ORDERS.

The British postal order system was extended to Mauritius in 1905. The number of postal orders sold and paid in 1907 was 1,511 and 777, of the value of Rs. 11,822 and Rs. 7,919 respectively.

POSTAL PARCELS.

The number of postal parcels dealt with during the year 1907 was 16,746. The general tendency is towards an increased use of the parcel post, and the local shopkeepers complain that the facilities are such as to interfere seriously with their business.

The total Post Office expenditure in 1907 was Rs. 167,626, as follows:—

	Rs.
Personal emoluments	105,546
Other Charges.	
	Rs.
Overtime	3,943
Sea and territorial transit ...	7,342
Maintenance of telegraphs ...	6,232
Porterage of telegrams	9,621
Uniform	4,766
Gratuities to Masters of Vessels ...	2,805
Miscellaneous and special expenditure	27,371
	167,626

The total revenue for the year was Rs. 130,239, collected under the following heads:—

	Rs.
Postal correspondence	89,178
Telegraph receipts	19,849
Commission on money orders (Inland, Foreign, and Indian) ...	11,177
Postal parcel service	4,992
Transit of correspondence ...	3,054
Private boxes	1,004
Commission on postal orders ...	224
Forfeited money orders	758
Miscellaneous	3
	130,239

IX.—MILITARY (TROOPS AND EXPENDITURE).

Mauritius is a fortified coaling station on the route between the Cape and India. The garrison on the 31st December, 1907, comprised 1,009 men of all ranks. The military expenditure during the year amounted to £112,357, and the Colonial contribution (including the amount paid in lieu of remission of customs duties) to £29,699.

The following railway concession made to the military is of course an indirect contribution:—

1. Officers travel 1st class for 2nd class fares;
2. Non-commissioned officers travel 2nd class for 3rd class fares; and
3. Privates are allowed to travel at the single fare for the double journey (3rd class). If they make only the single journey they pay full 3rd class fare.

X.—RAILWAYS.

The earnings in 1907 were Rs. 2,212,492, showing a decrease of Rs. 294,919 on those of the previous year. These figures are exclusive of Government traffic, which amounted to Rs. 168,083 in 1907, as against Rs. 180,947 in 1906.

The working expenses in 1907 were Rs. 1,795,379, with an increase of Rs. 102,094, as compared with 1906.

The percentage of working expenditure to earnings in 1907 was Rs. 75·41, as against Rs. 62·98 in the previous year.

The total length of line open in 1907 was 120 miles (exclusive of sidings).

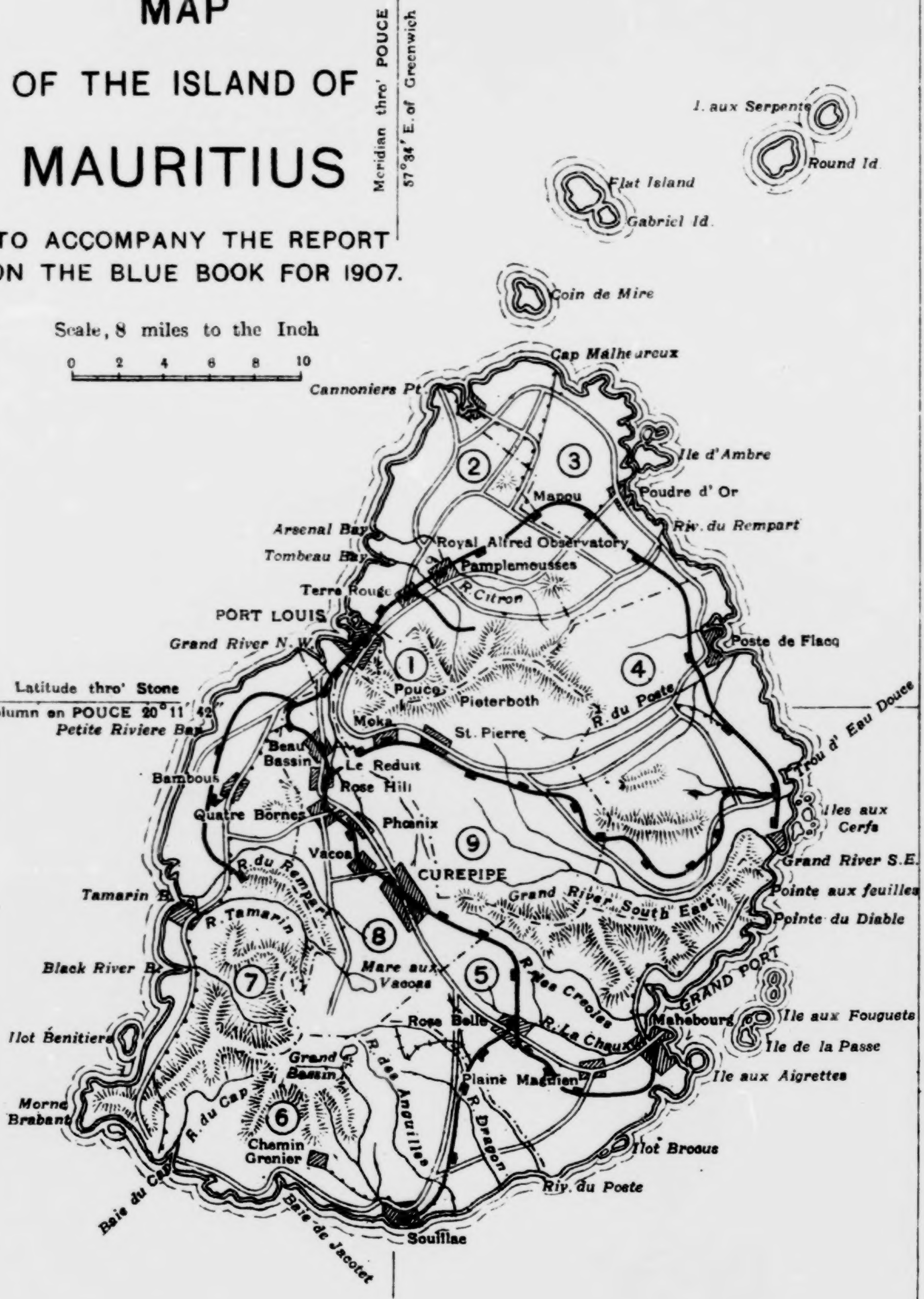
MAP

OF THE ISLAND OF

MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT
ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1907.

Scale, 8 miles to the Inch


0 2 4 6 8 10
Meridian thro' POUCE
57°34' E. of Greenwich
I. aux Serpents
Round Id.
Flat Island
Gabriel Id.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Cannoniers Pt.
Ile d'Ambre
Mapou
Poudre d' Or
Riv. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Tombeau Bay
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N. W.
Poste de Flacq
Latitude thro' Stone
Column on POUCE 20°11' 42"
Pouce
Pieterboth
R. du Poste
Petite Riviere Bay
Moka
St. Pierre
Trou d' Eau Douce
Beau Bassin
Le Reduit
Rose Hill
Bambous
Quatre Bornes
Phœnix
Iles aux Cerfs
Vacoa
CUREPIPE
Grand River S.E.
R. du Rempart
Grand River South East
Pointe aux feuilles
Tamarin B.
R. Tamarin
Pointe du Diable
Mare aux Vacoas
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
Black River B.
Rose Belle
R. La Chaux
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ilot Benitiers
Ile de la Passe
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
Plaine Magnien
Ile aux Aigrettes
Morne Brabant
R. du Cap
R. Dragon
Chemin Grenier
Ilot Brocus
Riv. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railways
Main Roads

DISTRICTS

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 Pls. Wilhems
9 Moka

Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

XI.—RODRIGUES.

Rodrigues is a dependency of Mauritius, inhabited mainly by fishermen and small cultivators, though stock raising is done on a small scale. The climate is healthy and the population, which was 4,231 in 1907, tends to increase. The people are of mixed blood in which the African blood predominates.

The revenue was Rs. 6,552 in 1907, as against Rs. 15,047 in 1906. The falling off was due to the remission of taxation consequent on a cyclone, a power that is conferred on the Governor by Regulation No. 1 of 1907.

The expenditure, exclusive of sums paid in Mauritius, of the cost of meteorological observations and of matters of account, was Rs. 36,211, being an increase of Rs. 1,877 on the expenditure of 1906.

Communication is maintained with Mauritius by a contract vessel, but the vessel does not run during the hurricane season.

There are two schools at Rodrigues, with a total of 284 boys and girls on the roll.

There is a magistrate, who practically governs the Island; a doctor; two clergymen (one Catholic and one Church of England); and a small force of police.

Rodrigues is an important station of the Eastern Telegraph Company, and a large staff of employés is maintained there for the service of the submarine cable.

XII.—GENERAL.

The following table gives the variations of the prices of sugar for the 12 months ended April, 1908, the standard being what is called crystallised vesous or Bombay sugar:—

		Rs.
1907	May	8·25
„	June	8·25 nominal.
„	July	8·50 „
„	August	8·50
„	September	8·25 to 8·50
„	October	8·00 to 8·25
„	November	8·00 to 8·50
„	December	8·25 to 8·40
1908	January	8·50
„	February	8·50
„	March	10·00 nominal.
„	April	9·40 to 9·50

GRAHAM BOWER,
Colonial Secretary.

14th August, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c.	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks and Caicos Islands	Salt Industry

COLONIAL REPORTS--ANNUAL

No. 624.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 581.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1909.

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No. 624.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 581.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Port Louis,
23rd September, 1909.

MY LORD,

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1908, together with the report of the Colonial Secretary thereon.

I have, &c.,

CAVENDISH BOYLE.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1908.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The following tables contain statements of the revenue and expenditure of the Government of Mauritius for the financial years 1906-7 and 1907-8:—

A.—*Revenue.*

Heads of Revenue.	1906–7.	1907–8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Customs	3,600,029.52	2,987,013.77	—	613,015.75
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues.	283,401.17	236,591.88	—	36,692.71
Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	2,443,766.72	1,999,922.37	—	386,559.05
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific services and Reimbursements in Aid.	252,058.32	371,586.62	3,310.10	—
Post Office and Telegraphs.	147,007.49	148,286.59	1,279.10	—
Government Railways	2,500,409.10	2,039,326.26	—	461,082.84
Rent of Government Property.	61,576.36	54,497.25	—	7,079.11
Interest...	890,831.41	822,676.64	—	65,171.36
Miscellaneous Receipts	150,362.66	62,089.10	—	42,440.65
Land Sales	175.50	736.71	561.21	—
Total	10,329,618.25	8,722,727.19	5,150.41	1,612,041.47
Result—Net decrease ...	...	...	...	1,606,891.06

The revenue of the financial year 1907-8 was therefore below that of the previous year by Rs. 1,606,891.

B.—*Expenditure.*

Heads of Service.	1906–7.	1907–8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Public Debt (Charges)	1,261,001.62	1,231,550.80	—	29,550.82
Pensions	585,281.87	609,364.23	24,082.36	—
Governor and Legislature.	96,822.08	95,117.71	—	1,704.37
Colonial Secretariat ...	56,950.80	64,013.03	7,062.23	—
Treasury	158,831.23	175,518.71	16,687.48	—
Customs	130,386.02	127,613.31	—	2,772.71
Audit	57,028.06	58,356.85	1,328·79	—
Port and Marine ...	231,063.02	174,127.88	—	56,835.14
Carried forward ...	2,577,364.70	2,535,662.52	49,160.86	90,863·04

Heads of Service.	1906–7.	1907–8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Carried forward ...	2,577,364.70	2,535,662.52	49,160.86	90,863.04
Observatory	21,673.26	20,677.77	—	995.49
Public Library and Museum.	10,205.32	9,343.55	—	861.77
Registrar-General ...	18,017.11	16,874.80	—	1,142.31
Registration and Mortgage.	43,215.50	42,612.32	—	603.18
Archives	6,824.77	7,264.14	439.37	—
Supreme Court ...	129,790.07	126,268.48	—	3,221.59
Procureur General ...	76,052.41	75,774.98	—	577.43
District Magistrates ...	223,889.07	231,782.78	7,893.71	—
Stipendiary Magistrates	33,225.73	31,099.55	—	2,126.18
Ecclesiastical	152,679.21	152,712.81	33.60	—
Police	551,288.09	552,505.17	1,217.08	—
Prisons	166,055.82	187,193.97	21,138.15	—
Reformatory	16,226.33	17,654.31	1,427.98	—
Medical and Health ...	738,360.02	801,937.92	63,577.90	—
Quarantine	12,106.32	9,698.47	—	2,407.85
Plague, &c.	170,273.93	132,162.02	—	38,111.91
Royal College	210,374.84	217,500.56	7,125.72	—
Primary Education ...	393,715.75	407,551.15	13,835.40	—
Poor	227,121.14	259,405.79	32,284.65	—
Storekeeper General ...	35,952.12	35,273.09	—	679.03
Immigration	97,408.23	98,342.06	933.83	—
Dependencies, Rodrigues	57,036.65	48,997.29	—	8,039.36
" Oil Islands	14,326.08	13,596.89	470.81	—
Military Expenditure ...	443,184.96	440,813.72	—	2,371.24
Miscellaneous	474,780.53	442,273.20	—	33,707.33
Charitable Allowances	9,926.86	7,097.39	—	2,829.47
Interest and Exchange	209,760.99	203,190.60	—	6,570.39
Post Office	148,614.41	155,632.60	7,018.19	—
Railway Department ...	2,139,921.03	1,761,019.61	—	378,901.42
Forests and Gardens ...	167,495.68	186,044.21	18,548.53	—
Public Works and Surveys.	103,463.81	108,563.72	5,099.91	—
Public Works (Recurrent).	477,626.74	468,685.36	—	8,941.38
Public Works (Extraordinary).	4,610.76	35,856.36	31,245.60	—
Loan Office	11,940.34	11,940.76	.42	—
Total	10,174,508.58	9,853,009.92	261,451.71	582,950.97
Result—Net decrease ...	...	...	...	321,498.66

The decrease of expenditure in 1907-8 is explained by the unusually large sums spent on account of railway materials and new engines in the previous year. But there are automatic increases in the Pensions and Education Votes owing to the provisions of the Pension Law and the Education Law.

Position of the Colony at the close of the Year 1907-8.

	Rs.
Surplus on 1st July, 1907	1,327,304
Excess of expenditure over revenue	1,130,282
Surplus on 30th June, 1908	197,022

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years, and the Treasury balances at the close of each year, were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.	Debit Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1903–4	9,473,112	10,664,115	82,247	—
1904–5	10,399,554	10,563,521	—	81,720
1905–6	11,169,783	9,915,868	1,172,195	—
1906–7	10,329,618	10,174,509	1,327,304	—
1907–8	8,722,727	9,853,009	197,022	—

The financial year of 1907-8 was a bad year for Mauritius, and the depression, which was felt by the whole community, naturally influenced the finances of Government. The sugar crop amounted to only 164,000 tons, as against 217,000 tons in the previous year. Moreover, the monetary crisis, which began with financial disasters in New York at the close of the year 1907, was felt all over the world, and its influence spread to Mauritius. One of the banks raised its rate of discount to 12 per cent. in sympathy with the Indian money market, and the other bank greatly restricted its discount. There was a steady drain of specie from the Colony, and two important firms of brokers failed.

All these influences co-operated to produce a general tightness of money and a want of confidence which restricted commercial or industrial enterprise. The distress inevitably spread to the labouring population, and towards the end of 1907 and during the early months of 1908 there were many unemployed. All classes were compelled to curtail expenditure and to discharge any servants or employés that could possibly be spared. From information gathered from those who were in contact with the unemployed, the discharged domestic servants suffered most, as they were for the most part unfitted to apply themselves to other occupations, but they were patient and the complaints came mostly from the discharged artisans.

The Colony has not yet, at the time of writing, recovered from the distress prevalent in the early months of 1908. There has certainly been a recovery but the recovery has not yet reached the lower classes. The explanation probably is, that when an industry or a household has once learned to do without certain employés or servants, it takes time and confidence to restore the old scale of expenditure. But the fact remains, that out of a total population of 380,000, about 50,000 may be said to be living on the margin of existence. This fact makes the financial position of the Government a difficult problem; the ordinary method of meeting a deficit is found in increased taxation. But though taxation has been increased it must be remembered that the prosperity of the Government is dependent on the prosperity of the people, and if it be true that the most profitable expenditure is that of the money left to fructify in the pockets of the people, then there is a limit at which taxation becomes unprofitable. For the distress of the people is augmented whilst the Treasury is not enriched, and the expenditure on poor law, prisons, and hospitals is automatically increased. The better course seems to be to cut down expenditure wherever possible, and this is the course that has been adopted. Economies have been made and are still being made. Public works, however desirable, have been postponed. The Civil Service is being slowly but surely reduced. Reductions on education are under consideration. Unfortunately, the expenditure on poor relief, hospitals, and prisons has automatically increased. But this is a necessary accompaniment of all periods of distress. No Government can neglect the elementary duties of humanity or fail to protect property even in times of public distress.

But although the Colony is passing through one of its recurrent hard times, the sugar industry remain a profitable industry even in the hardest times, and with improved appliances is daily becoming more profitable. There is, therefore, no reason why capitalists should be discouraged or why money should not find a profitable investment in Mauritius.

Assets and Liabilities on 30*th June*, 1908.

1. Commissioners of Currency:—

	Rs.
Assets	8,081,513
Liabilities	7,858,255
Balance in favour of Commissioners	223,258

2. Government Savings Bank:—

	Rs.
Assets	3,096,201
Liabilities	2,742,612
Balance in favour of Bank	353,589

3. Treasury proper:—

	Rs.
Assets	2,709,731
Liabilities	2,512,709
Balance in favour of Treasury	197,022

4. Public Debt:—

The public debt stood as follows on 30th June, 1908:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
(1) 6 per cent. Railway Debenture, under Ordinance 15 of 1864 (matured bond unclaimed)	1,000	0	0
(2) Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings (Ordinance 10 of 1876), maturing in 1919	31,200	0	0

	£	s.	d.
(3) Moka Railway 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings (Ordinance 2 of 1887)	500	0	0
(4) 4 per cent. Debentures, Conversion Loan, payable by annual drawings (Ordinance 10 of 1879)	46,200	0	0
(5) Mauritius 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock, under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887, including loan made for Mare-aux-Vacoas (£34,000) ...	482,390	16	0
(6) Hurricane Loan, 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock, under Ordinance 4 of 1892	600,000	0	0
(7) 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock, under Ordinances 31 of 1904 and 39 of 1905	150,000	0	0
	£1,311,290	16	0

For the redemption of the Debentures and Inscribed Stock the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the Trustees on the 30th June, 1908, amounted to £256,110, the amount duly provided as required by law.

The sum at the credit of the Sinking Fund on 30th June, 1908, showed an increase of £20,145 on the previous year.

Currency.

Amount of currency notes on 30th June, 1908:—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents) ...	483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,383	0	0
	£3,866	16	5

Rupee notes, under Ordinance 28 of 1876:—

	Rs.
1. In the Commissioners' vault	4,674,005
2. In the hands of the public (including the banks and financial officers)	3,184,250
	7,858,255

Changes in Taxation.

An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Customs tariff estimated to produce an additional Rs. 300,000 per annum was assented to on the 10th December, 1908. This Ordinance raises the Customs tariff slightly on all articles other than the food of the poor. For instance, the duty on bacon, hams, tongues, and sausages has been raised to Rs. 10 per 100 kilos, whilst the duty on rice remains at Rs. 6·24 per ton. The duty on petrol has been raised to Rs. 6 per hectoliter, a tax that will be felt mainly by the proprietors of motor cars.

Further taxes on motor cars and bicycles were imposed on the 4th February, 1909. But up to the present the revenue is still below that collected in previous years, when taxation was lower. This seems to indicate that the remedy for the financial position will be found in reduced expenditure, and that to greatly increase the existing taxes would not be profitable.

Savings Bank.

The deposits at the Government Savings Bank, at 3 per cent. interest, amounted to Rs. 2,692,795 on 30th June, 1908, as against Rs. 2,754,763 on 30th June, 1907, showing a decrease of Rs. 61,968.

The following return shows the number of depositors and the amount standing to the credit of the general and the Indian populations at the end of the years 1907-8 and 1906-7:—

—	1907–1908.		1906–1907.	
	No. of depositors.	Amount.	No. of depositors.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.
General population ...	15,631	1,561,418	15,712	1,571,330
Indian population ...	10,767	1,131,377	10,802	1,183,433
Total	26,398	2,692,795	26,514	2,754,763

The financial position of the bank on the 30th June, 1908, was as follows:—

	Rs.
Investments	3,094,171.18
Cash in hand	2,030.39
Receiver-General (interest due by Treasury for 1907-8)	75,092.67
	3,171,294.24
Liabilities due to depositors and to Treasury	2,817,704.96
Balance in favour of the bank ...	353,589.28

MUNICIPALITY AND LOCAL BOARDS.

There is one elective municipality in Mauritius—that of Port Louis—and three nominee boards, those of Curepipe, Quatre Bornes, and Rose-Hill—Beau-Bassin. Their revenue is provided partly by Government grants and partly by local rates.

Municipality of Port Louis.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the municipality of Port Louis for the year ended 31st December, 1908:—

	Rs.
Balance in hand on 1st January, 1908 ...	28,132.32
Revenue, including receipts on account during 1908	608,711.15
	636,843.47
Expenditure including payments on account during 1908	635,789.21
Balance on hand on 31st December, 1908	1,054.26

The following is a comparative statement of the normal revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
1904	501,365	502,601
1905	548,139	492,785
1906	537,366	510,588
1907	512,172	502,916
1908	476,130	500,776

Statement of the debt of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis on 31st December, 1908, showing provision for payment in 1909:—

Loan.	Amount.			Repayments to be made in 1909.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Conversion Loan ...	117,000	0	0	1,900	0	0
Electric Lighting Loan	9,000	0	0	333	6	8
Municipality Loan ...	4,000	0	0	220	0	8
	130,000	0	0	2,453	7	4
	Rs.			Rs.		
Colonial Loan	7,800			7,800		
Grand River Bridge Loan	6,000			2,000		
Manure Establishment Loan	16,000			2,000		
Government Hurricane Loan	71,392			6,746		
Municipality Loan ...	20,000			2,000		
Total	121,192			20,546		

Provision for payment of capital and interest on the above loans has been duly made in the annual budget of the Corporation.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CUREPIPE.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for last five years.

—	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	82,772	68,934	65,776	67,496	79,331
Expenditure ...	81,158	67,729	64,740	66,885	75,659

The debt of Curepipe Board amounts to Rs. 73,500, for which provision is made annually for repayment.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years.

—	1904.	1905.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	29,345	26,645	26,831	30,995	37,044.19
Expenditure ...	26,260	28,187	25,783	30,164	37,695.06

The Beau Bassin and Rose Hill Board is indebted to the extent of Rs. 9,500 to Government.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, QUATRE BORNES.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for last five years.

—	1904.	1905.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	12,725	12,549	13,202	12,957	13,815.36
Expenditure ...	13,274	12,572	12,416	12,800	13,865.99

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statements show the value of goods imported into, and exported from, Mauritius during the year 1908:—

IMPORTS.

Countries.	Value of Total Imports, exclusive of Charges and Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	3,648,507	3,001,055	6,649,562
British Possessions	9,912,282	7,168,590	17,080,872
Foreign Countries	3,625,711	2,826,629	6,452,340
Total	17,186,500*	12,996,274	30,182,774
Postal Parcels	5,711	3,405	9,176
Baggage	18,676	9,338	28,014
Total	17,210,947	13,009,017	30,219,964

* Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion imported, Rs. 2,568,919.35.

EXPORTS.

Countries.	Produce and Manufactures of this Colony.	Shipping Charges on Produce and Manufactures of this Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufactures.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	3,542,235	233,925	111,665	3,887,825
British Possessions.	26,961,784	2,072,725	2,085,968	31,120,475
Foreign Countries	399,551	19,316	358,787	777,654
Total ...	30,903,570	2,325,964	2,556,420	35,785,954
Baggage ...	4,272	—	—	4,272
Total ...	30,907,842	—	—	35,790,226*

* Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion exported, Rs. 2,098,845.

The following comparison between the trade of the Islands of Réunion and Mauritius, though not falling within the scope of the report on the Blue Book, may also be found interesting.

A word of introduction is, however, necessary.

Réunion, the French Colony, is 125 miles distant from Mauritius. Both Islands are of volcanic origin; the climate of both is about the same on the coast, but the mountains of Réunion, which contain an active volcano. rise much higher than those of Mauritius. The soil of Réunion is generally believed to be richer than the soil of Mauritius, and Mauritius receives its best vegetables from Réunion. The area of Mauritius is 705 square miles. The area of Réunion is 969·7 square miles, say, one-third larger. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add that, like all French Colonies, Réunion gives and receives important preferential treatment in regard to all imports from, or exports to, France. The figures are given for 1907, being the latest French figures available here; and the values have been given in rupees. The French francs have been converted into rupees for the purpose.

Year, 1907.	Population.	Area (square miles).	Value of Imports from Mother Country given in rupees.	Value of Imports from Sister Colonies or Possessions given in rupees.	Value of Imports from Foreign Countries given in rupees.	Total Imports given in rupees.	Value of Exports to Mother Country given in rupees.	Value of Exports to Sister Colonies or Possessions given in rupees.	Value of Exports to Foreign Countries given in rupees.	Total Value of Exports given in rupees.
		Sq. miles.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Mauritius	373,336	705	7,960,799	16,671,921	6,528,375	31,161,095	7,024,615	37,291,918	2,031,183	46,347,716
Réunion	173,912	969.7	4,647,590	2,889,615	1,157,386	8,694,592	7,983,153	137,995	264,986	8,286,134

MAURITIUS TRADE.

In Mauritius the aggregate value of trade for the years 1907 and 1908 is as under:—

	1907.	1908.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	31,161,095	30,219,964
Exports	46,347,716	35,790,226
Total	77,508,811	66,010,190

Excluding the value of exports to, and imports from, the Dependencies, the rate of trade per head of population was:—

	1907	1908.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	81.49	74.21
Exports (including shipping charges on local produce and manufacture)	121.20	92.57

showing a falling off in the purchasing power of the people.

The value of specie and bullion imported and exported was as follows:—

—	1907.			1908.		
	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports ...	2,628,821	131,193	2,760,014	2,568,919	1,451,439	4,020,358
Exports ...	2,683,935	—	2,683,935	2,098,845	—	2,098,845
Total ...	5,312,756	131,193	5,443,949	4,667,764	1,451,439	6,119,203

Deducting specie and bullion, declared value of imports and exports was as follows:—

	1907.	1908.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	28,401,080	27,651,045
Exports	43,663,781	33,691,381
	72,064,861	61,342,426

The amount of duty collected during the years 1907 and 1908 was as under:—

	1907.	1908.
	Rs.	Rs.
On imports	2,719,824	2,473,239
On exports	627,119	638,810
	3,346,943	3,112,049

The total value of imports and exports for the last five years, 1904 to 1908, was as under:—

Year.	Imports. (Including charges and exchange.)	Exports. (Including shipping charges on local produce and manufactures.)
	Rs.	Rs.
1904	35,416,624	44,545,320
1905	26,944,399	36,843,046
1906	29,588,255	41,156,120
1907	31,161,095	46,347,716
1908	30,219,964	35,790,226

Comparative Statement of the Value of the Chief Imports and Exports.

Articles.	Imports (including charges and exchange).		Exports.			
			1907.		1908.	
	1907.	1908.	Home* produce.	Foreign produce.	Home* produce.	Foreign produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	1,343,526	598,479	85	1,600	10	2,400
Apothecary ware	159.393	170,256	—	1,469	79	2,318
Apparel, wearing	131,479	95,975	—	1,828	845	2,306
Bags and pockets	1,091,044	1,076,420	2,748	13,577	1,425	17,627
Bicycles	14,644	6,588	—	115	—	100
Brass and copper ware.	27,458	34,356	—	98,888	—	30,126
Coal	1,655,615	1,971,681	—	140	—	—
Clocks and watches.	11,742	8,678	—	150	—	578
Corn, grain, and meal.	9,953,956	10,278,967	2,630	7,558	4,299	2,195

---

* Including shipping charges on the principal home produce, viz., sugar, rum, molasses, aloe fibre, cocoanut oil, and vanilla.

Article.	Imports (including charges and exchange).		Exports.			
			1907.		1908.	
	1907.	1908.	Home* produce.	Foreign produce.	Home* produce.	Foreign produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton manufactures.	981,669	1,071,161	—	1,051	—	44
Earthen and china wares.	64,768	55,883	—	423	3	2,146
Fibre—aloe ...	—	—	986,404	—	623,656	—
Glass and glass wares.	40,875	56,991	—	582	—	2,839
Haberdashery ...	595,660	466,591	—	3,833	682	8,057
Hardware and cutlery.	1,117,588	1,159,504	2,394	52,368	21,768	71,430
Hats of all sorts	71,598	49,282	—	—	10	—
Hides, raw and salted.	—	—	111,176	—	68,349	—
Leather, wrought and unwrought.	215,682	193,853	416	949	4,325	1,396
Machinery for agricultural purposes.	396,318	76,428	—	6,875	—	485
Machinery for local industries.	472,818	264,464	18,512	400	4,990	1,500
Manures and fertilisers.	2,280,784	2,030,526	—	—	—	30,143
Malt liquors, &c.	933,271	673,785	31,490	1,661	74,944	2,523
Matches	86,671	20,379	—	490	—	2,183
Molasses	—	—	501,880	—	418,212	—
Motor cars and motor cycles.	56,704	44,471	—	—	—	5,000
Meat, fresh-frozen.	29,859	68,159	—	—	—	—
Oils of all kinds	1,057,245	1,114,518	20,246	36,809	65,174	22,320
Painters' colours	88,803	70,473	—	192	—	30
Paper, cigarette	62,488	35,185	—	—	—	—
Provisions, preserves.	1,590,468	1,448,922	29,476	19,299	10,823	92,717
Seeds of all sorts	79,156	50,168	1,131	305	15	1,547
Soap	379,932	298,945	—	2,992	—	3,188
Stationery ...	127,057	111,029	—	397	175	614
Sugar	481	1,255	41,199,744	3	31,789,452	4
Timber and woodenware.	809,576	581,261	755	3,386	478	5,100
Tobacco	426,145	367,654	—	829	—	1,440
Toys	40,201	28,136	—	—	—	85
Umbrellas and parasols.	38,887	15,129	—	6	—	—
Vanilla	—	57	44,814	—	58,819	—
Woollen, manufactured.	132,390	83,467	—	—	7	8
Miscellaneous ...	1,464,719	1,256,828	21,597	409,056	48,921	145,125
Baggage and parcels.	370,411	265,702	21,052	—	36,346	—
Total ...	28,401,081	26,199,606	42,996,550	667,231	3,323,807	457,574
Bullion and Specie	2,760,014	4,020,359	—	2,683,935	—	2,098,846
Total ...	31,161,095	30,219,965	42,996,550	3,351,166	33,233,807	2,556,420

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* Including shipping charges on the principal home produce, viz., sugar, rum, molasses, aloe fibre, cocoanut oil, and vanilla.

IMPORTS (Detailed Remarks).

Bicycles.—Decrease of 94 in number and of Rs. 8,055 in value, due chiefly to the United Kingdom.

Brass and Copper Wares.—Brass ware and ornament, decrease of Rs. 6,578, chiefly from United Kingdom. Copper sheets and nails (yellow) increase of Rs. 10,779 in the importation from the United Kingdom.

Coal.—Increase of Rs. 316,066 over last year. Natal provided for a surplus of Rs. 520,248, due to the railways consuming larger quantities of such coal. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 180,324) and Australia (Rs. 28,867).

Corn, Grain, Meal.—Rice.—Showed an increase in the importation of Rs. 553,819, due to Cochin China and Madagascar providing for surplus values of Rs. 1,019,477 and Rs. 550,619, respectively; whereas decreases were from Continental India (Rs. 849,565), Straits Settlements (Rs. 39,660), and Singapore (Rs. 131,807).

Wheat.—Decrease in flour of Rs. 280,282, due to less importation from Continental India (Rs. 145,379), Australia (Rs. 75,410), and the Argentine Republic (Rs. 59,370).

Decreases in the importation of dholl, gram, and lentils (Rs. 115,162, Rs. 52,411, and Rs. 1,487, respectively) from Continental India.

Oats.—Cape Colony and the Argentine Confederation provided for surplus values of Rs. 138,149 and Rs. 163,360, respectively; whereas Continental India and Australia showed falling off of Rs. 68,080 and Rs. 31,459, respectively.

Cotton Manufactures.—Increase of Rs. 89,492 in the importation over last year, due chiefly to more supplies from Continental India and the United Kingdom.

Haberdashery (including flowers (artificial), silk, satin, and ribbons).—Decrease of Rs. 129,069 as compared with 1907, due to less supplies from the United Kingdom (Rs. 45,081), France (Rs. 31,739), Continental India (Rs. 18,907), and China (Rs. 17,488).

Hardware and Cutlery (including iron—bars, nails, pig, sheet, wire netting, anchors, grapnels, wrought—other sorts; lead, sheets and pipes, steel, wrought and unwrought, tins of all sorts, zinc solder).—The total importation showed an increase of Rs. 41,916, and the following headings are to be noted:—

Hardware and Cutlery.—Decrease of Rs. 58,964, due to short importations from United Kingdom (Rs. 66,860), France (Rs. 6,727), and the United States (Rs. 6,141). Belgium showed an increase of Rs. 17,866.

Iron Bars.—Shortage of Rs. 25,613, due to less importations from United Kingdom (Rs. 29,183). Belgium showed an increase of Rs. 3,604.

Iron, Pig.—Shortage of Rs. 4,553 from the United Kingdom.

Iron, Sheets.—Shortage of Rs. 14,616 from the United Kingdom.

Iron, Wrought. — Increase of Rs. 51,382, chiefly from the United Kingdom.

Steel.—Increase of Rs. 7,589 from the United Kingdom.

Tin Plates.—Increase of Rs. 31,950 from the United Kingdom.

Tin Slabs.—Increase of Rs. 8,197, due chiefly to increases from the Straits Settlements (Rs. 9,832). From the United Kingdom there was a falling off of Rs. 3,407.

Machinery and Mill Work.—Shortage of Rs. 208,354 as compared with 1907, with the following percentage:—

In weight	22 per cent.
In value	55 per cent.

The decreases were chiefly from the United Kingdom (Rs. 185,174), France (Rs. 16,258), and Germany (Rs. 5,868).

Machinery for Agricultural Purposes (including locomotives, steam road engines, waggons, trucks, tramway materials, rails, and accessories, wire rope).

There was a falling off of Rs. 319,890, due to short importation chiefly from Germany (Rs. 190,045), Belgium (Rs. 91,196), and also from the United Kingdom (Rs. 35,161) and France (Rs. 12,374). The United States provided for Rs. 8,887 in 1908, against nil in 1907.

Malt Liquors, Spirits, and Wines.—Beer and Ale.—Decrease of Rs. 61,215, due to short importation from the United Kingdom.

Spirits, Brandy.—Decrease of Rs. 18,297, chiefly from France.

Whisky.—Decrease of Rs. 9,761 from the United Kingdom.

Wine, Champagne. — 3,076 litres more with a shortage of Rs. 7,683 in value, due to differences in market prices from France.

Wine, Claret, in casks.—Decrease of Rs. 124,406, due to less importations from France (Rs. 98,345), Algeria (Rs. 16,049), and Spain (Rs. 17,456).

Vermouth.—Decrease of Rs. 18,016, due to less importation from France.

Wine, White.—Decrease of Rs. 7,092 from France.

It is to be noticed that hard times produce a diminution in the importation of wine and spirits.

Timber and Woodenware.—The importations showed a falling off of Rs. 228,315, accountable as under:—

Boards and Planks.—Decrease of 2,181 cubic metres in bulk and of Rs. 135,108, due to less importations from Norway (Rs. 12,677) and Singapore (Rs. 122,143).

Shingles.—Decrease of Rs. 19,947, due to Continental India (Rs. 9,908), Singapore (Rs. 22,858). Trinidad provided for Rs. 12,847 in 1908, as against nil in 1907.

Timber.—Increase of 2,003 cubic metres in bulk and of Rs. 140,630 in value, due to more importation from United

Kingdom (Rs. 66,696), Australia (Rs. 29,657), Continental India (Rs. 27,792). Austria provided for Rs. 19,218 in 1907, against nil in 1908; whilst Sweden supplied for Rs. 44,211 in 1908, as against nil in 1907. Madagascar showed a decrease of Rs. 7,733.

Woodenware.—Decrease of Rs. 11,915, due to less importation from United Kingdom.

Woollen Manufactures.—Decrease of Rs. 48,923 in the importations, chiefly under heading "Mixed with Cotton or Silk," which showed a decrease of Rs. 45,857, due chiefly from United Kingdom (Rs. 24,273), France (Rs. 18,203), and Germany (Rs. 5,864).

General Remarks.

The Customs returns indicate clearly that the United Kingdom is being pressed hard by Belgium, Germany, and France in certain lines. But it would not be correct to assume too much from this symptom, for it is nothing more than a symptom of poverty. A poor community purchases cheap, showy articles in preference to the better but dearer goods. Moreover, some of the large French houses, such as the Louvre and the Bon Marché, have agents in Mauritius, whose business it is to push the sale of the articles retailed by those houses. German and Belgian travellers also visit Mauritius and make things easy for intending purchasers. But despite the competition of Germany and France, the prestige of the English manufacturer remains unshaken, and so long as English manufacturers continue to provide the best articles, it is likely to remain unshaken. But something more might be done if the large retail establishments were to arrange facilities through local firms for placing orders for such things as can be conveniently sent by parcel post. The arrangement for the transmission of postal parcels to be paid for on delivery has not been accepted by Mauritius and is not likely to be. But there are many articles which cannot be supplied by the local shops that would probably be ordered from the large London shops if they offered the same facilities for placing such orders as are furnished by the Parisian establishments. The price list, to be circulated locally, should be in the French language, and should show the prices in rupees. The local agents should receive the order, accept payment, and arrange to deliver the goods.

MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

The fisheries have been referred to in previous reports. It is, perhaps, possible that the channels inside the coral reefs might be planted with sponges or the pearl oyster, but the project does not hold out sufficient prospect of success to justify expenditure on experiments, at all events at the present time. Enquiries have been made by commercial firms as to the possibilities of a trade in vacoa bags. These bags, which are made from the leaves of the vacoa palm, are very strong and durable. They would probably prove to be the best coal sacks in the world, and as the manufacture of these bags is a home industry of the poorest classes it should be an advantage if it could be organised and developed by capital.

FORESTRY AND BOTANY.

The area of land under the care of the Forest Department amounts to 84,529 acres.

Exploitation of Forests.

Two of the forests of the island, Kanaka and La Pipe, were exploited in 1908. The net profit for Kanaka was Rs. 32,170 and for La Pipe Rs. 13,962. A small revenue was also derived from cuttings on the Pas Géométriques, a belt of inalienable land, 250 feet wide, round the sea coast held by the Government in perpetuity. The areas exploited were replanted with young trees. But forest exploitation must not be looked at only from the point of view of the commercial results attained by cutting and replanting. In the course of exploitation, noxious growths are removed, stagnant waters are drained, the breeding places of destructive insects, which live on dead and dying trees, are destroyed, and forests which might otherwise become foci of disease are rendered healthy. The traveller's palm, which is believed to be a breeding place for mosquitoes, is cut down whenever met with. It may be safely said, therefore, that provided forest exploitation is not pushed to an extent that could affect the water supply, it is both profitable and beneficial.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that though useful trees are planted out in the forests, special attention is being given to collecting and propagating the seeds of the old indigenous trees of the island. The public for the most part purchase the quick-growing eucalyptus casuarinas or conifers, which are commercially more profitable than the slow-growing indigenous trees. It is therefore all the more incumbent on the Forest Department to cultivate and preserve those beautiful, though slow-growing, old trees which might otherwise become practically extinct.

Unfortunately an enforced economy necessitated by want of funds caused the loss of 150,000 young pines at Curepipe Gardens. These trees, which had been intended for planting on new areas, have now become too old for transplanting, but, nevertheless, 190,698 forest plants were sent out during the year from Curepipe Nursery Gardens to the Government plantations, and 35,045 plants were sold to the public.

Experiments have been made with rubber, but a definite judgment cannot yet be formed. So far as can be seen it would appear that the standard trees—the Para, Ceara, and other species—are severely damaged by the cyclones, and are prejudicially affected by the strength of the trade winds; but the rubber creepers do not appear to suffer from wind, and there may be an opening for the cultivation of creepers.

The various public gardens at Pamplemousses and Curepipe have been described in previous reports, and, indeed, they need very little description, for the gardens at Pamplemousses may be said to have earned historic celebrity, but it may be mentioned that useful work has been done by the introduction, propagation, and sale of new varieties of sugar cane. The excellent fruit tree, the letchee, has been propagated and planted out.

Experiments have been made with cocoa plants, and the ylang-ylang, a scent tree which has proved profitable at Réunion, has been introduced and planted out. Sisal plants were also propagated and sold.

On the whole it may be said that with very limited resources the Forest Department has done, and is doing, good work, though forest thefts are, unfortunately, too common. The forests have been preserved, and the botanical and nursery work so necessary to an agricultural Colony is being carried on in the interests of the agricultural community. In the nature of things experiments cannot always be successful, and it must be remembered that even failures have their useful side, for the experience thus gained acts as a warning to planters who might otherwise embark on unprofitable enterprises.

In forestry and agriculture there are many enemies to contend with; forest thefts and prædial larceny are common, but the worst enemies of the forester are monkeys and bats, which destroy the seeds of the best trees. Next to them come insect pests, which are the enemies of all sorts of agriculture, for there is probably no economical plant which has not insect enemies. But the systematic study which is given to this subject by the Forest Department and at the Station Agronomique is furnishing the foresters and planters with information to enable them to cope successfully with these natural difficulties.

The Horticultural Society, which receives a small subsidy from the Government, is doing useful work, and the two exhibitions which they have held during 1908 prove that the spirit of emulation and competition has been encouraged amongst all classes of cultivators.

CROWN LANDS.

The Crown land sales have been unimportant. In Mauritius two small plots have been sold, and at Rodigues eight agreements have been concluded, and the sales completed or partly paid for. The revenue derived from the leases under the planting conditions of Ordinance 19 of 1895, of the Pas Géométriques, which form a narrow strip of land round the coast, and cannot be alienated, amounted to Rs. 8,613.

SHIPPING.

The tendency of the shipping trade is in the direction of fewer, but larger, vessels. There is, however, an exception to this rule. The size of the Messageries Maritimes steamers is limited by the difficulties of entering the harbour of Pointe des Galets at Réunion. This harbour has a narrow entrance between two breakwaters, and vessels have to turn at right angles in a narrow channel. It is hardly possible, therefore, for the Messageries Maritimes Company to greatly increase the size of steamers trading to Mauritius.

But the increased size of steamers renders quick despatch more than ever necessary, for the cost of detention of a large steamer is greater than that of a small steamer. The harbour at Port Louis has been dredged, and steamers can now come in much closer than formerly, but much remains to be done to facilitate entry and discharge of steamers. New moorings will be laid down as soon as funds are available; and the provision of increased quay space and shed accommodation has only been delayed through want of funds.

It would, of course, be an advantage if piers could be built to take large ships alongside, but the cost of the scheme which has been prepared is prohibitive, and is likely to remain so for years to come. For the present, at all events, the Colony must limit its efforts to the gradual improvement of existing facilities, and postpone more ambitious projects to the advent of a more prosperous future.

The shipping for the five years 1904-1908, can be thus summarized:—

(a.) *Exclusive of Coasting Trade* (i.e., *Dependencies*).

—	1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared.	425	801,154	372	731,470	433	805,924	399	731,853	363	753,591
2. British vessels	290	572,440	245	490,378	270	522,101	248	501,491	232	503,618
3. Foreign vessels	135	228.714	127	241,092	163	283,823	151	230,362	131	249,973
4. Sailing vessels	96	66,449	73	50,471	89	59,822	39	20,682	32	17,768
5. Steam vessels	329	734,705	299	680,999	344	746,102	360	711,171	331	735,823

(b.) *Coasting Trade* (i.e., *Trade with the Dependencies*)

—	1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared.	60	12,845	55	9,263	51	9,636	48	11,624	47	15,458
2. British vessels ...	60	12,845	55	9,263	51	9,636	42	9,326	43	13,926
3. Foreign vessels ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2,298	4	1,532
4. Sailing vessels ...	56	12,065	55	9,263	51	9,636	40	7,576	35	5,342
5. Steam vessels ...	4	780	—	—	—	—	8	4,048	12	10,116

The number and tonnage of steam vessels which entered and cleared from and to all countries viâ the Suez Canal, and the value of goods (including bullion and specie) imported into and exported by that Canal into and from Mauritius are shown in the following table:—

Suez Canal.

Year.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared.		Value of Goods (including Bullion and Specie).	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Imports.	Exports.
					Rs.	Rs.
1904	32	71,428	20	42,717	3,149,920	234,010
1905	35	84,975	28	68,734	2,437,479	893,257
1906	37	89,109	27	61,980	2,554,574	1,358,512
1907	33	80,843	28	64,087	2,202,682	273,372
1908	36	88,091	28	63,670	2,092,982	477,747

The first table is a return of all vessels entered and cleared excluding the coasting trade, *i.e.*, vessels trading with the Dependencies, which are exclusively dealt with in the second table.

In table 1 the total number of vessels entered and cleared during 1908 show a decrease of 36 in number, but an increase of 21,738 in tonnage as compared with the figures for 1907.

Compared with 1907 the following differences were noted:—

Sailing vessels.—Decrease of 7 in number, and also of 2,914 in tonnage.

Steam vessels.—Decrease of 29 in number, but increase of 24,652 in tonnage.

British vessels.—Decrease of 16 in number, but increase of 2,127 in tonnage.

Foreign vessels.—Decrease of 20 in number, but increase of 19,611 in tonnage.

Of the 363 vessels which entered and cleared during 1908, two British vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 3,204 tons, entered this port for the purpose of coaling, showing a decrease of 5,965 tons as compared with 1907.

Coasting Trade—Dependencies.

The number of vessels entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies during 1908 were 47 in number, with a tonnage of 15,458, against 48 in number, with a tonnage of 11,624, during 1907, showing a decrease of one in number, but an increase of 3,834 in tonnage.

Twelve steamers, with tonnage of 10,116, entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies in 1908 as against 8, with a tonnage of 4,048, in 1907, showing an increase of 4 in number and of 6,068 in tonnage.

Thirty-five sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 5,342, for 1908 entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies against 40 vessels of a tonnage of 7,576 for 1907, showing a decrease of 5 in number, and of 2,234 in tonnage.

Four foreign vessels, with a tonnage of 1,532, entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies in 1908 against 6 vessels, with a tonnage of 2,298, in 1907, showing a decrease of 2 in number and of 766 in tonnage.

Suez Canal.

The value of goods imported through the Suez Canal in 1908 amounted to Rs. 2,092,982 against Rs. 2,202,682 in 1907, showing a decrease of Rs. 109,700.

Goods exported from Mauritius through the Canal in 1908 amounted to Rs. 477,747 against Rs. 273,372 in 1907, showing an increase of Rs. 204,375.

Vessels with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered with cargoes during 1908 amounted to 347,455, and the tonnage cleared to 295,964, as against 351,375 entered, and 279,067 cleared, for 1907. The aggregate tonnage of the coasting trade amounted to 7,667 entered and 7,791 cleared in 1908, against 5,669 entered and 5,955 cleared in 1907.

Vessels touching at this Port.

No vessels touched at this port without entering the harbour during the year 1908.

Transports and Men-of-War.

The following transports and men-of-war visited this port during the year 1908:—

	Registered tonnage.
British—	
The "Mercedes"	2,965
"Pelorus"	2,135
"Hermione"	4,360
French—	
"Surprise"	200

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities:—

Entered.

Nationality.	1907.		1908.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	112	247,559	110	251,954	— 2	+ 4,395
Sailing	35	12,321	26	6,283	— 9	— 6,038
French—						
Steamers	40	96,021	42	99,663	+ 2	+ 3,642
Sailing	2	131	5	3,400	+ 3	+ 3,269
Norwegian						
Steamers	30	13,669	14	10,920	—16	— 2,749
Sailing	2	762	2	1,771	—	+ 1,009
German—						
Steamers	4	5,051	3	7,763	— 1	+ 2,712
Swedish—						
Steamer	—	—	1	2,044	+ 1	+ 2,044

Cleared.

Nationality.	1907.		1908.		Difference. + Increase. — Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	108	238,178	112	252,822	+ 4	+14,644
Sailing	35	12,759	27	6,485	— 8	— 6,274
French—						
Steamers	40	96,021	42	99,663	+ 2	+ 3,642
Sailing	1	75	4	2,766	+ 3	+ 2,691
Norwegian—						
Steamers	30	13,669	14	10,290	—16	— 3,379
Sailing	4	2,210	3	2,405	— 1	+ 195
German—						
Steamers	4	5,051	3	7,763	— 1	+ 2,712
Swedish—						
Steamer	—	—	1	2,044	+ 1	+ 2,044

III.—LEGISLATION.

The law in Mauritius is based on the French Civil and Penal Codes (Code Napoléon), and although both have been considerably amended by statutes, the fundamental principles remain untouched, and are part of the social life of the people; but the increase of the Indian population, and the growing importance of the Mahomedan community, tend to bring forward questions as to marriage and succession which may call for consideration before long. It is naturally difficult to reconcile the ideas of family relationships and of civic duties based on social systems so opposed as those of Napoleonic France and Mahomedan India, but the experience of India will probably furnish material for a solution should the question become one calling for legislative interference.

During the Session 1908-9, 28 Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor.

The following enactments call for special mention:—

1. Ordinance No. 11 adapts the provisions of Section 92 of 24 and 25 Victoria, c. 96, to the Colony, and provides for the joinder of alternative counts charging the same person for larceny (with or without aggravating circumstances), and for being found in possession of, or for having unlawfully received, the proceeds of such larceny.

2. Ordinance No. 12 regulates in District Courts:—

(1) The order of imprisonment in lieu of fine and of costs in certain cases;

(2) The procedure when sentences of imprisonment and of fine are passed on the same day in several cases on the same person;

(3) The passing of concurrent or of consecutive sentences when a person convicted is already undergoing imprisonment under a prior sentence;

(4) The recovery of "poundage" expenses.

It also gives power to convict for attempt on an information charging the complete offence, and makes embezzlement interchangeable with larceny.

3. Ordinance No. 13 brings certain modifications in the Labour Ordinance, No. 12, of 1878, the most important of which is the substitution for what is known as the "double cut" (viz., the forfeiture to the employer of two days' wages for each day of illegal absence) of a system by which, in the case of one or more illegal absences during the working days of any week, the indentured servant forfeits his wages for the Sunday following (Article 6), and is treated as an habitual idler and punished accordingly if the total number of illegal absences during any one month exceeds nine working days (Article 7).

The other modifications lie in the extension of the protective powers of the Protector of Immigrants (Articles 1, 2, 4, and 11); in the remodelling of penalties for breaches of contract by servants (Articles 2, 7, and 8); while a new provision (Article 9) was inserted to permit of a corresponding prolongation of contract of indentured servants sentenced to undergo imprisonment during the period of their engagement.

The Ordinance is to come into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation (Article 13).

4. Ordinance No. 14 consolidates and revises the Customs duties mainly in accordance with the recommendations of a Special Committee of the Council appointed in 1905 to report on the revision of the Customs tariff.

5. Ordinance No. 16 "modernizes" the old law (proclamation of 30th March, 1825), relating to the constitution and powers of Roman Catholic Parochial Councils (Fabriques).

6. Ordinance No. 19 regulates the duration and conditions of leases of Pas Géométriques for cocoanut plantations.

IV.—EDUCATION.

In the report for 1907 an account was given of the working of the religious compromise in Mauritius, and it is not necessary to repeat the terms of that compromise. It will be sufficient to say that the education law contains two clauses which may be described as toleration clauses, and which work out as follows:—

The Government schools contained:—

Roman Catholics	5,191
Anglicans	228
Other Christian denominations	101
Mahomedans	905
Hindoos	2,090

The Roman Catholic schools contained:—

Roman Catholics	6,400
Anglicans	21
Other Christian denominations	39
Mahomedans	447
Hindoos	1,123

The Church of England schools contained:—

Roman Catholics	503
Anglicans	231
Other Christian denominations	7
Mahomedans	361
Hindoos	1,092

The Presbyterian schools contained:—

Roman Catholics	31
Anglicans	3
Other Christian denominations	67
Mahomedans	23
Hindoos	12

The Mahomedan school contained:—

Roman Catholics	11
Anglicans	7
Mahomedans	86
Hindoos	38

There were 67 Government schools, 66 Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 1 Mahomedan school with an annual average of 18,585 pupils on the roll, and an average attendance of 12,021. The general tendency is towards increased attendance at the Grant-in-Aid schools.

Lectures on hygiene were given to 225 teachers, who will, when qualified, teach hygiene to the school children.

The above figures may be taken as a certificate to the general fairness of the Educational Law, and complaints are limited to the increasing expenditure due to the increased grants that are being earned by the Grant-in-Aid schools under the law. This increase is automatic, and is due to greater efficiency in the teaching. The qualifying standards have, however, been slightly "stiffened," and it is probable that this measure will tend to economy without any diminution in efficiency; for even the present standards are slightly below those reached by English or French boys of the same age.

The schools are not attended by Indian children in the same proportion as Creoles; there were probably between 50,000 and

60,000 Indian children of school age in the Colony during 1908, but of these only about 7,000 attended school.

Recent legislation in regard to Indian labour has, however, raised the age at which a minor may enter into a written contract from 10 to 13 years, and the result will probably be to send more Indian children to school.

The language is not a difficulty, for under the Code any language may be employed as medium in the three lowest standards. In the three higher standards, English is the sole medium.

Secondary education is provided by the Royal College, the two college schools, and 40 associated schools.

There are the usual two sides of the College—the Classical and the Modern.

On the Classical side English, French, Latin, Greek, mathematics, history, and geography are taught. Drawing is an optional subject.

On the Modern side English, French, mathematics, elementary and higher chemistry and physics are taught. Drawing, as on the Classical side, is an optional subject. Shorthand, Hindustani, agricultural chemistry, and agricultural science are also taught.

There are three religious teachers—two Roman Catholics and one Church of England, who give about 4½ hours' instruction a week to the boys of their denominations.

There are 383 boys at the College; of these 115 are non-paying pupils. The cost to the Government works out at about Rs. 284 per head all round. There are two laureateships, or scholarships, given annually, worth £1,150 each, to enable the winners to proceed to England to study for some profession.

Technical or industrial education is encouraged by scholarships in mechanical engineering, civil engineering, horticulture, and also needle-work for girls. Forty-five girls competed in 1908 for the four needle-work scholarships.

Visitors to Mauritius are often surprised to find themselves in a French society where only a portion of the men speak English and very few of the women. This is changing in the younger generation. Nearly all the youth and young men speak English as well as French, and their sisters are learning English. The prizes given in the examination in the higher education of girls are encouraging this movement, and it is probable that the barrier of language, which has hitherto been such a hindrance to the social intercourse of English and French, will before long be removed.

Looking to the numbers of schools and the standards obtained, it may fairly be said that the Government gets full value for the money spent on education. Whether the parents of the pupils should not contribute more than they do is another and very difficult question. The poorer classes certainly cannot contribute anything; and in a Colony where equality, though possibly never attained, is regarded as a sacred ideal, as sacred indeed as fraternity, it would be invidious to establish class schools to which admittance could only be gained by high school fees.

As matters stand, the son of a coloured artisan may sit on the same bench at the Royal College as the son of the richest planter, and no one reproaches the poorer boy because he is a non-paying pupil. For though the planter's son pays Rs. 12 a month both are, in fact, being educated at the expense of the State; but this feeling of equality would not stand in the way of residential fees if it were found possible to establish masters' houses for the benefit of boys whose parents live in the more distant parts of the island. Anything that would introduce the social life of an English public school could not fail to be a benefit to the cause of education, and to the social, physical, and moral training of the boys.

V.—MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

Poverty is increasing in Mauritius. There has been a steady increase for years past, but the financial crisis through which the island has passed has produced an unusually large increase in poverty and crime. There is another notable feature. Hitherto pauperism has been mainly limited to the Creole population, whose thriftless habits have rendered them without resource at times of unemployment. But during 1908 there was a marked increase of pauperism in the Indian population.

The following table, giving the proportion relieved per thousand of each section of the population, is instructive:—

Year.	General population.	Indian population.
1899	26·4	4·4
1900	24·6	4·1
1901	28·4	4·6
1902	25·7	4·5
1903	26·4	5·7
1904	29·6	5·1
1905	28·3	6·2
1906	24·6	5·9
1907	26·2	6·2
1908	35·2	8·9

The caste feelings of the Indians are so strong that they are reluctant to go to hospital when ill, and they are, as a body, so frugal and thrifty that nothing but genuine and poignant distress can reduce them to the condition of paupers. This is proved by the death-rate—for the death-rate in 1907 amongst the Indian population was 34·6 per mille, and in 1908 the death-rate amongst the Indian population rose to 41·7 per mille.

These figures, taken in connection with the figures given for poor law relief, indicate clearly enough the social and economic conditions produced by financial stringency.

Should these figures increase the Government will be in presence of serious social and economic problems, for not the least of the evils of poor law relief is the tendency to sap the self-reliance of the recipients. Hitherto the Indians, exclusive of the professional beggars—a quasi religious profession—have always been self-reliant and self-helpful.

The total number of paupers of every description maintained and relieved by the Poor Law Department throughout the Colony in 1908 amounted to 88,995 against 70,066 in 1907, a very alarming increase in figures that were sufficiently serious.

For it must be remembered that apart from the official Poor Law Department there are numerous private and religious charities working in the island. Amongst these may be mentioned the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Society de St. Marthe, the Société de Bienfaisance, the Sisterhood of Bon Secours, besides numerous minor societies organised by charitable ladies. The Mahommedan community distribute food to the poor of all religions at the Mosque every Friday. Private donations are also common, and, indeed, there is probably no country in the world where public and private charity is proportionally so profuse as in Mauritius. Unfortunately, it is needed. Unfortunately, too, it is most needed when public and private finances are least able to meet the calls on them. But the conclusion is inevitable; with so much poverty and unemployment the island must be overpopulated.

In 1908 there was a further and a marked increase in the number of patients admitted into the hospitals and asylums of the Colony, as compared with the two preceding years. The admissions rose to 27,751 in 1908, against 23,335 and 20,371 in 1907 and 1906, respectively, but contrary to what obtained in 1907, the case mortality rose to 5·79 per cent., being ·45 per cent. higher than that of the previous year. Concurrently, the number of cases treated in the dispensaries increased to 66,077, against 55,635 in 1907.

Judging therefore from the standard of comparison adopted in previous reports, it may be said that the sanitary condition of the Colony during 1908 was inferior to what it had been the year previous, as shown by the higher general and hospital death-rates, lowered birth-rate, and larger number of attendances both at the hospitals and at the dispensaries. The increased calls for free medical assistance were mainly due, however, to the financial difficulties through which the Colony has passed.

Malaria.—As already alluded to the Colony has suffered from a rather severe and widespread visitation of this disease during the year under reference. For the first time for many years the number of admissions in the hospitals did not show the usual alternance previously noted, as shown in the following tabular statement:—

Years.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Admissions	4,152	2,818	4,182	3,360	4,788	3,039	5,123	3,674	4,272	5,071

The admissions (5,071) were the largest recorded during the past ten years with one exception, and nearly equalled those of 1905 which reached 5,123. This is no doubt to be explained by the heavy rains of the earlier and hotter months of the year, the higher average temperature and higher degree of humidity, but much of this unfortunate state of things was probably also brought about by the financial stringency which was such a marked feature in the history of the island. A further argument in support of this view is to be found in the increased number of cases of splenic enlargement due, apparently, entirely to chronic malaria that claimed admission. These cases were probably due to old-standing infection, and would under other circumstances not have come to hospital at all.

Every effort was made that could be made with the means at the disposal of the Medical Department to cope with the exigencies of the situation that was thus created.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa.—The following table shows an alarming increase in deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa:—

Year.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.
1899	281	690
1900	244	685
1901	356	898
1902	294	709
1903	270	769
1904	198	548
1905	330	987
1906	220	771
1907	230	899
1908	310	1,316

The increase in the occurrence of dysentery is attributable to the same causes, though in a different manner, as were active in the causation of malaria. The actual type of the disease has not yet been definitely established, but there are indications that many of the cases are of amœbic origin. Although in isolated outbreaks infection may possibly have taken place through the instrumentality of flies or dust, there seems to be good ground for regarding the contamination of rivers and streams, which serve very generally as sources of water supply, with excremental matters as the principal channel of infection.

Enteric Fever.—A further increase is observable in the number of cases of this disease notified under the Infectious Disease Ordinance of 1898, 229 cases having been registered against 145 in the previous year. If it is stated that the figure for 1907 showed an increase of 80 per cent over that of 1906 it would appear at first sight that typhoid fever is rapidly spreading in the Colony. As explained, however, in last year's report, this rise in the incidence of the disease is more apparent than real, and is probably to be accounted for by greater accuracy of diagnosis, principally through the assistance furnished by the Bacteriological Laboratory. In this connection it may be pointed out that in spite of the much larger number of cases notified the deaths from typhoid have only exceeded by nine those recorded in 1907. Moreover, the general death-rate from that cause, which was 25·5 per cent in the latter year, fell to 15·7 per cent in 1908, a fact which tends to show that owing to greater facilities of diagnosis many milder cases were notified which would otherwise have escaped registration. For purposes of comparison with previous reports the following table is inserted, showing the distribution of the cases in each month and in each district:—

Month.	Districts.									Total.
	Port Louis.	Pamplemousses.	Rivière du Rempart.	Flacq.	Grand Port.	Savanne.	Plaines Wilhems.	Black River.	Moka.	
January ...	1	—	3	—	—	1	7	—	3	15
February	1	—	2	—	—	—	7	—	1	11
March ...	2	—	3	—	1	—	8	—	6	20
April ...	1	—	3	—	1	—	5	—	4	14
May ...	1	1	2	1	—	4	4	—	2	15
June ...	2	—	4	1	1	2	4	—	3	17
July ...	2	—	6	—	2	2	5	—	4	21
August ...	4	—	3	1	—	1	3	—	7	19
September	1	—	2	—	4	1	10	—	9	27
October ...	9	—	7	2	1	4	4	—	4	31
November	5	—	1	2	2	1	7	—	2	20
December	—	—	5	4	2	3	3	—	2	19
Total ...	29	1	41	11	14	19	67	—	47	229

The districts most affected were Plaines Wilhems, Moka, Riviere du Rempart and Port Louis, the first heading the list as usual. On the whole, the cases were pretty evenly distributed throughout the year, with a tendency perhaps to be slightly more numerous during the second half. The disease appeared in the form of scattered cases or small groups of cases, the original source of infection remaining usually obscure or undiscoverable. The impression which is derived from a study of these occurrences is that the infection was principally kept up and disseminated through the agency of bacilli carriers.

In connection with this subject it may be as well to mention that it is not unfrequent to meet with cases of more or less continued fever refractory to quinine with no malarial parasites in the blood, and in which Widal's re-action is negative. These cases, which appear to be neither malarial nor typhoid in their nature, seem to point to the existence in the island of a febrile affection or affections, possibly similar to the unclassified fevers of India, regarding which it is hoped more accurate knowledge will be acquired with the assistance of the Bacteriological Laboratory.

Diphtheria.—The cases of diphtheria notified during the year rose to 114, against 60 in 1907. Although as in the case of enteric fever this increase is no doubt partly due to greater accuracy of diagnosis, yet the higher fatality of the disease (14 deaths were ascribed to that cause) is probably an index of actual enhanced prevalence. The districts most affected were Plaines Wilhems, Moka, and Port Louis. Anti-diphtheritic serum from the Lister Institute was supplied by Government to all who applied for it, no charge being made in the case of persons unable to pay. A certain quantity is always kept in readiness at the Bacteriological Laboratory to permit of the early application of the treatment whenever necessary after examination of the preparations.

Measles.—The epidemic of measles which took place in 1907 continued during the year under review. The outbreak was at its height in January, when 168 cases were registered, but rapidly abated until by the end of the year it practically disappeared. The total number of cases notified was 476, with 27 deaths, or a mortality of 5·6 per cent. The districts most affected were those of Plaines Wilhems, Savanne, and Grand Port.

Plague.—The number of cases recorded during the year was 167, showing a reduction of 57 upon that for the preceding year. The annual epidemic recurrence was slow in asserting itself, and it was not until September that the disease can be said to have become prevalent. As a consequence, the epidemic only reached its maximum in November instead of October as is usually the case. In spite of a somewhat virulent recrudescence at Port Louis, it is satisfactory to note that the tendency to decline, manifested by plague since 1906, has been maintained, the epidemic of 1908 being the smallest registered since 1899. Moreover, with the exception of two small outbreaks at Souillac and at the Mount and Mon Gout (Pamplemousses) the disease has been entirely confined to the districts of Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems, which may be regarded as possibly the only two indigenous foci in the island. In view of the number of cases (six) detected in the latter district, the hope may not unreasonably be entertained that it may before long be rid of the scourge.

The campaign was conducted on the same general lines as before, special prominence being given to the destruction of rats and disinfection of contaminated and insanitary premises. The total amount spent on plague measures generally was Rs. 119,541.52.

The number of rats destroyed by the Health Department was 81,958 at Port Louis, and 90,546 in the rural districts, giving a total of 172,504, against 125,558 in 1907. Of these, 11,518 were microscopically examined, and 234 were found plague-infected.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.—Twenty cases of this affection were reported during the year. Although it had not previously been unknown in the Colony, where it was probably introduced from India, it is the first time it has ever assumed anything like epidemic form. It has accordingly been added to the diseases notification of which is compulsory. Cases were observed in the prisons at Port Louis, Plaines Wilhems, and Savanne, in private practice in the same districts, and at Rivière du Rempart. It manifested no marked tendency to spread, but in such cases as were discovered it showed the same high degree of fatality as is usually associated with the disease in other countries, 16 out of 20 cases ending in death, or a mortality of 80 per cent. The cases were more numerous during the first half of the year.

Influenza.—This disease, which for some years past has assumed an epidemic prevalence annually, made its appearance in the colder months of 1908, but, as already stated and for reasons little known, though probably connected with climatic conditions, has not prevailed with the same intensity as before.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia.—Contrary to what might have been expected from the foregoing paragraph, bronchitis and pneumonia have been more prevalent in 1908 than the year before. This is probably to be accounted for by the fact that in many cases these affections may have been late complications of an attack of measles.

Beri-beri. — This disease showed no tendency to recur in epidemic form. In addition to the cases admitted in the public hospitals a few scattered cases were reported by private medical practitioners. These cases were too few and disseminated to permit of definite conclusions being drawn as to their probable cause.

Nephritis.—This affection, whatever may be its ætiology, is steadily on the increase in the island. It is to be hoped that clinicians and bacteriologists will unite in their endeavours to trace it to its, as yet obscure, causes.

Scarlet Fever.—Two cases of this affection were notified, one at Port Louis and the other at Moka. They were both of a mild type. Doubts are still being entertained as to the identity of the disease, as observed here, with true scarlet fever.

Erysipelas.—This disease assumed some epidemic prevalence during the year, 73 cases being notified, with 16 deaths.

Leprosy.—It appears that little change has taken place in the number of lepers maintained at the St. Lazare Asylum at the expense of Government. This, as previously mentioned, is no criterion of the progress of the disease in the island, as segregation in the asylum is not compulsory, but when taken in conjunction with the fact that the year 1908 has been financially a difficult one for a large proportion of the population, it seems at any rate to indicate that the affection is not on the increase. But whatever efforts may be made by the Medical Department, they cannot fight successfully against poverty, with its attendant evils of overcrowding, insufficient nourishment, inadequate clothing, and insanitary conditions. Debilitated constitutions are ready-made recipients of diseases, and lack the stamina which in the more vigorous constitutions is the doctor's best ally.

Surra.—Occasional cases of this epizootic among equines and bovines were reported during the year, but it has on the whole been less prevalent than in 1907.

The disease is being carefully studied at the Bacteriological Institution.

HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND DISPENSARIES.

In spite of the financial embarrassments of the Colony the hospitals and asylums already in existence all continued to be maintained by Government. As already stated, those affording free medical assistance to the sick poor were all taken advantage of by the population, the total number of admissions rising from 23,355 in 1907 to 27,751 in 1908, and many hospitals were unduly full for a longer or shorter period during the unhealthier portion of the year.

The following tabular statement furnishes the usual statistical information with regard to these institutions, including the five hospitals attached to the different jails of the Colony:—

Institutions.	Remaining at end of 1907.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Total cases treated.	Remaining at end of 1908.
Civil Hospital ...	180	7,174	539	7,354	179
Port Louis Prison...	22	1,454	11	1,476	14
Long Mountain ...	22	909	68	931	14
Poudre d'Or ...	32	1,909	83	1,941	24
Flacq	40	2,407	136	2,447	32
Mahébourg ...	1	86	5	87	4
Mahébourg ...	39	3,740	200	3,779	42
Souillac	21	1,389	87	1,410	29
Souillac Prisons ...	4	191	7	195	1
Barkly Asylum ...	176	4,832	338	5,008	147
Lunatic Asylum ...	14	489	32	503	19
Beau Bassin Prisons	29	1,605	68	1,634	19
Reformatory ...	4	218	5	222	2
Moka	24	1,348	62	1,372	25
Total ...	608	27,751	1,641	28,359	551

The dispensaries afforded relief to 66,077 patients, against 55,635 in 1907. With a view to relieve distress and prevent overcrowding of the hospitals at a time when sickness was at its height, the Dispensary Medical Officers were authorised by the Government to issue beef, bread, and other necessaries of life to the sick applying at their dispensaries—for in many cases insufficient nourishment was a main promoting cause of disease.

The dispensaries, 28 in number the year before, were increased by one by the opening of a temporary dispensary in the cemetery office buildings at Black River.

ANTI-MALARIAL MEASURES.

The following major works were carried out during the year:—

(*a.*) The drainage works at Clairfond, Phœnix, were completed.

(*b.*) A large extent of wooded and swampy ground at Mon Plaisir was reclaimed and dried by the construction of 950 feet of drains, which were connected with those already constructed, thus terminating the important works undertaken in that area.

(*c.*) Pamplemousses River, along a portion of its course through the village of the same name, was canalised and its banks rough trained. In June, 1908 the Council of Government voted Rs. 5,500 for certain anti-malarial works to be undertaken during the financial year 1908-9, part of which sum was spent on the works mentioned at (*b*) and (*c*).

By prison labour and with the funds voted for minor sanitary works the rivers of Curepipe, Vacoas Phœnix, Rose Hill Centre of Flacq, and the streams in the extra urban portion of Port Louis were cleansed and in part canalised. A large area of waste lands in the town of Port Louis itself, the owners of which could not be discovered, were cleaned of bush and excavations in them filled up or drained. With the consent and under the supervision of the Woods and Forests Department the banks of the watercourses were cleared of excess of vegetation and levelled.

Important drainage works were commenced at La Louise, Quatre Bornes, by cutting trenches for the drainage of extensive marshes in the neighbourhood of that town.

Professor Ross's visit to this Colony came to an end on February 25th, 1908, but the mosquito-brigade work, which had been initiated by him, was continued under the supervision of Mr. D'Emmerez de Charmoy, with 10 "moustiquiers" and a number of labourers. Much good work was done by these gangs in looking for and destroying mosquito-breeding places, but owing to their small number as compared with the extent of ground to be covered, their action, which has been confined to some of the more populous areas, could exercise but little influence over the general incidence of the disease. They will, however, prove very useful as a trained nucleus for a more comprehensive organisation when Professor Ross's recommendations are carried into effect.

Every effort was made to maintain the drainage canals at Clairfond in the highest state of efficiency, and although anopheles mosquitoes are still to be found in small numbers in the locality, there was no indication at the close of the year of any return of the epidemic which had prevailed with such intensity during the previous malarial season.

Quinine was distributed free from 35 depôts established in the more malarious localities and from the public dispensaries. Arrangements were also made to permit of Government servants receiving salary at the rate of Rs. 720 and under being supplied with the drug free of charge from the hospitals and dispensaries.

Professor Ross's report having been received, copies were presented to the members of the Council of Government, the municipal bodies and persons likely to take an active interest in the subject, and steps were taken to carry out such of the malarial expert's recommendations as were within the means at the disposal of the Medical Department. Two moustiquiers were especially told off for work in Port Louis District, and the number of malaria gangs, suggested by Professor Ross, for the extra urban portion of the district, of which the Department has sanitary charge, were organised with the labourers already employed by the sanitary branch. Rs. 400 having been allowed by the Government for the purchase of spleen-census registers, preparations were being made at the close of the year, with the assistance of the Immigration and Education Departments, for:—

(1.) The periodical examination and quinine treatment of children in schools and on estates.

(2.) The continuous treatment of fever patients on the latter.

(3.) A house-to-house spleen census at Port Louis, and a distribution of quinine to the inmates.

The Municipality of Port Louis started the anti-malaria works in 1907-8, and in 1908 raised a loan of £4,000 to that effect.

Streams were canalised over an area of 8,392 square metres, and canalised and paved over an area of 1,792 square metres.

2,000 square metres of land were drained; gutters were rebuilt over an area of 12,074 square metres, and joints of gutters cemented over an area of 4,000 square metres.

Three retaining walls were built and existing ones repaired; several drains and two open drains constructed; twelve streams were cleaned; the drains and discharge canals were cleaned and sprinkled with petroleum; 1,915 openings and covered drains were cleaned and sprinkled with petroleum. It is evident, therefore, that so far as limited resources permit both the Medical Department and the Municipality of Port Louis are doing their best to give effect to the recommendations of Professor Ross.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total authorised strength of the police force on 31st December, 1908, was 724; the actual strength was 722, less men on leave, sick, or in hospital.

The force was composed of 22 Europeans, 2 Cape of Good Hope men, 1 New Zealander, 1 native of Trinidad, 3 natives of Réunion, 1 native of Rodrigues, 554 Creoles of Mauritius, and 138 Indians.

Complaints have been numerous as to the inefficiency of the police; but these complaints are not peculiar to Mauritius; even in countries which admittedly possess the best police in the world complaints appear in the newspapers under the heading "Where are the Police?"

It must, however, be admitted that larcenies, especially prædial larcenies, are greatly on the increase. The following table, furnished by the Inspector-General of Police, which is reproduced literatim, speaks for itself:—

Separate Statement of Prædial Larcenies committed in the Island of Mauritius during the year 1908 *as compared with the five previous years.*

By "Prædial Larceny" is meant the Offences prevalent in Sugar-growing and Coolie-Importing Colonies of robbing provision grounds and homesteads. (Thefts of Fowls, Goats or other Animals excepted).

Year.	Number of Prædial Larcenies declared or reported to the Police.	Number of persons charged.	Number of persons convicted.	Number of persons otherwise disposed of.	Pending.	Amount of property stated to have been stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Percentage of convictions on number of persons charged.	Percentage of property recovered on property lost.	Remarks.
						Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
1908	1,392	1,252	1,082	148	22	1,034.97	500.74	89·66	48·38	The increase of 750 cases of Prædial Larceny in 1908 as compared with 1907 is attributable to no other cause than that of the increasing poverty of the mass of the people through want of employment.
1907	642	513	448	49	16	694.52	287.65	87·32	44·28	
1906	380	286	253	27	6	449.33	195.92	88·46	43·60	
1905	345	230	194	26	10	303.19	130.10	84·34	42·91	
1904	271	158	132	22	4	275.23	125.49	83·54	45·59	
1903	314	244	213	30	1	166.55	65.51	87·29	39·33	

The economic effect of prædial larceny is disastrous; small cultivators give up the cultivation of market gardens in despair, and whilst the increase of prædial larceny is undoubtedly due to poverty, the effect is to discourage industry and to increase poverty and pauperism.

The question is surrounded with difficulties, but these difficulties are not insuperable, and they are receiving the careful consideration of the Government, who have before them the report of a representative Committee of the Council of Government which was specially appointed to consider the subject.

The following table, showing the cases of crime in which persons were charged, shows the work done by the police:—

Offences.	No. of cases.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted or committed to Assizes.	No. of persons otherwise disposed of.	Pending.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	
							By all Agencies.	By Police only.
						Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Murder including parricide, infanticide, wife murder, and poisoning causing death.	14	26	9	2	15			
Attempt at foregoing and attempt at poisoning not causing death.	6	6	3	1	2			
Manslaughter including wounds and blows causing death.	7	13	11	1	1			
Rape including attempt upon chastity.	9	10	8	—	2			
Larceny at night by breaking or with violence to the person.	173	288	223	41	24	14,022.71	5,697.68	5,385.26
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	73	90	61	16	13	—	1,654.18	1,637.58
Larceny (Prædial)	961	1,252	1,082	148	22	467.29	332.84	175.26
Other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement, and swindling.	1,848	2,149	1,745	288	116	22,546.20	10,835.07	5,458.68
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	343	397	277	92	28	—	2,341.79	1,800.80
Arson and other malicious injuries to property.	30	36	31	2	3			
All other offences not included in above.	683	920	697	176	47			
Total	4,147	5,187	4,147	767	273	37,036.20	20,861.56	14,457.58

During the year 1908 the total number of prisoners admitted to the prisons was 7,628 males and 299 females. These numbers show an increase of 1,175 males and three females as compared with the year 1907.

There is a decrease of 36 females and an increase of 753 males previously convicted as compared with 1907.

The increase of reconvictions is probably due partly to the fact that the criminal instincts are developed and the moral instincts lowered by prison life and its associations; but something must be allowed also for the difficulty that a known "jail bird" experiences in securing honest employment.

The prison tasks have been made heavier by regulation, and they may have a deterrent effect; but it is obvious that to men who have sunk to the lowest level of poverty, prison life cannot act as a deterrent in the same way as it does to persons in healthy and comfortable conditions.

The daily average number under detention was, in 1908, 1,445·83 as compared with 1,180·63 in 1907, showing an increase of 265·20.

Ninety-three deaths occurred in 1908 in the prisons, the principal causes being malaria and dysentery.

The daily average of sick in the prison hospital was 77·73 as compared with 68·57 in 1907.

The cost of maintenance of prisoners was Rs. 197,060 in 1908 as compared with Rs. 181,327 in the previous year.

The question of the prison ration has been under consideration, and a new scale, drawn up by the Medical Department, has now been adopted.

The question of the reformatory has long been under consideration, and the evils of the present system, which does not reform the boys, are admitted. There can be no doubt that the boys at the reformatory might be classified so as to avoid the association of the hopelessly irreclaimable with those who have still some of the better side of human nature left in them on which moral and religious influences could be brought to bear. A classification according to ages and character would do much, and might be accompanied by the grant of privileges.

It is, of course, impossible that a Magistrate should be empowered to sentence a Mahomedan or Hindoo boy to become a Christian, and it is not possible to replace the secular organisation by a religious institution, but if the parents consented, it might be possible to bring more humanising influences to bear on young children than is possible in what is practically a boys' prison.

The number of admissions to the Government Reformatory in 1908 was 216 new boys, 107 ex-reformatory boys, 2 deserters, and 106 untried; total, 431 against 364 in 1907. The education given to these boys, both scholastic and industrial, was good. Four Catholic priests and one Protestant clergyman visited the boys frequently, and the Christian boys regularly attended the churches of their various denominations; but that the result of the system is not satisfactory is proved by the fact that 81 ex-reformatory boys were committed to prison in 1908, and took their places in the ranks of the criminal classes. As only 70 ex-reformatory boys were sentenced as criminals in 1907, this shows an increase of 11 in one year.

Criminal Statistics.

The total number of offences reported to the Magistrate in 1908 was 21,433, or 1,073 less than in the previous year. The total number of convictions in the Inferior Courts during the year was 17,627, or 863 less than in 1907, and in the Supreme Court 127, or 43 more than in 1907.

The acquittals were as follows:—In the Inferior Courts 1,374 as against 1,562 in 1907; and in the Supreme Court 61 as against 56 in 1907.

The total number of cases which fell through during the year for want of prosecution amounted to 3,290 as against 4,321 in 1907.

Two prisoners were found insane in 1908 as against one in the previous year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

There was a decrease in both the general population and the Indian population during the year 1908. In the general population the deaths exceeded the births by 325, and amongst the Indian population the deaths exceeded the births by 1,315. In both, the general population and the Indian population, the males predominate. The marriage rate fell from 5·0 in 1907 to 4·1 in 1908. The birth-rate in the general population was 34·1, and in the Indian population 36·3 per thousand. The death-rate rose from 34·7 in 1907 to 40·0 in 1908—the death-rate being higher in the Indian population than in the general population; but in this connection it must be remembered that infant mortality is very high amongst the Indian population. The highest death-rate of any district was, as usual, that of Port Louis, the capital.

The following table, showing the death-rate in certain British Colonies, may be interesting:—

		Death-rate per thousand.
British Guiana	1907	36·9
Jamaica	1907	26·2
Trinidad	1908	22·6
Mauritius	1908	40·0

The following table shows the death-rate from fever for the decennial period of 1899 to 1908:—

Years.	Deaths from fever.
1899	4,576
1900	4,844
1901	5,612
1902	4,456
1903	5,840
1904	4,333
1905	6,764
1906	5,827
1907	5,100
1908	5,820

The following table gives the statistics of population during 1908:—

The population on 1st January, 1908, was		376,635
The number of births registered in 1908 was	12,177	
The number of births unregistered owing to death intervening before registration was made was	1,279	
Total births	13,456	
The number of deaths registered was	15,096	
Showing a decrease of		1,640
		374,995
Arrivals in the island	3,504	
Departures from the island	4,262	
Difference in favour of departures		758
Total civil population		374,237
Military stationed in the island		1,198
Total population of the island		375,435
Estimated population of Dependencies and outlying islands		5,907
Estimated total population of the Colony		381,342

The crews of non-Colonial shipping in the harbour have not been included in the above estimate.

CLIMATE.

The Royal Alfred Observatory in Mauritius is primarily a meteorological observatory though astronomical work is also done. From May to December weather telegrams are sent to the Director-General of Indian Observatories weekly, as these are of value for the purpose of monsoon predictions, and monthly cables are sent to Cairo. Photographs of the sun are taken daily, and spots were observed on 219 days in 1908, and faculæ on 228 days. Four photographs of the annular solar eclipse of 23rd December (partial at Mauritius) were obtained with the photoheliograph through thin clouds.

The mean rainfall for the whole island in 1908 was 90·06 inches. Heavy rain fell over the whole island during the cyclone of February 28th to March 4th, ranging from 45·42 inches at Curepipe to 9·14 at Port Louis. During the hurricane season observations are exchanged daily with Réunion.

SPECIAL FEATURES IN 1907.

Barometric Pressure.

The barometric pressure decrease, relatively to the normal, which commenced in August, 1907, continued until March, 1908. It then increased till June, again increasing till the end of the year, with, however, a slight increase in September.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. — ·068	Ins. + ·007	Ins. — ·001	Ins. — ·035

Air Temperature.

Relatively to the normal, the air temperature decreased steadily from November, 1907, to February, 1908, increased till June and decreased steadily from August to the end of the year. The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
— 0·6°	+ 0·6°	+ 0·6°	0·0°

Vapour Tension.

A large positive wave of vapour tension culminated in December, 1907. This element increased generally, relatively to the normal, from February to the end of the year. The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. + ·006	Ins. — ·006	Ins. + ·009	Ins. + ·026

Relative Humidity.

The relative humidity departures followed very closely those of vapour tension. The quarterly departures from the average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. + 1·6	Per cent. – 2·3	Per cent. – 0·3	Per cent. – 2·8

Rainfall.

The principal feature in the rainfall was the large positive wave culminating in June, preceded and followed by partial droughts in May and September. The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. + 35	Per cent. + 29	Per cent. 0	Per cent. + 7

Wind Velocity.

The wind velocity was above normal in March and July, in the other months it was below. The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
M.p.h. + ·58	M.p.h. – ·29	M.p.h. – ·33	M.p.h. – 1·50

The comparison, mentioned last year, between the records of the Beckley anemometer and those of a smaller instrument which had been previously tested at the Kew Observatory were continued, but gave negative results. They showed, however, that the factor of one or both of the instruments varied to such an extent as to render one or both unfit for the detection of secular variations of wind velocity.

Means and Extremes of Meteorological Elements.

The means and extremes of the various meteorological elements for the year 1908 are given below:—

Element.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.
	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.
Atmospheric pressure ...	30·046	30·358	29·097
Air temperature	73·6°	89·1°	53·8°
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Relative humidity	75·5	100	42·1
	M.p.h.	M.p.h.	
Wind velocity...	10·72	60·3	—
Wind direction	S. 73° 54′ E.	—	—
	Ins.	Ins.	
Rainfall	62·43	7·645 (in 24 hous).	—

RESULTS OF MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS MADE AT THE ROYAL ALFRED OBSERVATORY.

The magnetographs were at work throughout the year, and absolute values of the magnetic elements determined, as a rule, four times a month. The following are the mean results for 1908:—

Declination (west)	9°14′27
Dip (south)	53°44′7
Horizontal force (C.G.S. units) ...	0·23422
Vertical force (C.G.S. units)	0·31937
Total force (C.G.S. units)	0·39605

The principal magnetic disturbances occurred as follows:—March 26-28; August 21-22; September 5-6, 11-12, 29-30; November 8-9, 17-18.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The Postal contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company was renewed in 1908 for another year, for a four-weekly service between Colombo and Mauritius. Besides the British India steamers, mails to and from Europe are conveyed by other British and French steamers. The Messageries Maritimes Company perform their bi-monthly voyages from Marseilles to Mauritius and *vice versâ*, calling at Aden, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Réunion. The mails for and from the South African ports were conveyed by the Union Castle steamers.

Statement of Letters, Postcards, Newspapers, and Postal Parcels dealt with during the Year 1908.

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
Insured letters	—	3	25	269	50	347
Express delivery	17,770	3	13	2	14	17,802
Postcards	180,200	10,588	8,916	20,963	12,847	235,514
Paid letters	1,623,052	181,230	63,251	235,724	149,829	2,233,086
Unpaid letters	17,137	4,556	440	7,741	3,340	33,214
Registered letters	55,787	2,472	5,080	16,235	16,441	96,015
Official letters	223,892	967	1,627	1,829	1,104	229,419
Newspapers	1,032,399	89,118	12,848	229,909	39,707	1,403,981
Postal parcels	6	3,748	682	7,848	1,344	13,628

There are 331½ miles of telegraph in Mauritius and 55½ miles of telephones (exclusive of private telephone services).

Inland money orders were issued during the year 1908 for a total sum of Rs. 342,260, as against an aggregate sum of Rs. 318,255 during the previous year.

The foreign money orders show the following comparison:—

	Rs.
1908	308,928
1907	333,745

The British postal-order system was extended to Mauritius in 1905. The number of postal orders sold and paid was 1,760 and 1,119 of the value of Rs. 13,954 and Rs. 11,715, respectively.

The number of postal parcels dealt with during the year 1908 was 13,622, excluding 6 inland, as against 16,611 in 1907, showing a decrease in the purchasing power.

The total Post Office expenditure in 1908 was Rs. 153,243, as follows:—

	Rs.
Personal emoluments	108,347
Other charges	44,896
Total	153,243

The total revenue for the year was Rs. 138,588.

The Post Office in Mauritius has to work under difficult circumstances. There are practically four mails a month. But with the exception of the Messageries Maritimes steamers they arrive and leave at uncertain intervals, with the result that the postal staff may for a week or more have to deal only with internal correspondence and then suddenly find itself compelled to sort and distribute the incoming mail on a day when the outgoing mail is leaving. It is, of course, impossible to keep a sufficient permanent staff to deal with such heavy traffic in as short time as could be desired. But every effort is made to satisfy the demand of the public who, under such circumstances, desire to receive and answer their letters at once, and it may be said that the heavy labour is efficiently performed within the short time available.

IX.—RAILWAYS.

The total length of line open is 120 miles, and the total expenditure on capital account has been Rs. 21,559,667. The earnings for 1908 amounted to Rs. 2,220,872, showing a decrease of Rs. 159,703 as against 1907.

The working expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,786,007 in 1908, showing a decrease of Rs. 6,783 as against 1907.

If allowance were made for depreciation and interest on capital, the railways of Mauritius would be working at a heavy loss. The passenger traffic has greatly fallen off, and there is no sign of a recovery. Moreover, much of the rolling stock requires renewal, and the bridges require strengthening. All this involves expenditure which the Colony has hitherto been unable to meet out of revenue.

Consequent on the decrease of passenger traffic, unprofitable passenger trains have been discontinued, and every effort is made to ensure economy. The railway is a necessity to Mauritius, for apart from the fact that the people have built their residences with a view to railway facilities, most of the smaller townships have grown up round the railway stations. The sugar crop could not be harvested or marketed without the railway. The whole question of railway material and of modernisation of rolling stock and working has received, and is receiving, careful consideration.

It is hoped that if the railway were brought up to date the working expenses would be decreased and the profits increased.

X.—RODRIGUES.

The Island of Rodrigues is a dependency of Mauritius, and is governed by Mauritius Law and special Regulations, administered by a magistrate. The population numbers 4,386, nearly all of African descent. The revenue was Rs. 12,989 and the expenditure Rs. 26,728.

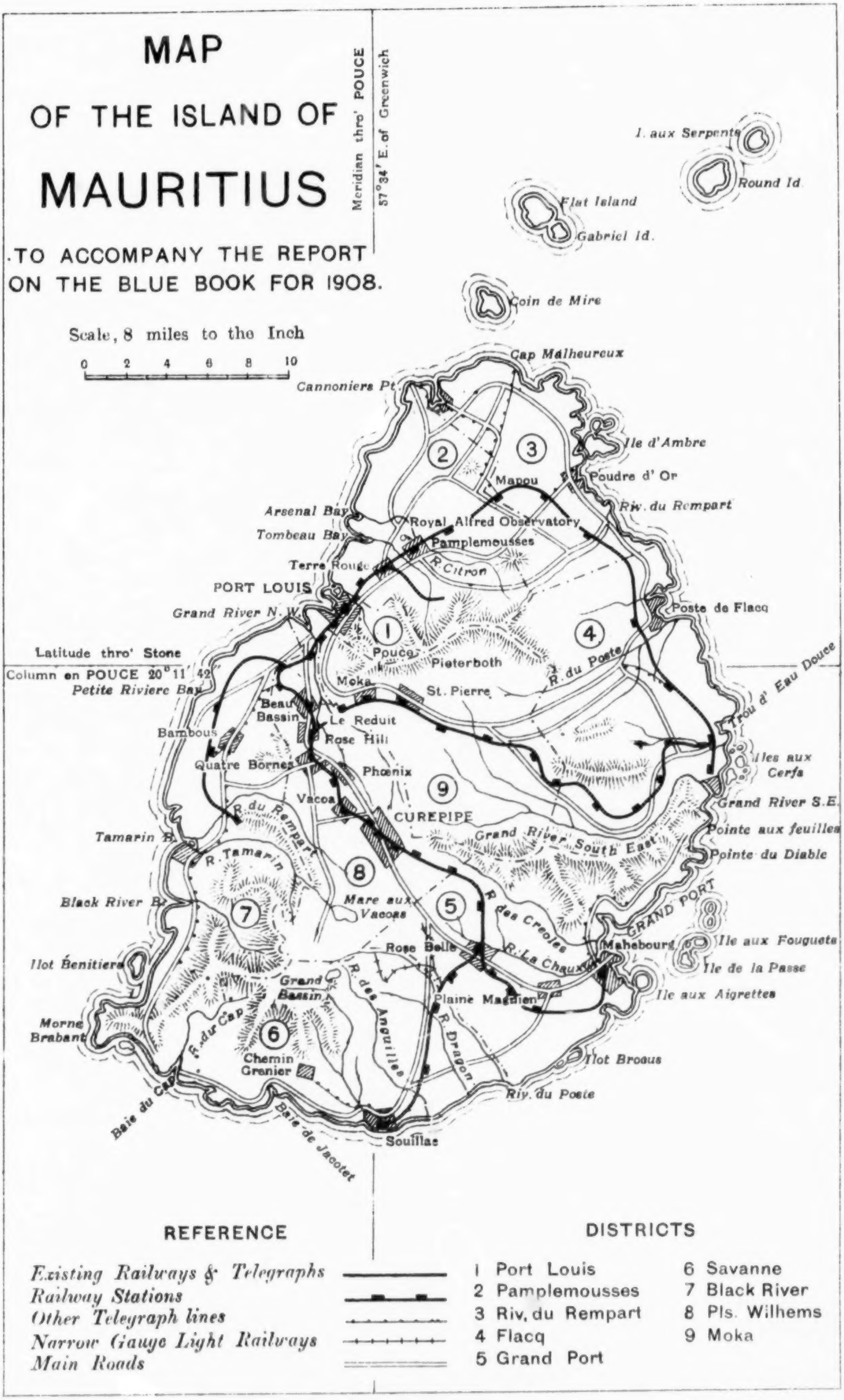
There are two schools in the island, with a roll of 268. There is also a hospital and a Government Medical Officer. 132 patients were treated in 1908. The industries are mainly fisheries, cattle rearing, and vegetable growing; some tobacco is also grown. Goats and poultry are exported to Mauritius.

XI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The financial crisis already described produced anxiety amongst all classes, an anxiety which was increased by several bankruptcies. There was a general feeling of want of confidence, and on the 3rd February, 1908, the Mauritius Commercial Bank, seeing that the holders of current accounts were steadily withdrawing their money, approached the Governor with a view to obtaining assistance. The Commissioners of Currency were, therefore, authorised by warrant of the Governor covered by subsequent legislative sanction to issue one million rupees in notes at ten per cent. interest to the bank. Against this advance security in dock warrants to the amount of Rs. 1,500,000 was deposited with the Commissioners.

The notes were issued on the 4th February, and the whole loan of one million was paid off by the 14th May.

Interest amounting to Rs. 20,493 as well as the cost of telegrams, &c., was paid by the Bank on the 31st August. The transaction may, therefore, be considered to have been very profitable to the Government. The crisis has now completely passed over, and at the time of writing the banks have more money than they can profitably advance.



MAP
OF THE ISLAND OF
MAURITIUS
.TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1908.

Scale, 8 miles to the Inch

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs	▬
Railway Stations	▬■▬
Other Telegraph lines	·—·—
Narrow Gauge Light Railways	—+—+—
Main Roads	═

DISTRICTS

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 Pls. Wilhems
9 Moka

Meridian thro' POUCE
57°34' E. of Greenwich
0 2 4 6 8 10
Latitude thro' Stone
Column on POUCE 20°11' 42"
I. aux Serpents
Round Id.
Flat Island
Gabriel Id.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Cannoniers Pt.
Ile d'Ambre
Mapou
Poudre d' Or
Riv. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Tombeau Bay
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N. W.
Poste de Flacq
Pouce
Pieterboth
R. du Poste
Petite Riviere Bay
Moka
St. Pierre
Trou d' Eau Douce
Beau Bassin
Le Reduit
Rose Hill
Bambous
Iles aux Cerfs
Quatre Bornes
Phœnix
Vacoa
CUREPIPE
Grand River S.E.
R. du Rempart
Pointe aux feuilles
Tamarin B.
Grand River South East
Pointe du Diable
R. Tamarin
Black River B.
Mare aux Vacoas
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
Ilot Benitiers
Rose Belle
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
R. La Chaux
Ile de la Passe
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
Plaine Magnien
Ile aux Aigrettes
Morne Brabant
R. du Cap
R. Dragon
Chemin Grenier
Ilot Brocus
Riv. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 09.

The following table gives the variation of the prices of sugar for the 12 months ended April, 1909, the standard being what is called crystallised vesous, or Bombay, sugar, a standard somewhat higher than the mean when the inferior sugars are taken into consideration:—

	Rs.
1908—	
May	10 (nominal).
June	10 ,,
July	—
August	8.50 to 8.75
September	8.50 ,, 8.60
October	8.25 ,, 8.50
November	8.25 ,, 9.50
December	9.50 ,, 10.00
1909—	
January	9.00 ,, 9.35
February	9.00 ,, 9.50
March	9.50 ,, 9.75
April	9.50

The mean cost of production of the whole island for all classes of sugars taken together is somewhat over Rs. 6. Taking this as a standard it would be fair to estimate the cost of production of the sugar quoted in the above table at about Rs. 7 though somewhat under that figure.

The following table gives the export of sugar for three years, and the stock on hand on the 31st July, as the crop usually begins about the 1st August. These figures deal with "crop years."

—	Crop of 1908–09.	Crop of 1907–08.	Crop of 1906–07.
	Kilos.—Net.	Kilos.—Net.	Kilos.—Net.
Great Britain	22,647,235	21,526,237	24,661,934
Continent of Europe ...	514,888	49,687	231
America	15,451,254	8,085,382	3,446,491
India	131,128,760	111,113,642	136,030,575
Australia	2,500,619	3,387,495	4,393,236
Hong Kong	8,282	349,984	6,716,681
South Africa	18,360,574	23,855,640	35,392,511
Other places	1,066,185	792,596	822,339
Total	191,677,797	169,160,663	211,463,998

Stock on 31st July, 1907, about 5,700,000 kilos.
,, ,, 1908, ,, 675,000 ,,
,, ,, 1909, ,, 500,000 ,,

GRAHAM BOWER,
Colonial Secretary.

20th September, 1909.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	„
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
594	Northern Nigeria	„
595	Basutoland	„
596	Swaziland	„
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	„
599	Falkland Islands	„
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
603	Ashanti	„
604	Ceylon	„
605	Weihaiwei	„
606	Seychelles	„
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands...	„
613	Gold Coast	„
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	„
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong...	„
618	Fiji	„
619	Nyasaland Protectorate	1908–1909
620	Barbados	„
621	Trinidad and Tobago	„
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland Protectorate	1908–1909

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda...	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.
60	Nyasaland Protectorate	„ „ 1907–8.
61	South Africa	Agriculture and Viticulture.
62	Uganda...	Cotton Industry.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 666.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 624.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1911.

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REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1909.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The Revenue for the financial year 1908–09 amounted to Rs. 8,824,464 which was Rs. 1,008,406 less than the estimate and Rs. 101,737 more than the revenue of the previous year.

The following is a comparative statement showing the actual revenue collected during the financial years 1907–08 and 1908–09.

Heads of Revenue.	1907-8.	1908-9.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Customs	2,987,013.77	3,225,510.52	238,496.75	—
2. Harbour	236,591.88	234,855.39	—	1,736.49
3. Licenses, Excise, &c...	1,999,922.37	1,846,840.91	—	153,081.46
4. Fees of Court, &c. ...	371,586.62	355,933.17	—	15,653.45
5. Post and Telegraphs...	148,286.59	131,499.10	—	16,787.49
6. Railways	2,039,326.26	2,070,698.84	31,372.58	—
7. Rent	54,497.25	67,448.94	12,951.69	—
8. Interest	822,676.64	858,887.66	36,211.02	—
9. Miscellaneous ...	62,089.10	32,125.41	—	29,963.69
Total Rs....	8,721,990.48	8,823,799.94	319,032.04	217,222.58
10. Land Sales	736.71	664.22	—	72.49
Total Rs....	8,722,727.19	8,824,464.16	319,032.04	217,295.07
Net increse ...	—	—	—	101,736.97

There were deficiencies on the estimated revenue of Rs. 240,000 in Import Duties, of Rs. 41,000 in Port and Harbour Dues, of Rs. 496,000 in Licenses, Excise and Internal revenue, of Rs. 229,000 in Railway receipts and of Rs 48,000 under the Head "Miscellaneous," making altogether a deficiency of over a million rupees. Under the Head, Interest, there was an excess of revenue over the estimate of Rs. 46,000, due to the payment of interest on a temporary loan made during the previous year and to the payment of an additional instalment by the Loan Commissioners.

As compared with 1907–08, there were increases of Rs. 238,000 in Import Duties, of Rs. 31,000 in Railway receipts, of Rs. 12,952 in rents from Government Property and of Rs. 36,000 under Interest. Under other Heads there were decreases, the largest being Rs. 153,000 in revenue derived from Licenses and Excise. The causes which have led to a shortage in the revenue during the years 1907–08 and 1908–09 and to a general depression in Commerce have been fully explained in the report for the former year and in other public documents.

There was on the 30th of June 1908 a surplus balance of Rs 197,022 and on the 30th June, 1909 a net deficit of Rs. 599,968, the expenditure having exceeded the revenue for the year by Rs. 796,990. The accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1909 are the latest completed accounts, but since that date there has been a marked improvement in the yield of revenue from all sources and especially so under Import Duties, Licenses and Excise and Railway receipts. The actual encashments have exceeded the estimates, and after meeting the expenditure for the year and the deficit with which it opened, a surplus cash balance of considerable amount will remain.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1908–09 amounted to Rs 9,621,454 or Rs. 245,020 less than the estimated expenditure. Owing to the shortage in the revenue the most rigid economy was exercised and the expenditure, wherever possible was curtailed. There were savings on the Estimates of Rs. 93,000 under the votes controlled by the Medical Department, of Rs. 63,000 under Military Expenditure, of Rs. 35,000 under Public Works Recurrent and Rs. 69,000 under Public Works Extraordinary, giving, with savings of Rs. 150,000 under other votes a total saving of nearly Rs. 400,000.

The saving of Rs. 93,000 under Medical Department votes included a saving of Rs. 38,710 on the amount provided for Plague Services, the number of cases recorded during the year being the lowest since the first outbreak of Plague in 1899. The other economies were effected by reductions in the staff and by the strictest economy in departmental expenditure. A readjustment of the Military contribution paid in excess during the previous year and the revenue falling short of the estimate, accounted for the decreased expenditure under that Head. Works which had been provided for were deferred and the expenditure incurred on Cave's Point Lighthouse was less than the estimate owing to the lantern not being delivered within the year.

It was necessary to appropriate additional sums of Rs. 75,000 under Head Poor, of Rs. 44,000 on Railways and Rs. 33,000 on other services. The Poor Law Commissioner attributed the increased expenditure on relief to the general depression and its effect on the labour market. Delay in the delivery of Locomotive Boilers ordered in the previous year and urgent repairs to much deteriorated rolling stock caused the excess on the Railway expenditure.

The following is a comparative statement of expenditure for the years 1907–08 and 1908–09:—

Heads of Service.	1907–8.	1908–9.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. C.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	1,231,550.80	1,273,817.16	42,266.36	—
2. Pensions	609,364.23	597,353.73	—	12,010.50
3. The Governor & Legislature	95,117.71	94,345.70	—	772.01
4. Colonial Secretary's Depart.	64,013.03	56,791.64	—	7,221.39
5. Receiver General's Depart.	175,518.71	158,341.85	—	17,176.86
6. Customs Department ...	127,613.31	123,364.18	—	4,249.13
7. Auditor General	58,356.85	57,492.74	—	864.11
8. Port & Marine Department	174,127.88	180,516.21	6,388.33	—
9. Meteorological Observatory	20,677.77	20,932.26	254.49	—
10. Public Library & Museum	9,343.55	8,154.65	—	1,188.90
11. Registrar General	16,874.80	15,675.35	—	1,199.45
12. Registration & Mortgage Office	42,612.32	40,854.95	—	1,757.37
13. Archives	7,264.14	7,313.56	49.42	—
14. Supreme Court	126,268.48	127,831.50	1,563.02	—
15. Procureur General ...	75,774.98	76,228.91	453.93	—
16. { District Magistrates ...	231,782.78	228,385.59	—	3,397.19
{ Stipendiary Magistrates	31,099.55	33,080.71	1,981.16	—
17. Ecclesiastical	152,712.81	152,688.70	—	24.11
18. Police	552,505.17	549,434.85	—	3,070.32
19. Prisons	187,193.97	181,583.13	—	5,610.84
20. Reformatory	17,654.31	18,733.08	1,078.77	—
21. Medical & Health Depart.	801,937.92	760,327.82	—	41,610.10
22. Quarantine...	9,698.47	10,381.15	682.68	—
23. Plague	132,162.02	113,426.46	—	18,735.56
24. Royal College	217,500.56	215,338.67	—	2,161.89
25. Primary Education ...	407,551.15	412,358.45	4,807.30	—
26. Poor	259,405.79	282,809.99	23,404.20	—
27. Storekeeper General ...	35,273.09	35,462.97	189.88	—
28. Immigration	98,342.06	91,719.17	—	6,622.89
29. Dependencies, Rodrigues ...	48,997.29	40,166.69	—	8,830.60
30. Do Oil Islands ...	13,596.89	13,509.63	—	87.26
31. Military Expenditure ...	440,813.72	371,582.83	—	69,230.89
32. Miscellaneous	442,273.20	413,330.43	—	28,942.77
33. Charitable Allowances ...	7,097.39	8,172.41	1,075.02	—
34. Interest and Exchange ...	203,190.60	200,891.94	—	2,298.66
35. Post Office	155,632.60	150,594.39	—	5,038.21
36. Railway Department ...	1,761,019.61	1,726,679.01	—	34,340.60
37. Forests and Gardens ...	186,044.21	169,623.69	—	16,420.52
38. Public Works & Surveys ...	108,563.72	108,122.84	—	440.88
39. Public Works, Recurrent ...	468,685.36	435,850.17	—	32,835.19
40. Public Works, Extraordinary	35,856.36	46,569.12	10,712.76	—
41. Loan Commission	11,940.76	11,616.12	—	324.64
Total Rs...	9.853,009.92	9.621.454.40	94,907.32	326.462.84
Result— Net decrease ...	—	—	—	231.555.52

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on the 30th. June, 1909 were Rs. 2,365.414 and the liabilities Rs. 2,965,382. The liabilities thus exceeding the assets by Rs. 599,968.

The Assets included :—

	Rs.
Cash in the hands of the Receiver General	68,765
Investments	650,252
Miscellaneous Advances	403,935
Advances on account of loan authorized for mechanical transport (Ordinance No. 34 of 1902)	1,242,461

The chief liabilities were :—

General Deposits	1,970,515
Loan Funds, unexpended	43,507
Advances made by the Crown Agents	937,500

Public Debt.

The total indebtedness of the Colony on the 30th of June, 1909 was £ 1,305,990 and the Sinking Funds amounted to £ 266,458, leaving a nett debt of £ 1,039,532.

In 1894 the nett debt was £ 1,147,409 and approximately two and a half times the annual revenue of £ 471,172. The nett debt on the 30th of June, 1909 was less than twice the revenue for the year.

Under Ordinances No. 10 of 1876, No. 10. of 1879 and No. 2 of 1887 outstanding debentures are redeemed by annual drawings. Provision is made for the repayment of other loans by means of a sinking fund.

The raising of a loan of £ 70,000 for the purpose of making advances to Planters to assist them in substituting mechanical for animal transport on their estates was authorised by Ordinance No. 34 of 1902. The loan was not raised but advances were made partly from Treasury balances and partly from temporary advances obtained from the Crown Agents.

Currency and Banking.

The Currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The following Mauritius Bronze and Silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5.

(a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents.
(b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.

(2) The Silver rupee of India with its silver subdivisions.

(3) Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5

On the 30th of June, 1909 the value of Currency notes in circulation was Rs 3,892,250. The specie held amounted to Rs 1,572,000 and the Investment and Depreciation Funds to Rs 2,320,250 and Rs 249,116 respectively.

The Banks which do business in the Colony are the Bank of Mauritius Limited and the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS.

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Municipality of Port Louis for the five years 1905 to 1909 :—

Year.	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
1905	548,139	492,785
1906	537,366	510,588
1907	512,172	502,916
1908	476,130	500,776
1909	484,841	476,448

The indebtedness of the Municipality up to the end of the year and the provision for payment are shewn below :—

Loan.	Amount.			Repayments to be made in 1910.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Conversion Loan	115,100			1,900		
Electric Lighting Loan ...	8,666	13	4	333	6	8
Municipality Loan	3,857	8	4	142	17	2
Municipality Loan	5,000	0	0	178	11	5
	132,624	1	8	2,554	15	3

	Rs.	Rs.
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892	64,646.21	7,016
Grand River Bridge Loan ...	4,000.00	2,000
Manure Factory and Night Soil Service Loan...	14,000.00	2,000
Municipality Loan, 1903	18,000.00	2,000
	100,646.21	13,016

LOCAL BOARDS.

There are Boards of Commissioners for the Towns of Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose-Hill and Quatre Bornes which are entrusted with the general improvement and conservancy of these towns.

The Board of Curepipe receives the amount of taxes on horses and vehicles collected in the town and licences paid by the traders and others. The Board may also levy a tax not exceeding one per cent on house property. The two other Boards receive the amount of the taxes paid by traders and others in the towns and may also levy a similar tax on house property.

The following table shews the revenue and expenditure of the Boards for the past five years :—

CUREPIPE.

——	1904–5.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	68,934	65,776	67,496	79,331	73,759
Expenditure	67,729	64,740	66,885	75,659	72,516

BEAU BASSIN & ROSE HILL.

——	1905.	1905-6.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs,	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	26,645	26,831	30,995	37,044	33,541
Expenditure	28,187	25,783	30,164	37,695	33,476

QUATRE BORNES.

——	1905.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	12,549	13,202	12,957	13,815	13,842
Expenditure	12,572	12,416	12,800	13,865	13.508

Below will be found a statement of the debts of the Boards :—

Curepipe Board	Net Amount of Debt	Rs. 68,500
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill	„	„ 8,600
Quatre Bornes*	„	„ nil

There is a District Board for each of the eight rural districts of the Island. To them are entrusted under Ordinance 9 of 1900 the maintenance of the branch Roads.

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* The indebtedness of the Board of Quatre Bornes is incorrectly shewn in the Blue Book as amounting to Rs. 615.

They receive as revenue a contribution from Government equivalent to 10 o/o of the direct taxes collected in each District during the year and an addition of 10 o/o to the direct taxes to be levied in each year in each district exclusive of Port Louis and the Townships. The additional 10 o/o to be levied on the direct taxes may be increased to 25 o/o subject to the approval of the Governor in Executive Council. The Government contribution amounted in 1908-09 to Rs 10,000.

The powers of the District Boards were extended by Ordinance No 35 of 1902 to include the construction, maintenance and management of water works. For this purpose they receive an annual contribution from Government which in 1908–09 amounted to Rs 76,000 and also the proceeds of water rates and of charges paid for water supplies.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES

Imports and Exports.

The aggregate value of Imports and Exports, excluding specie, for the years 1908 and 1909 was as follows :—

	1908	1909
Imports ... ...Rs.	26,199,606*	Rs. 27,013,970
Exports	33,691,381	34,424.923
	59,890,987	61,438,893

The value of Imports from and Exports to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during the same years is shewn below, (specie and unclassified goods are not included):—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	1908 unit Rs. 1,000	1909 unit Rs. 1,000	1908 unit Rs. 1,000	1909 unit Rs. 1,000
United Kingdom ...	6,618	7,431	3,888	4.316
British Possessions ...	13,219	12,282	29.210	29,667
Foreign Countries ...	6,325	7,281	589	441
Total ...	26,162	26,994	33,687	34,424

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* The figures given in the Blue Book report for 1908, viz : Rs. 27,651,045 have since been corrected : they should be as now given.

The following tables shew the percentage of Imports from and Exports to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during each of the last five years :—

Imports.

From	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
United Kingdom	28.1	30.8	27.8	25.3	27.5
British Possessions	48.9	49.4	49.7	50.5	45.5
Foreign Countries	23.0	19.8	22.5	24.2	27.0

Exports.

To	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
United Kingdom	7·3	8.1	16.0	11.5	12.5
British Possessions	90.3	86.4	79.7	86.7	86.2
Foreign Countries	2.4	5.5	4.3	1.8	1.3

It will be observed that Mauritius continues to send almost the whole of its produce to the United Kingdom and British Possessions, the combined imports from which have steadily diminished since 1906 and that in 1909 the imports from Foreign Countries almost equalled those from the United Kingdom. A large part of the increased importations from Foreign Countries, is, as is later shown, due to the increased imports of rice from non-British India.

With the exception of goods which are regarded as the peculiar speciality of particular countries preference is shown for British goods with a guarantee of quality even at higher prices and when articles of good quality do not exist others readily acquire a transitory and fictitious reputation at the cost of the uneducated purchaser. There is room for effort on the part of the British manufacturer to place his goods on the market in an attractive form and a peculiarly mixed population demands a varied selection. The local market is not overworked. In 1909 only one Commercial traveller deposited samples at the Customs House. He represented a foreign firm and travelled in haberdashery perfumery and confectionery. The value of haberdashery imported in 1909 was approximately Rs. 600,000 of which only Rs. 200,000 was of British origin.

The Customs revenue shewed an increase of Rs. 405,858 as compared with 1908 and the chief articles contributing to the revenue in 1909 were :—

Tobacco and Cigars	Rs. 705,000
Grain (including Rice, dholl &c)	525,000
Cotton manufactures	160,000
Wines	160,000
Spirits	100,000
Matches	99,000
Petroleum Oil	92,000

The Export duty on sugar yielded Rs. 573,000.

Imports.

The value of the imports in 1909 was greater by Rs. 800,000 than in the previous year.

The largest increases occur under the following heads.—

	Rs.
Cotton manufactures	460,059
Iron and steel...	489,812
Mechanical Transport (part of above) ...	271,616
Haberdashery	152,906
Wines and spirits	128,812
Wearing apparel	77,756
Tobacco and Cigars	74,793

The articles in which these increases occur indicate a general improvement in trade and a growing demand for more than bare necessities to which a succession of adverse circumstances had limited requirements in the two previous years.

The increases in the value of importations under Heads Machinery and Mechanical Transport are of importance. The machinery is mainly that required for sugar factories and the form of mechanical transport generally adopted is the light tramway. All the large estates are provided with such tramways and permission is granted by Government to run the tramways along the public roads so that the road tractor is comparatively little used. The construction of these tramways, begun in 1903, has been extended year by year until the total length on estates and roads approximates 700 miles.

The profits of the sugar crop of 1909-10 were not realised in time to permit of large importations before the close of the year but the rise in the importations in 1909 is indicative of considerable expenditure on improvements in the machinery of sugar mills and on increased facilities for transport on the estates which the abnormally heavy traffic on the railway in the succeeding months proves to have been incurred.

The following tables give the value of the importations and the country of origin under the Heads Machinery and Mechanical Transport during the years from 1905 to 1909 :—

Machinery.

Country.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom..	251,003	382,164	437,528	252,354	329,155	1,650,204
France	13,193	19,807	23,201	6,943	18,616	81,760
Germany... ...	...	7,831	9,307	3,439	...	20,577
Belgium	900	235	2,782	1,728	867	6,512
Other Countries...	3,332	...	...	...	810	4,142
Total ...	268,428	410,037	472,818	264,464	349,448	1,763,195

Mechanical Transport.

Country.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs,	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Germany... ...	132,936	251,419	240,726	50,681	210,402	886,164
Belgium	42,795	66,795	92,429	1,233	62,696	265,948
United Kingdom..	...	...	14,454	13,920	59,726	88,100
France	18,021	15,093	14,082	1,707	15,219	64,122
United States ...	...	...	...	8,887	...	8,887
Total ...	193,752	333,307	361,691	76,428	348,043	1,313,221

It will be seen that the machinery is almost entirely of British make while the locomotives, wagons rails and sleepers for tramways, which are supplied at cheap rates and on easy terms of payment, are of foreign origin. Given a reasonable profit on the present crop, which is already practically assured, there is every probability of an immediate demand both for machinery and tramway materials which will be continued in succeeding years. The British manufacturer will in all probability retain without great effort the trade in machinery but there is no reason why he should not have a large share of the trade in tramway materials if he will make a bid for it.

As compared with 1908 there were decreases in 1909 in the value of importations of Rice (Rs. 380,000), Other grain (Rs. 281,000) and Coal (Rs. 237,000).

The importations of Rice from British India decreased by Rs. 575,000 while those from Non-British India increased by

Rs. 695,000. There were small importations from Non-British India in 1907 amounting to Rs. 40,000, they rose to Rs. 1,060,000 in 1908 and to Rs. 1,755,000 in 1909. The decrease in the importations from British India is due to scarcity of rice and high prices.

The following table shews the countries which export goods to Mauritius and the value of the goods exported exclusive of specie in the years 1908 and 1909 :—

Country	Exports to Mauritius.	
—	1908	1909
British India	Rs. 10,756,870	Rs. 10,307,800
United Kingdom... ...	6,618,181	7,431,356
France	1,926,781	2,402,077
Indo China	1,060,265	1,756,409
Australia	607,299	857,627
United States	540,743	732,423
Madagascar	1,134,086	659,844
Germany	203,204	530,001
Natal	936,827	471,599
Cape Colony	488,312	295,012
Belgium	108,324	286,013
Reunion	233,912	236,661
China	61,041	153,150
Singapore	138,868	128,812
Sumatra	183,483	49,735
Seychelles	109,801	37,642
Chili	269,412	...
Argentine Confederation...	189,652	...

The United Kingdom, British India or British Possessions are the largest suppliers of wearing apparel, bacon, gunny bags, beer in casks and bottles, books, bran, chemicals for manures, cement, coal, confectionery, dholl, gram, oats, rice, flour, cotton, salt fish, ghee, hardware and cutlery, iron nails, wrought iron, boots and shœs, machinery for local industries, manure (bone), provisions preserved, salt, soap, whisky, stationery,* tea, tin, umbrellas (cotton), shooks, sleepers, timber, woollen goods.

Foreign countries are the largest suppliers of apothecaries' wares, oxen, butter, candles, clocks and watches, enamelled ware, glassware, haberdashery, indiarubber ware, jewellery, light tramway wagons, locomotives and materials, matches, motor cars, Petroleum, cigarette paper, perfumery, potatoes, satin and ribbons, brandy, gin, wine, sulphur, tobacco and cigars, toys, umbrellas (silk), woollen blankets.

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* The importations of stationery from the United Kingdom are principally for Government services. Most of the stationery on sale in the local shops is of foreign origin and of very inferior quality.

Exports.

The total value of the exports, excluding specie but including charges, was in 1908 of Rs. 33,691,381 and in 1909 of Rs. 34,424,923. The following table shews the value and the destination of the products of the Colony, other than sugar, which were exported in 1908 and 1909.

Product	Year	Exported to		
		United Kingdom	British Possessions	Foreign Countries
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Molasses ...	1908	......	418,209	3
	1909	......	702,019	...
Rum ...	1908	59,118	15,825	1
	1909	31,144	12,549	1
Aloe Fibre..	1908	555,671	......	67,985
	1909	464,583	8,509	57,605

Sugar.

The following table shows the principal countries to which sugar was exported during the calendar years 1908 and 1909 :—

Country	1908 kilos.	1909 kilos
British India...	137,827,008	116,332,244
United Kingdom	19,103,463	20,261,528
British Columbia	8,694,703	15,762,892
Cape Colony ...	20,735,984	12,152,321
Australia ...	2,803,110	3,456,004
Hong-Kong ...	...	3,010,162
Delagoa Bay ...	1,241,579	510,321
France ...	6,525	508,906
Aden ...	222,427	387,682
Natal ...	1,569,573	288,208
British East Africa	53,055	93,625
Ceylon ...	20,302	50,517
Reunion...	2,474	1,300
Canada ...	4,295,364	...
St Vincent ...	...	5,852,236
Zanzibar ...	77,447	231,729
Seychelles ...	267,050	288,555

Agriculture.

The crop year for sugar begins on the 1st. of August and ends on the 31st. of July of the following year and for the purpose of comparison of the crops it is convenient to maintain this distinction.

Exceptionally favourable climatic conditions resulted in a sugar crop far in excess of that of any previous year, the largest crop previously recorded being 215,697 tons in 1903. Large yields of cane were obtained all over the island and the heavy and well distributed rainfall allowed the planters to reap the full benefit of the " intensive " methods of cultivation adopted in recent years. The use of cane and mill residue as fertilizers steadily increases with beneficial results and the value of manures and chemicals annually imported exceeds Rs. 2,000,000. The total crop of 1909, exclusive of local consumption was 246,560 tons* which figure is arrived at in the following manner :—

		Tons.*
Exports 1st. August 1909 to 31st. July 1910 ...		235,184
In Store on 31st. July 1910	151,806 bags	
„ „ 1909	6,187 „	
Add balance in Store, (145,619 bags × 78.12 kilos average weight of 1 bag)		11,376
Total Crop, 1909 ... ... Tons*		246,560

The average selling price as determined by the Chamber of Agriculture was approximately Rs. 8.50 per 50 kilos giving to the crop a monetary value of about 42 millions of rupees and on the assumption that the cost of producing 50 kilos of sugar is about Rs. 6.00, leaving a profit of nearly 12½ millions of rupees.

The corresponding figures for the last five years are :—

	Total Produce Tons*	Monetary Value unit Rs. 1,000,000.
	—	—
1904–5	142,253	27.5
1905–6	186,007	26.0
1906–7	214,699	28.3
1907–8	163,911	24.9
1908–9	191,491	28.7

There were two developments during the year which had an appreciable effect on the local market. Considerable shipments of white crystals were made to London and the direct shipment of sugar to India was undertaken by European firms.

The favourable prices realised for sugar towards the end of the year appear to have given an impetus to the cultivation of the cane on both large and small estates and as a result there were complaints of scarcity of labour for field work in connection with the coming crop.

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* Metric ton = 1,000 kilogrammes.

The heavy yield of cane and the high prices obtained have somewhat diverted attention from other industries. There is a tendency to extend the plantations of aloe and to rely less on the product of uncultivated lands. The selling price of aloe fibre was approximately Rs. 277 per ton as compared with an average cost of production of Rs. 188, leaving a profit per ton of Rs. 88. Other industries such a tea, vanilla, maize and tobacce show no development. The quantity of tea imported in 1909 was 47,392 kilos as compared with 47,244 kilos in 1908 indicating that the local production has not materially increased.

A comparison of the number of deaths from surra declared to the Sanitary Authorities shows that the epizootic is steadily declining.The number of fatal cases recorded in 1907 was 306, in 1908, 192 and in1909,158.The cases declared only form part of the total number of cases which occur, but they afford the only basis of estimating the prevalence of the disease in the years to which they refer. Investigation of the disease has been assiduously continued by the Director of the Bacteriological Laboratory.

Shipping.

The following table shews the number and tonnage of the vessels which entered Port Louis in 1908 and 1909 :—

Nationality.	1908.		1909.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
British	136	258,237	140	272,964
French	47	103,063	44	93,534
Norwegian	16	12,691	6	7,429
German	3	7,763	1	4,236
Swedish	1	2,044	...	...
Total... ...	203	383,798	191	378,163

In the report for 1908 the total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared which are engaged in Trade with the Dependencies were shewn as 48 of an aggregate tonnage of 11,624 in 1907 and as 47 of an aggregate tonnage of 15,458 in 1908. There are one steam vessel of 1,073 tons and 4 or 5 sailing vessels which are engaged in this trade. The steam vessel is under contract with Government to carry mails to and from Rodrigues, to which it made 5 voyages in the course of the year.

The Harbour dues collected in 1909 amounted to Rs. 266,815 as compared with Rs. 252,063 in 1908, shewing an increase of Rs. 14,752. By Ordinance No. 28 of the 14th. December 1909 the anchorage charges were reduced from 23 cents a ton to 8 cents on vessels calling for bunker coal. Since this reduction in the rates and up to the time of writing 17 vessels of a total tonnage of 47,147 have called to coal as compared with 5 vessels of a total tonnage of 13,477 during the 12 months immediately preceeding the reduction in the rates.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Among the more important legislative measures of the year 1909, are the following :—

The License Law (Vegetables and Fruits) amendment Ordinance (No. 2) amends the license law with the object of encouraging market gardening.

The Minors Mortgage (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) gives power to the Supreme Court to order the erasure of an inscription of the Minor's legal mortgage burdening an immoveable property which it may be in the interest of all concerned to erase.

The Defaced Silver Coins Ordinance (No. 4) adapts to the Colony the relevant provisions of the Indian Coinage Act, 1906. The measure originated in the attention of the Government being called in 1907 by the Banks to the large number of soldered rupee coins in circulation.

The Royal Commission Ordinance (No. 9) gives full powers to the Royal Commissioners appointed by His Majesty to enquire into the conditions and resources of the Colony. The Ordinance is modelled on the lines of The Commissioners (Examination of Witnesses) Ordinance No. 19 of 1897.

The Children and young Persons (Abolition of Death sentence) Ordinance (No. 13) is a measure borrowed from section 103 of the Children Act. 1908 (8 Edward VII C. 67), providing for the abolition of death sentences in the case of children and young persons, the age limit is that fixed by the Imperial enactment.

By the Electric Light and Power Amendment Ordinance (No. 17.—(a) powers of control are given to the Director of Public Works over the technical nature of any intended electrical undertaking and works connected with it. (b) power is taken to define " pressure " by regulation, (c) powers of appeal to the Governor in Council are extended, and (d) power is given to an undertaker to control and inspect within reasonable bounds, the installation of a consumer.

The Bench Jurisdiction Extension Ordinance (No. 18) places within the jurisdiction of the Bench of Magistrates offences under articles 122 and 123 paragraph 2 of the Penal Code (embezzlement committed by public depositaries and accountants, and by clerks or servants of the Government or of public depositaries) and under article 249 paragraph 2 (indecent assault), which were hitherto within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Assize Court with a jury, no matter the comparative unimportance of the case.

The Quarantine Amendment Ordinance (No. 23) improves the definition of " healthy vessel " under the quarantine laws of the Colony so as to allow any ship producing evidence that she has worked in quarantine at any infected port, to be admitted to pratique on her arrival in the Colony, whether she has taken cargo or not at that port, provided that she otherwise comes within the definition of a healthy vessel.

The Harbour Dues Amendment Ordinance (No. 28) reduces the anchorage dues on steamers entering the harbour for the exclusive purpose of coaling from R. 0.23 to R. 0.08 per ton register, (with a proviso charging an additional due of R. 0.05 per ton register for every subsequent 12 hours or part of 12 hours day-light over and above a period of 24 hours, up to the maximum charge of 23 cents of a rupee provided by the main enactment).

The Penal Code Amendment Ordinance (No. 29) corrects various clerical errors in Ordinance No. 22 of 1901, and at the same time introduces into the Colony the principles of the English law on seditious libel. It also adds a provision against the compounding of offences on the lines of that existing in the Indian Penal Code.

The Criminal Evidence Ordinance (No. 30) enacts the excellent provisions of the Criminal Evidence Act. 1898 (61 and 62 Victoria C. 36.)

The Bankruptcy (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 32) makes Agents of firms carrying on business in the Colony on behalf of non-resident principals, criminally responsible for their own acts when such acts in the case of a principal are fraudulent under the Bankruptcy law. The word " debtor " is defined with a view to meet the decision of the House of Lords in the case of Cooke and the Charles A. Vogeler Company (1901) A. C. 102. Power is taken in the Ordinance to reach criminally principals or their agents, who on the eve of bankruptcy sell their stock in trade at low prices with intent to defraud their creditors. The definition of a bankrupt's property, which is not divisible among his creditors, is amended with a view to restrict the inclusion of property obtained within one month prior to the petition. The amount of small bankruptcies is for purposes of summary procedure fixed at Rs. 5,000 and the procedure in prosecutions in minor cases is simplified, such cases being placed within the jurisdiction of the District Magistrates.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

The Primary schools at the end of the year 1909, numbered 152 of which 64 were Government and 88 Aided Schools. There is a decrease of 3 in the number of Government Schools as compared with the previous year, due to the amalgamation of separate schools for boys and girls in the same locality. The amalgamation has resulted in strengthening the Staff and reducing expenditure. Of the Aided Schools there were 66 Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian and 1 Mahomedan.

The number of Primary Schools, Government and Aided, and the number of pupils for the years 1905 to 1909 is shown in the following table :—

	Government Schools.			*Aided Schools.*		
Years.	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.
1905	66	8,510	4,798	88	9,374	6.112
1906	67	8,919	5,491	88	9,807	6.491
1907	67	8,615	5.670	90	10.367	6,918
1908	67	8,359	5,242	88	10,226	6,779
1909	64	8,634	5.433	88	10,651	7,234

The average attendance in Government and Aided Schools for the year was 12,667 with a roll of 19,285 showing the low average attendance of 65.6 o/o of the number of pupils on the roll.

The number of Indian children attending the Primary Schools in 1909 was 7,125 a slight increase as compared with the previous year but the parents are disinclined to send their girls to school and their boys are continually on the outlook for casual employment. The age at which a minor may enter into a written contract of labour was in 1908 raised from 10 to 13 years. Endeavours to establish half time schools have not proved successful.

The examination results show as compared with 1908 a decrease in the number of passes in the Obligatory subjects (Reading, Writing and Conversation in English and French and Elementary Arithmetic) and the percentage of passes declined from 62 to 57.59. Candidates from Aided Schools shewed great weakness, in Arithmetic as an optional subject only 8 o/o of those who were presented for examination succeeding in passing.

The total expenditure for the year on the salaries of and grants to Teachers in Primary Schools amounted to Rs. 326,625 of which

Rs. 162,334 was expended on Government Schools and Rs. 164,291 on Aided Schools.

The figures for 1908 were Rs. 337,353., Rs. 170,312 and Rs. 167,041 respectively. The cost to Government of a pupil in a Government school was Rs. 20.55 and in an aided school Rs. 15.42 as compared with Rs. 22.24 and Rs. 16.33 in 1908. The decrease is attributable to a raising of the standard and to other measures resulting in economy.

There are open annually to pupils of Primary Schools six scholarships and six exhibitions at the Royal College for which there is keen competition. The exhibitioners receive free tuition and the scholars free tuition and an allowance of Rs. 100 a year. There were 131 candidates in 1909.

Secondary Education.

Secondary Education is provided by the Royal College, two schools in connection with it and 22 associated schools of which 17 presented pupils at the Annual Examination. There were in December 1909, 203 pupils at the College, 124 at Curepipe School and 62 at Port-Louis School. Of the 389 pupils at the College and its two schools, 136 did not pay fees.

There were 12 candidates for the London Matriculation Examination in 1909. Of the 9 candidates from the College 5 passed, one being placed in the 1st division.

There were 83 candidates for the Senior Cambridge Examination, 32 out of the 82 candidates from the College passed, one obtaining honours in the 2nd Class and one in the 3rd Class.Out of 16 candidates for the Junior Cambridge Examination 10 passed.

There are scholarships and exhibitions in all the classes of the College and there are two valuable scholarships to enable pupils of the College to continue their studies in Europe.

There are 23 girls' schools which are affiliated to the Royal College in connection with the scheme for the Higher Education of Girls. The number of candidates who were presented for examination was 359 of whom 151 obtained Honours Certificates and 33 Pass Certificates. Eleven girls entered for the Senior Cambridge Local Examination of whom 2 passed. Eleven entered for the Junior Examination of whom 7 passed. The total sum expended in 1909 on the Higher Education of Girls was Rs. 8,018.

Training of Teachers.

There are Government Training schools for men and for women. There were 7 candidates from the Men's Training School for the Second Class Teacher's Certificate of whom four passed and the only candidate for the third Class Certificate also passed. There were 4 candidates from the Women's Training School for the second class certificate, none of whom passed.

The following table shews the number of candidates for certificates and the number who passed during the year :

Class of Certificate.	Candidates.			Successful.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Second	34	8	42	12	1	13
Third	48	29	77	12	5	17
Monitors'	134	97	231	14	18	32
Total	216	134	350	38	24	62

There are 584 certificated Teachers employed in Government and Aided schools of whom 154 are Head Teachers, 143 Assistant Teachers and 287 Monitors.

In 1908 it was found necessary for purposes of economy to defer arrangements then made for giving instruction in Hygiene in the Primary Schools but this subject will now be included in the Scheme of work and the teachers, who qualified in 1908 to teach it, will be eligible to earn grants for the pupils whom they pass. A course of lectures was delivered by the Director of Forests and his Assistants at the Curepipe Gardens to Teachers of Primary Schools on the principles of Agriculture. The course was largely attended and has awakened the interest of the teachers in this important branch of instruction.

Technical Education.

There are eight mechanical engineering apprenticeships for which there were 131 candidates in 1909. There are two agricultural apprenticeships for which there were 36 candidates and two egineering studentships for which there were 4 candidates.

Needlework receives attention in Girls' schools and the work of the pupils shews a marked improvement. Fifty three candidates entered for the needlework competition to four of whom apprenticeships were awarded.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

There are 13 hospitals including 5 in connection with the Prisons and Reformatory and there are 28 dispensaries. There is in addition a hospital ward attached to the Lunatic Asylum. The number of admissions to all hospitals was 23,205 in 1909 as compared with 27,751 in 1908 and 23,355 in 1907. The case mortality remained practically the same as in 1908 being 5.83 o/o. The number of cases treated at the dispensaries has risen from 55,635 in 1907 to 69,593 in 1909, but perhaps the increase is not so much due to sickness being more prevalent as to the inclination of the poorer classes to more frequently seek medical advice at these institutions for minor ailments for which dispensary treatment would not have been sought in former years.

Lunatic Asylum.

There is a Lunatic Asylum and a lunatic ward in connection with the Barkly Asylum which is under the Poor Law Commissioner. There were 430 patients in the Asylum on the 31st of December 1909 as compared with 431 on the corresponding date of the previous year but the daily average for the year of 427.30 showed a decrease of 6.65. The decrease in the daily average number of male patients was 5.1 as compared with a decrease of 1.55 in the daily average of females. The total number of certified lunatics in the Colony including patients on probation and patients in the Lunatic ward of Barkly Asylum was 625 giving a proportion of one insane to 600 of the population.

Poor Relief.

Barkly Asylum is the only institution under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioner at which paupers receive in-door relief. There are in connection with it and under the control of the Medical Department a hospital ward and a lunatic ward. The number of paupers who were maintained or treated at Barkly Asylum during the year 1909 was 789 but to a very much larger number, indoor relief in various forms was afforded. The number of paupers who received treatment at the public hospitals was 18,912 and at the Lunatic Asylum 501. Arrangements also exist with various religious institutions for the maintenance of sick and infirm paupers at fixed rates and there is an asylum for pauper lepers which is not a Government institution but in which the patients are maintained at the public expense. The paupers who received indoor relief in one or other of these forms and the cost of whose maintenance forms the larger part of the expenditure of the Poor Law Department numbered 21,778 during the year 1909.

The recipients of outdoor relief during the year are shown as numbering 65,578 of whom 61,706 were treated at public dispensaries and 3,872 received alimentary or pecuniary relief. It is not shown what number of paupers in receipt of alimentary or pecuniary relief also received free treatment at public dispensaries or on how many occasions such treatment was received by each person.

The proportion per 1,000 of the general population and of the Indian population who have received relief during the last five years is shown below :—

Year	General population	Indian population
1905	28.3	6.2
1906	24.6	5.9
1907	26.2	6.2
1908	35.2	8.9
1909	38.3	9.0

Though proportionately less than in the case of the general population there is since 1906 a steady rise in the numbers of the Indian population who have received relief and it is noticeable that in recent years the number of the Indian population who have received outdoor relief has increased as compared with those who have received indoor relief.

The total number of persons receiving relief during 1909 are returned as 87,356 as compared with 88,995 in 1908. These figures show that the expenditure of the Poor Law Department only represents a portion of the total expenditure incurred on relief to the poor. It is difficult to determine exactly the expenditure of the Medical Department on gratuitous treatment in the hospitals and at the dispensaries but it is estimated that such expenditure reaches the sum of Rs. 480,000 annually.

Savings Bank.

At the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th. of June, 1909 a sum of Rs. 2,716,605 to the credit of 26,577 depositors. The investment funds amounted to Rs. 3,094,171. Interest is allowed on deposits at the rate of 3 o/o.

The following table shows the number of depositors who belonged to the General and the Indian population and the amount standing to their credit on the 30th. of June, 1909 :—

	Number	Rs.
General Population...	15,728	1,555,431
Indian Population	10,849	1,161,171

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The authorized strength of the Police on the 31st. December 1909 was 1 Inspector General, 7 Inspectors, 12 Sub-Inspectors, 1 Staff Sergeant Major, 2 Check Sergeants, 41 Sergeants, 3 Mounted Orderlies, 50 Corporals, 402 European or Creole Constables and 205 Indian Constables. 56 men were enlisted in 1909.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of cases reported to the Police was 22,197, as against 24,601 in the preceding year.

These arrange themselves as follows :—

Offences against the Person	7,973
Prædial Larceny	640
Other offences against Property	5,401
Other offences	8,183
	22,197

In respect of these offences 12,715 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates, while in 9,306 cases the charges were of too doubtful or trivial a character to warrant prosecution by the Crown.

The number of persons summoned or dealt with by the Magisterial Courts was 21,615, as against 22,369 in 1908. The charges against these persons are classified under the following heads :—

Offences against the Person	1,379
Prædial Larceny	438
Other offences against property	4,264
Offences against Masters and Servants acts, including Acts relating to Indentured Coolies.	3,160
Offences against Revenue, Municipal, Road or other laws relating to the Social Economy of the Colony	8,732
Other offences	3,642
	21,615

These persons were disposed of as follows :—

Discharged for want of prosecution	3,289
Discharged on the merits of the case ...	1,803
Summarily convicted	16,454
Committed for trial in the Superior Courts...	69
	21,615

In respect of convictions in the Magisterial Courts, 16,454 against 17,627 in the preceding year, the following punishments were inflicted :

Fine...	10,259
Imprisonment in lieu of fine where there was no sentence of peremptory imprisonment.	1,704
Fine and peremptory imprisonment ...	39
Peremptory imprisonment without fine ...	4,079
Whipping	1
Bound over or other trivial punishment ...	372
	16,454

Of the committals for trial in the Superior Courts, 62 persons were dealt with during the year on the following indictments :

Murder	3
Attempt at murder	2
Manslaughter and attempt at manslaughter....	1
Rape	3
Other offences against the Person ...	32
Robbery with violence	8
Malicious injury to property	5
Other offences against property	8
	62

Judgment for the Crown was obtained in 53 cases and there were 9 acquittals.

The improvement shown in these figures, as compared with 1908, is attributed by the Inspector General of Police, in the main, to the general improvement in the affairs of the Colony in the year under review.

PRISONS AND REFORMATORY.

There was a decrease of 2,174 in the number of prisoners admitted to prison after conviction as compared with 1908, the figures are :—

	Males	Females	Total
1908	7,628	299	7,927
1909	5,484	269	5,753

The daily average number under detention shows a decrease of 265 as compared with 1908, the daily average for that year being 1,445.83 as against 1,180.49 in 1909.

The deaths in the Prisons numbered 59 as compared with 93 in 1908. 14 deaths were due to phthisis, 8 to dysentery, 7 to pneumonia, and 6 to malaria. The daily average number under treatment in the Prisons hospitals fell from 77.73 in 1908 to 56.10 in 1909.

There were 39 escapes as against 47 in 1908. 34 of the prisoners who escaped were recaptured.

The number of offences against discipline by prisoners was 2,344 as against 2,184 in 1908. This rise in the number of offences is partly due to an increase in the hard labour task.

The numbers admitted to the Reformatory in 1909 were 123 new boys, 67 ex-Reformatory boys, 47 untried,—a total of 237 as against 431 in 1908. There was a decrease of 0.52 in the daily average as compared with 1908.

Of the 190 boys who were admitted on conviction 137 entered the Institution with sentences of 6 months or less, of whom 99 were sentenced to a month or less, and 44 of these to sentences varying between one and seven days.

The admissions to hospital decreased by 20. The prevailing diseases were malaria, influenza and dysentery. There was during the year one death due to pulmonary tuberculosis.

The Discipline among the boys was satisfactory: there were 113 departmental offences as against 174 in 1908, none of the offences were of a grave nature.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

At the Census of 1901 the population, excluding the military and non-resident shipping population, was 371,023. The estimated population at the end of the year 1909 was 373,071, which however showed a decrease of 1,166 as compared with the previous year. There was a decrease of 1,681 in the Indian population which numbered 261,550 in 1908 and 259,869 in 1909. The estimated population in the Dependencies and outlying islands is 6,115.

Birth and Death rates

There were 11,509 births registered during the year. The law allows a delay of 45 days for free registration and the number of births which were not registered owing to death intervening before registration was 1328. The total number of births was accordingly 12,837 giving a proportion of 34.3 infants born to 1,000 persons living. The deaths registered numbered 13,761 giving 36.7 deaths to 1,000 persons living. The birth rate showed a decrease of 2.4 per thousand as compared with 1908 and the death rate a decrease of 3.3 per thousand. The birth and death rates amongst the Indian population were 35.4 and 38.4 per thousand.

Public Health.

The year 1909 showed a distinct reduction in the number of patients admitted into the public hospitals, the figures falling from 27,751 in 1908 to 23,205. The case mortality rose however from 5.79 o/o to 5.83 o/o, being the highest recorded since 1906.

The number of deaths attributed to diseases classified as Specific Febrile or Zymotic was 7,165 or 52 o/o of the total number, of which 5,248 were due to malarial diseases, 978 to Diarrhoeal diseases of which 770 to Dysentery and 202 to Diarrhoea, and 785 to Miasmatic diseases. There were 1,255 deaths from constitutional diseases, of which 809 were due to tuberculosis and 182 to Phthisis. There were 1,590 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system of which 599 were due to bronchitis and 859 to pneumonia.

There was a widespread recrudescence of plague and the outbreak was the most severe which has been recorded since 1904: the total number of cases being 457 as against 167 in 1908 and the number of deaths 329 as against 135. The case mortality was 72.9 o/o which is the lowest recorded. The first cases were registered in July and as is usual gradually increased in frequency until the epidemic established itself in September, the climax being reached in November, in which month there were 152 cases. The epidemic of 1909 was not confined as is generally the case to Port Louis and the district of Plaines Wilhems, but rapidly spread to Pamplemousses, Rivière du Rempart, Moka and Savanne, a number of estates being affected.

Malaria.

The incidence of malaria was less severe in 1909 than in the previous year. The death rate for malarial diseases fell from 15.5 per thousand of the population to 14 per thousand and the proportion which deaths from malaria bore to deaths from other causes deceased from 38.6 o/o to 38.1 o/o.

The number of persons suffering from malaria and from splenic enlargement who were admitted to the public hospitals showed a marked decrease. The following table shews the number of malarial patients admitted to hospital during the last five years :—

Year	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Admissions	5,123	3,674	4,272	5,071	3,929

Favourable climatic conditions, a lower rainfall in the earlier part of the year and a lower mean temperature, are in part accountable for the decrease in the incidence of the disease but the effect of measures for the improvement of sanitary conditions which have been taken by the Medical and Health Department, the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis, the Boards of Commissioners for Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose-Hill and Quatre Bornes and many of the sugar estates should not be overlooked. Cleaning and canalisation of streams near populous centres, drainage of marshy ground and reduction in the number of breeding places for mosquitoes have been continued.

Amongst the works undertaken by the Sanitary branch of the Medical Department, a marsh at Centre of Flacq has been drained by cutting a channel of over 3,200 feet in length, and for part of its course through rock. The bed of the Mesnil stream has been deepened to drain the marshes in the centre of the town of Curepipe. La Louise marshes at Quatre Bornes have been drained and the course of Lataniers stream in the extra-urban area of Port-Louis has been altered to prevent the flooding, after rain, of a large extent of ground on its banks.

Free distribution of quinine from depots and at schools has been continued and the taking of a spleen census at Port Louis afforded opportunity for a special distribution in that town. The drug is issued in the form of lozenges prepared with glycerine and covered with magnesia. The lozenges remain soft for several months but fresh issues are made in fortnightly supplies and the doses vary from half a grain to 5 grains.

Vaccination.

The number of children presented for vaccination at the public vaccine stations was 9,709 as compared with 11,638 in 1908. Of this number the Public Vaccinators certified 9,587 to have been successfully vaccinated. The percentage of successful vaccinations was 98.7 o/o and of the infants born during the year 75 o/o were vaccinated at the public expense.

Meteorological.

Meteorological observations are taken at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, and at eleven second order stations. The Observatory is about three miles from the West coast and is 179 feet above sea level. There are considerable variations both in temperature and humidity in the different parts of the island, the coast districts being hotter and drier than the higher altitudes in the interior. Hurricanes occur between December and April which is the hottest season.

The mean rain-fall from 72 stations was 90.50 inches as compared with 90.06 inches in 1908 and an average of 83.87 inches. The rainfall in June was the greatest on record in all parts of the island and in July it was the greatest on record in the districts of Pamplemousses, Plaines Wilhems and portions of Grand Port. In other districts it was 200 o/o to 250 o/o of the normal. Returns from 10 stations shewed a mean rainfall of 16.32 inches in June and 10.07 inches in July as compared with averages of 4.55 inches and 4.16 inches in these months for the period from 1862 to 1909. The highest rainfall previously recorded in June was 9.33 inches in 1872 and in July 8.57 inches in 1878. The rainfall for the year at Port Louis was 33.15 inches and at Kanaka forest, 1700 feet above sea-level, 168.35 inches. The number of "rainy days" at the Observatory was 224 as compared with an average of 204 for the period 1875 to 1905, a "rainy day" being one in which .005 inches. or more of rain was measured.

The mean temperature of the air at the Observatory was 73°.1 as compared with an average of 73°.4, the highest temperature recorded being 89°.3 on the 27th. of December, and the lowest 54°.7 on the 29th. of July. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded at the Observatory between 1875 and 1909 were 94°.7 on the 23rd December 1900 and 49°.9 on the 8th. of August 1907.

The abnormality curve of air temperature showed two large negative waves culminating in May and October. The hottest of the second order stations was Port-Louis with a mean temperature of 76°.8 and the coolest Kanaka forest with a mean temperature of 67°.2.

During the year 1909 eight cyclones of which records were kept occurred in the South Indian Ocean. One passed to the North and North West of Mauritius and another passed from North East to South East of Rodrigues.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The total number of Offices open in 1909 was 63 of which 57 were also Telegraph Offices. Forty-eight of the Post Offices are at Railway Stations and 15 are in districts at a distance for the Railway system.

The revenue for the year 1909 was Rs. 139,365 as compared with Rs. 138,588 in 1908. The expenditure was Rs. 153,243 in 1908 and Rs. 141,619 in 1909. If allowance is made for the value of the work done for the Government which in 1909 is estimated at Rs. 48,510 there remains a balance in favour of the Post Office of Rs. 46,256.

The total estimated number of letters, post cards, newspapers and postal packets, exclusive of parcels which passed through the Post Office in 1909 was approximately 3 millions. The number of parcels was 14,303 being an increase of 569 over the previous year. The number of parcels dealt with in 1909 is however over 2,500 less than in 1907. The decrease in parcels in recent years is partly accounted for by the fact that some of the large French houses have representatives in the Colony who receive orders and to whom the goods are shipped as cargo.

The total of the money order business done during 1909 amounted to Rs. 709,153 as compared with 741,541 in 1908. The

Inland money orders amounted to approximately one half of the total in each year. There was a decrease of Rs. 28,000 in the business done with the United Kingdom and of Rs. 16,000 with India. The decrease in the business done with the United Kingdom is partly compensated for by an increase in Postal Order business. The number of orders issued and received increased in number from 2,879 to 3,897 and in value from Rs. 25,669 to Rs. 35,479.

There are 341¼ miles of Telegraph and 86½ miles of Telephone wires under the charge of the Department.

The Telegraph line between Port-Louis and Rose-Hill has been reconstructed and additional lines have been erected between Port-Louis and Mahebourg and between Curepipe and Rose-Belle. Modern instruments have been installed in the principal offices, the single needle type being replaced by " bell sounders ". A telephone line has been erected between Port-Louis and Grand River South East on the North Line of Railway for the use of that department.

The Railway has not a telegraphic system of its own and the ordinary messages for the working of the traffic and for the administration of the Department are transmitted over the Post Office lines. The number of Railway messages transmitted in 1909 was 98,413.

The number of Telegraph messages sent by the public is small. In 1909 out of a total number of nearly 166,000 messages sent, only 9,000 were sent by the public. The receipts for the messages including charges for porterage amounted to approximately Rs. 18,000.

The telegraph system is liable to serious interruption during the hurricane season and it is proposed to connect the Observatory by an underground line with Port Louis and with that portion of the Midland Line of Railways where the traffic is heaviest.

IX.—RAILWAYS.

There is a single line of Railway of 120 miles in length. The guage is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The earnings from all sources for the year amounted to Rs. 2,415,928 being an increase of Rs. 195,056 over 1908. Excluding Government Traffic the earnings amounted to Rs. 2,213,712 and exceeded those of 1908 by Rs. 183,355, of which increase Rs. 140,914 was in Goods Traffic and Rs. 25,313 in Passenger Traffic.

Reducing all tickets to single journey and season tickets to 50 single journeys a month the total number of passengers carried was 2,568,632 as compared with 2,540,080 in 1908, an increase of 28,552.

The following table shews the tonnage of Goods Traffic carried in 1908 and 1909 :—

	1908 Tons	1909 Tons	Increase Tons
Sugar Canes	138,890	193,367	54,477
Sugar	147,154	159,525	12,371
General Merchandize...	147,114	178,750	31,636
Total ...	433,158	531,642	98,484

In the figures for general merchandize given above are included 11,502 tons in 1908 and 9,722 tons in 1909 of traffic carried for Government Departments for which no payment was made.

Of the total quantity of sugar received in Port-Louis, the percentage which was carried by the railway was 75.69 in 1908 and 77.41 in 1909. The amount earned by the Railway per ton of sugar carried was Rs. 3.78 in 1908 and Rs. 3.79 in 1909.

The actual working expenses of the main lines were Rs. 1,542,010 and the earnings Rs. 2,213,712 leaving a profit on the year's working of Rs. 671,702. This is exclusive of the services performed by the Railway for other Government Departments for which no Cash payments are made and which at ordinary rates would cost Rs. 202,216.

The total expenditure charged to Capital Account up to the 31st. December, 1909 was Rs. 21,559,952.

Bois Chéri.

There is a light railway of 2 ft. 6 inches gauge running from Rivière du Poste Station on the Savanne Branch of the Midland Line to Mexico. The length of the line is 10 miles. The total Goods traffic carried in 1909 amounted to 16,621 tons of which 13,251 tons were sugar cane. The Sugar cane carried in 1909 shewed an increase of 3,268 tons as compared with the previous year. The actual working expenses for 1909 were Rs. 11,728, the earnings Rs. 10,869 and the work done for Government Departments was valued at Rs. 3,013. The Capital expenditure up to 31st. December 1909 was Rs. 264,640.

X.— PUBLIC WORKS.

The most important works undertaken by the Public Works Department during the year were the construction of the tower of the Lighthouse at Caves Point and a bridge across Rivière La Chaux at Mahebourg.

Caves Point Lighthouse—A tower of 67½ feet in height has been constructed in reinforced concrete on a cliff of 68 feet above high water level and suitable quarters have been built for the Light-keepers. A second order, double flashing, dioptric apparatus will be installed. The height of the light above high water level will be

146 feet. The light of 300,000 candle power will be visible from a ship's deck at a distance of 23 miles but the rays will in clear weather be visible at a much greater distance. At a height of one hundred feet above high water, there will be a fixed red light to mark the anchorage.

Rivière La Chaux Bridge.

The bridge is designed for heavy traffic by tractor which the existing wooden bridge could not carry, the abutments, arches and piers being constructed in reinforced concrete. There are 6 piers and 7 arches of 62½ feet span. The total width of the bridge is 21 feet, with a clear road way for vehicular traffic of 16 feet. One abutment, one arch and two piers were built in 1908, three arches and three piers have been built in 1909, and it is expected that the bridge will be completed in March 1911 at a cost of Rs. 125,000.

Mare aux Vacoas Water Works.

The reservoir at Mare aux Vacoas, where the average annual rainfall is 137 inches, has a catchment area of about 5 square miles. The top water level is 1,840 feet above the mean sea-level and the reservoir has a maximum capacity of 570 millions of gallons. The water flows from the Reservoir for 4,900 feet, in an open channel and for a further distance of 7,700 feet is taken in a 16" cast iron pipe to the filtering establishment at La Marie, which is 1,040 feet above sea level.

At the filtering establishment there is a depositing reservoir with a capacity of 1,300,000 gallons and a covered service reservoir with a capacity of 500,000 gallons. Owing to the water being at times heavily charged with organic matter the "Anderson Process" for the purification of water was installed and concrete partitions were erected in the depositing reservoir to improve the settlement of solids. Originally there were only 4 filter beds with a superficial area of 6,720 square feet, but five additional filter beds have since been constructed with a superficial area of 18,000 square feet, and extra aerating trays have been added. These additional works and the increased filtration area enable two filters to be always left exposed to sun and air and with a slower process of filtration there are few complaints of the quality of the water.

The daily consumption of water is about 1,600,000 gallons and with the exception of the supply to the town of Curepipe the water flows by gravitation to the lower districts. The supply for Curepipe is pumped by means of hydraulic rams to two reservoirs standing 368 feet above the Filtering Establishment, the motor being driven by water power from the 16" supply main. Owing to the increase in the population of Curepipe it is proposed to add to the pumping plant and to reconstruct the reservoirs. At the same time 2' concrete pipes will be laid where the water at present flows in an open channel from tho Reservoir. The total capital expenditure on the works amounts to Rs. 1,750,000, and the cost of maintenance is Rs. 31,500 a year.

Port Louis Drainage Works.

The Port Louis drainage works were begun in 1895, the sewers being designed on the seperate system and the surface drainage being carried in the street gutters to the various streams which flow into the Harbour. The town is divided for drainage purposes into four districts three of which drain by gravitation sewers into seperate collecting wells which are connected by means of syphon pipes to the pumping station near Caudan Bassin. From there, the sewage is pumped through cast iron pipes for 7,000 feet to the sea outfall at the mouth of Grand River North West and is discharged in 10 feet of water at low tide, a thousand feet from the shore.

Sewers have been laid in districts Nos. 2. and 3 and in the immediate vicinity of Line Barracks in District No. 4. The capital expenditure already incurred on these works and on the pumping station amounts to Rs. 706,700 and it is estimated that the additional cost of completing the whole scheme will amount to Rs. 1,075,000. It is proposed to complete the laying of the sewers in District No. 4 and to begin the work in District No. 1. The pumping plant has already proved insufficient and is being increased by additional pumps. These will suffice until the sewers in District No. 1 have been laid when a further extension will become necessary.

The cost of the house drainage works is defrayed by the owners of the properties who are permitted to repay the expenditure incurred by instalments.

Roads.

There are 432 miles of main roads which are maintained by the Public Works Department at an average annual cost of Rs. 365 a mile, the total expenditure in 1908-9 being Rs. 157,000. The portion of the roads on which the expenditure is largest is that between Port Louis and Pamplemousses on which the cost of maintenance amounts to over Rs. 1,000 a mile, this high rate being due to heavy traffic by road tractor with Port Louis. Most of the traffic comes from the estates in the District which may be reughly described as lying along a line drawn between Pamplemousses station on the North Line of Railways and Fayences Mountain in Flacq District.

XI.—FORESTS AND GARDENS.

The area of forests and waste lands under the care of the Forests Department was 84,867 acres.

Utilization.

The Improvement fellings at Kanaka were continued on a small scale, 658 cubic feet of timber and 260,000 shingles being obtained, in addition 1,776 tons of firewood were sold to Sugar Estates. The revenue from the operations exceeded the expenditure for the year by Rs. 17,787.

Clear cuttings of Casuarina on Pas Géométriques along the coast yielded fuel valued at Rs. 20,554 which was sold to the lessees, who replanted the areas cleared.

Thinnings in the pine forests in the neighbourhood of Curepipe gave a revenue of Rs. 2,822. From these forests and those near Port-Louis, 4,424 cords of fuel were cut for supply to Public Institutions.

Forest Plantations.

162,000 plants of various species were laid out in the forests at various altitudes. The varieties planted were principally Junipers, Pines and Cryptomeria japonica.

Gardens.

At the Royal Botanical Gardens, Pamplemousses 25,360 plants of sisal, cloves, coffee, palms and other varieties were sold or given free to the public. Selected sugar canes were received from the West Indies and Australia and disposed of in the same manner. 158,552 forest plants of various species were sent to Crown Lands or sold to the Public, the latter taking chiefly Casuarina and Eucalyptus.

From the Nursery Gardens, Curepipe, 202,000 plants were sent to various forests and public establishments or sold to the Public. These included 7,500 plants of the valuable but very slow growing indigenous species of trees and many conifers.

XII.—DEPENDENCIES.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small Islands situated between 5° and 19°.50′ South latitude and 51° and 72°. 30′. East longitude of which the nearest is 230 miles and the most remote about 1,200 miles distant from Mauritius.

The largest and most important is Rodrigues with an area of 42 square miles and a population of 4,560. It is administered by a resident Magistrate and has a public Hospital to which 120 patients were admitted during the year and two Government Schools with a roll of 217 pupils. In the course of 1909 a branch of the Mauritius Savings Bank was opened and there was at the end of the year a sum of Rs. 6,041 at the credit of the depositors.

The value of the chief exports in 1909 was :—Salt fish, Rs. 32,256 ; Cattle, Pigs, Goats and Fowls, Rs. 19,000, seeds (chiefly acacia), Rs. 18,800 ; tobacco, Rs. 11,456.

Most of the Islands in the Lesser Dependencies have been conceded or sold with the exception of a few Islands in the St. Brandon group and two islands in the Diego Garcia group, Tromelin Island, and one near the great Chagos Bank which are leased.

The Islands are administered by two Magistrates who are resident in Mauritius and pay regular visits to the Dependencies. The value of the chief exports from the Dependencies in 1909 were : cocoanut oil Rs. 189,956 ; cocoanuts Rs. 12,628 ; guano Rs. 32,779 and fish (dried and salted) Rs. 27,856.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Governor, His Excellency Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G. returned to Mauritius from leave of absence on the 23rd of April and was in residence in the Colony for the remainder of the year. During his absence the Government was administered by Sir Graham Bower, K.C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

The Council of Government, having had under its consideration the financial position of the Colony, decided on the 2nd of February 1909 to ask for the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the condition and resources ot the Colony. The Secretary of State accepted in principle the proposal for a Royal Commission. On the 13th of May the appointment by His Majesty was announced of Sir Frank Athelstane Swettenham, K.C.M.G., Sir Edward Loughlin O'Malley, Kt. and Mr. Hubert Bayley Drysdale Woodcock, Barrister,to be Commissioners to enquire into the conditions and resources of the Colony, with Mr. Arthur John Harding, B. A. as Secretary. The Commissioners arrived in Mauritius on the 18th of June and left the Colony on the 24th of August.

J. MIDDLETON,

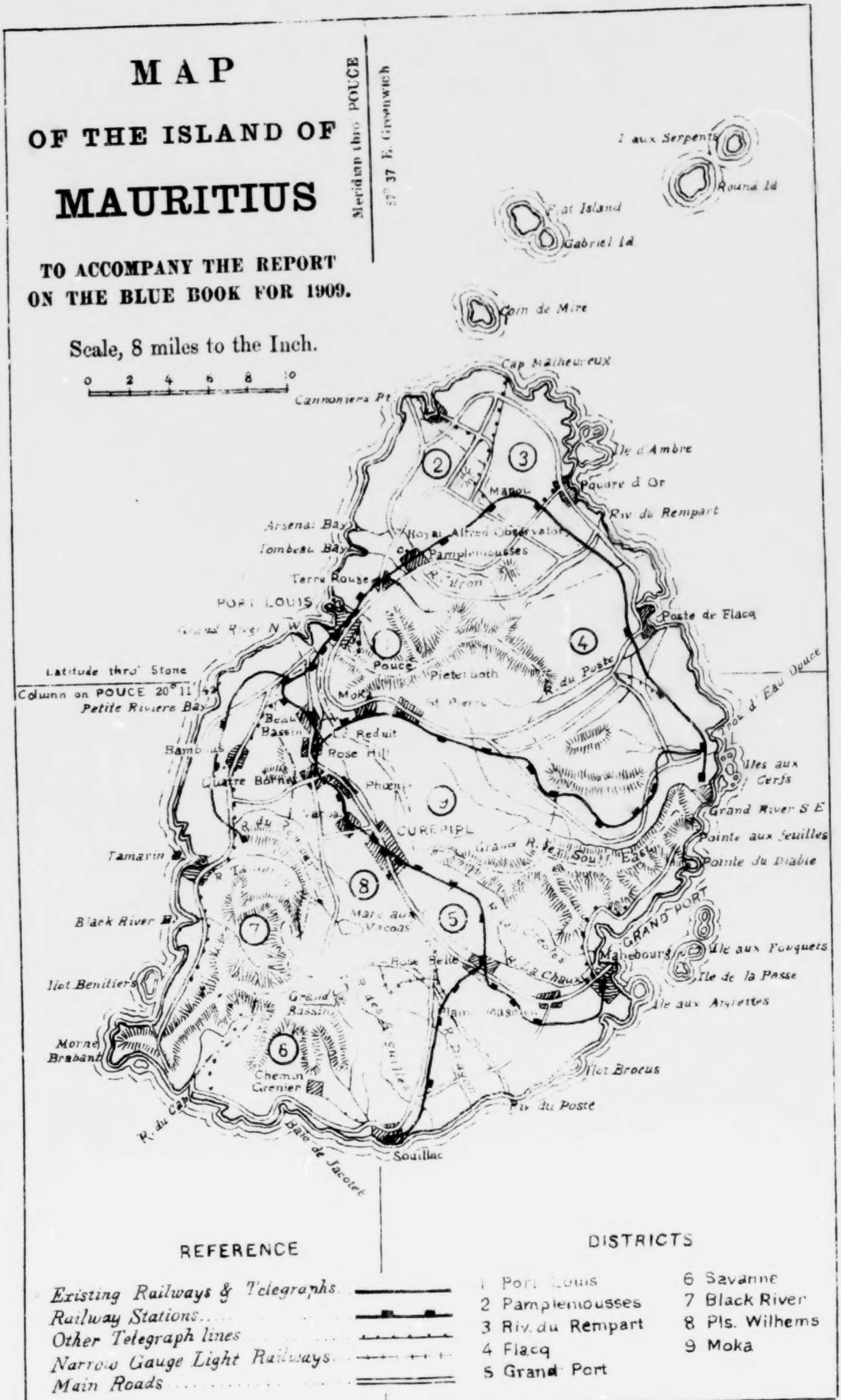
18th. August,1910

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

MAP
OF THE ISLAND OF
MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT
ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1909.

Scale, 8 miles to the Inch.


0 2 4 6 8 10
Meridian thro' POUCE
57° 37 E. Greenwich
I aux Serpents
Round Id
Flat Island
Gabriel Id
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Cannoniers Pt
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Riv du Rempart
Mapou
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouse
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N W
Poste de Flacq
Latitude thro' Stone
Column on POUCE 20° 11' 42"
Petite Riviere Bay
Pouce
Pieter Both
Moka
St Pierre
R. du Poste
Trou d' Eau Douce
Beau Bassin
Le Reduit
Bambous
Rose Hill
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
Iles aux Cerfs
Grand River S E
Pointe aux Feuilles
Pointe du Diable
CUREPIPE
Grand R. South East
Tamarin
R. Tamarin
Black River
Mare aux Vacoas
GRAND PORT
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ile aux Aigrettes
Mahebourg
R. La Chaux
Rose Belle
Ilot Benitiers
Grand Bassin
Plaine Magnien
R. des Anguilles
Morne Brabant
Chemin Grenier
Ilot Brocus
Riv du Poste
R. du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
REFERENCE
Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railways
Main Roads
DISTRICTS
1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 Pls. Wilhems
9 Moka
L. Fumeart

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	"
634	Basutoland	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	"
636	Uganda	"
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia	"
642	Malta	1909–1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910
645	Falkland Islands	"
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	"
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909–1910
650	Bahamas	"
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong...	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	"
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements	1909
664	Trinidad and Tobago	1909–1910
665	Southern Nigeria	1909

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c	Subject.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey 1906–7 and 1907–8.

3

Gt. Brit. Colonial office.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 700.

MAURITIUS.

637
567
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REPORT FOR 1910.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 666.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1911.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1910.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

Previous to the financial year 1909–10 the revenue of the Colony had on three occasions exceeded ten millions of rupees. In 1904–5 the revenue amounted to Rs. 10,399,555, in 1905–6 to Rs. 10,287,821 (omitting Rs. 881,962 recovered from Loan Funds) and in 1906–7 to Rs. 10,329,618. The normal sources of revenue yielded in 1909–10 a total of Rs. 10,559,348 which exceeded the collections of any previous year and exceeded those of 1904–5 by Rs. 159,793.

The total revenue for 1909–10 amounted to Rs. 10,799,723 in which is included a sum of Rs. 240,375 received during the year on account of the lease and sale of the dredger Cerné.

The normal revenue was Rs. 609,278 more than the estimate and Rs. 1,734,884 more than the revenue of the previous year.

The following is a comparative statement showing the actual revenue collected during the financial years 1908–9 and 1909–10 but excluding in the latter year under Head "Harbour" the sum of Rs. 240,375 paid on account of the lease and sale of the dredger Cerné.

Head of Revenue.	1908-9.	1909-10.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
				—
1. Customs	3,225,511 ...	3,956,174 ...	730,663 ...	—
2. Harbour	234,855 ...	287,716 ...	52,861 ...	—
3. Licenses, Excise, &c...	1,846,841 ...	2,287,394 ...	440,553 ...	—
4. Fees of Court, &c. ...	355,933 ...	399,334 ...	43,401 ...	—
5. Post and Telegraphs...	131,499 ...	173,776 ...	42,277 ...	—
6. Railways	2,070,699 ...	2,502,831 ...	432,132 ...	—
7. Rent	67,449 ..	67,003 ...	...	446 ...
8. Interest	858,888 ...	829,546 ...	...	29,342 ...
9. Miscellaneous ...	32,125 ...	54,433 ...	22,308 ...	—
Total Rs....	8,823,800 ...	10,558,207 ...	1,764,195 ...	29,788 ...
10. Land Sales	664 ...	1,141 ...	477 ...	...
Total Rs....	8,824,464 ...	10,559,348 ...	1,764,672 ...	29,788 ...
Net increase of normal revenue...	...	...	...	1,734,884 ...

G.E.H. Apr. 24, 1913 S.h.

The collections under every head of revenue, with the exception of Rent and Interest, showed an increase over the collections of the previous year. The sources principally contributing to the total increase in normal revenue of Rs. 1,734,884 over the revenue of 1908–9 were : Customs duties Rs. 730,663 ; Licenses, Excise and Internal Revenue Rs. 440,553 ; and Railways Rs. 432,132. In Customs Import duties there was an increase of Rs. 565,372 and in Export duties an increase of Rs. 165,291. Shop Licenses yielded an increase of Rs. 17,394 ; Excise duties an increase of Rs. 389,479 ; and Taxes on vehicles an increase of Rs. 10,394. The receipts from the Main lines of Railway showed increases of Rs. 266,936 in goods traffic and Rs. 142,975 in Passenger traffic. The heavy yield of cane from the crop of 1909–10, the favourable prices obtained for sugar towards the close of the year 1909 and the resulting substantial profit have naturally had a marked effect on the general prosperity of the community as shown by its increased power of consumption and have brought about a welcome revival in the commercial activity of the Colony.

As was anticipated in the report for last year the deficit of Rs. 599,968 with which the financial year 1909–10 opened was cleared off and there remained on the 30th. of June 1910 a surplus balance of Rs. 750,380. The improvement in the yield of Revenue from the principal sources has been maintained and a strict control over the expenditure has been continued.

Though the accounts of the financial year 1910–11 have not yet been completed, it is anticipated that the Revenue will exceed eleven millions of rupees and that the receipts will exceed the expenditure by one million and a half, leaving a surplus balance as on 30th. June 1911 of approximately 2¼ millions of Rupees. From this sum has been expended about Rs. 400,000 on account of Railway re-equipment which will be repaid when the loan already authorised is raised.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1909–1910 amounted to Rs. 9,449,261 or Rs. 199,806 less than the estimated Expenditure.

The following are the principal Heads under which the Expenditure was less than the Estimate: Railways Rs. 85,090, Medical and Health Department Rs. 54,000, Education Rs. 48,000, Prisons Rs. 26,000. It was necessary to appropriate additional sums of Rs. 53,000 under Head Poor, Rs. 36,000 on Public Works Extraordinary and Rs. 52,000 on other services. The amount provided under Head Poor, in the Estimates of 1909–10 and previous years was insufficient to meet the expenditure annually incurred on Institutional and out-door relief, the actual expenditure in 1909–10 was Rs. 21,000 less than in the previous year.

Provision was made in the Estimates of 1908–09 for the cost of the Caves Point Light but the apparatus was not delivered until after the close of the year necessitating supplementary appropriation under Public Works Extraordinary to meet its cost.

The following is a comparative statement of expenditure for the years 1908–09 and 1909–10:—

Head of Service.	1908–9.	1909–10.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	1,273,817	1,256,368	...	17,449
2. Pensions	597,354	617,588	20,234	...
3. The Governor & Legislature	94,346	91,241	...	3,105
4. Colonial Secretariat ...	56,792	54,548	...	2,244
5. Treasury	158,342	152,931	...	5,411
6. Customs	123,364	122,293	...	1,071
7. Audit	57,493	56,450	...	1,043
8. Port & Marine	180,516	133,807	...	46,709
9. Observatory	20,932	19,766	...	1,166
10. Public Library & Museum	8,155	8,119	...	36
11. Registrar General	15,675	15,707	32	...
12. Registration & Mortgage	40,855	40,524	...	331
13. Archives	7,314	7,452	138	...
14. Law and Justice	465,527	442,660	...	22,867
15. Ecclesiastical	152,689	152,721	32	...
16. Police	549,435	535,708	...	13,727
17. Prison and Reformatory ...	200,316	169,152	...	31,164
18. Medical & Health ...	760,328	733,750	...	26,578
19. Quarantine... ...	10,381	8,016	...	2,365
20. Plague	113,426	133,913	20,487	...
21. Education	627,697	591,600	...	36,097
22. Poor	282,810	261,237	...	21,573
23. Storekeeper General ...	35,463	33,069	...	2,394
24. Immigration	91,719	88,291	...	3,428
25. Dependencies, Rodrigues ...	53,676	54,003	327	...
26. Military Expenditure ...	371,583	427,540	55,957	...
27. Miscellaneous	413,330	421,587	8,257	...
28. Charitable Allowances ...	8,172	9,594	1,422	...
29. Interest and Exchange ...	200,892	211,069	10,177	...
30. Post Office	150,594	147,012	...	3,582
31. Railways	1,726,679	1,542,042	...	184,637
32. Forests and Gardens ...	169,624	161,544	...	8,080
33. Public Works Department	108,123	113,754	5,631	...
34. Public Works, Recurrent...	435,850	471,923	36,073	...
35. Public Works, Extraordinary	46,569	152,293	105,724	...
36. Loan Commission	11,616	9,989	...	1,627
Total Rs...	9,621,454	9,449,261	264,491	436,684
Result—Net Decrease	...	...	...	172,193

The total expenditure for the year 1909–10 was less than the expenditure for 1908–09 by Rs. 172,193. The principal Heads under which the expenditure in 1909–10 was less were Railways Rs. 184,000, Port and Marine Rs. 46,000, Education Rs. 36,000, Prisons Rs. 31,000. The principal Heads under which the expenditure in 1909–10 was greater were Public Works Extraordinary Rs. 105,000, Public Works Recurrent Rs. 36,000, Military Contribution Rs. 45,000, Pensions Rs. 20,000, Plague Rs. 20,000. The expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary in 1908–09 amounted to only Rs. 46,000, works having been deferred for purposes of economy. The increase in the Military Contribution followed on an increase in the Revenue of the Colony.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on the 30th. of June 1910 were Rs 3,194,748 and the Liabilities Rs. 2,444,368 the assets thus exceeding the liabilities by Rs 750,380.

	Rs.
The assets included :—	
Cash in the hands of the Receiver General and sub-accountants...	494,611
Investments at cost ...	657,018
Temporary investments at Bank rate £ 51,000 at 1/4ᵈ	765,000
Miscellaneous Advances	328,880
Advances on account of loan authorized for mechanical transport (Ordinance No. 34 of 1902)	949,239
The chief liabilities were :—	
General Deposits	2,358,967
Loan Funds, unexpended	22,748
Government of India	44,047

Public Debt.

The total indebtedness of the Colony on the 30th of June, 1910, was £ 1,300,890 and the Sinking Funds amounted to £ 286,857, leaving a nett debt of £ 1,014,033.

In 1894 the nett debt was £ 1,147,409 and approximately two and a half times the annual revenue of £ 471,172. The nett debt on the 30th of June, 1910, was less than one and a half times the normal revenue for the year.

Under Ordinances No. 10 of 1876, No. 10. of 1879 and No. 2 of 1887 outstanding debentures are redeemed by annual drawings. Provision is made for the repayment of other loans by means of a sinking fund.

The raising of a loan of £ 70,000 for the purpose of making advances to Planters to assist them in substituting mechanical for animal transport on their estates was authorized by Ordinance No. 34 of 1902. The loan was not raised but advances were made partly from Treasury balances and partly from temporary advances obtained from the Crown Agents. The actual amount advanced to Planters was £ 185,184 of which there remained due in Capital sum on the 30th of June, 1910, £ 63 282. The advances obtained from the Crown Agents were settled in full in February 1910.

The Railway (Improvement) Loan Ordinance 1910 authorizes the raising of a loan of £ 270,000 for the improvement and re-equipment of the Railways. The loan has not yet been raised the expenditure incurred having so far been met by payment from surplus cash balances.

Currency and Banking.

The Currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The following Mauritius Bronze and Silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs 5.

- (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents.
- (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.

(2) The Silver rupee of India with its silver subdivisions.

(3) Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

On the 30th June, 1910, the value of Currency notes in circulation was Rs. 4,620,250. The specie held amounted to Rs. 2,300,000 and the Investment and Depreciation Funds to Rs. 2,320,250 and Rs. 275,193 respectively.

The Banks which do business in the Colony are the Bank of Mauritius Limited and the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS.

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Municipality of Port Louis for the five years 1906 to 1910 :—

Year.	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
1906	537,366	510,588
1907	512,172	502,916
1908	476,130	500,776
1909	484,841	476,148
1910	523,494	504,058

The indebtedness of the Municipality up to the end of the year and the provision for payment are shewn below :—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1911.
	£.	£.
Conversion Loan	113,200	2,100
Electric Lighting Loan ...	8,333	333
Municipality Loan	3,715	143
Municipality Loan	4,821	178
	130,069	2,754
	Rs.	Rs.
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892	57,630.	4,991
Grand River Bridge Loan ...	2,000.	2,000
Manure Factory and Night Soil Service Loan	12,000.	2,000
Municipality Loan, 1903	16,000.	2,000
	87,630.	8,991

LOCAL BOARDS.

There are Boards of Commissioners for the Towns of Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes which are entrusted with the general improvement and conservancy of these towns.

The Board of Curepipe receives the amount of taxes on horses and vehicles collected in the town and licenses paid by the traders and others. The Board may also levy a tax not exceeding one per cent on house property. The two other Boards receive the amount of the taxes paid by traders and others in the towns and may also levy a similar tax on house property.

The following table shews the revenue and expenditure of the Boards for the past five years :—

CUREPIPE.

	1905-6	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	65,776	67,496	79,331	73,759	90,966
Expenditure	64,740	66,885	75,659	72,516	85,360

BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	26,831	30,995	37,044	33,541	35,804
Expenditure	25,783	30,164	37,695	33,476	34,639

QUATRE BORNES.

	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	13,202	12,957	13,815	[illegible]	12,513
Expenditure	12,416	12,800	13,865	13,508	12,615

Below will be found a statement of the debts of the Boards :—

Curepipe Board	Net Amount of Debt	Rs. 57,500.
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill	,,	,, 7,100.
Quatre Bornes	,,	,, nil

There is a District Board for each of the eight rural districts of the Island. To them is entrusted under Ordinance 9 of 1900 the maintenance of the branch Roads.

They receive as revenue a contribution from Government equivalent to 10 o/o of the direct taxes collected in each District during the year and an addition of 10 o/o to the direct taxes to be levied in each year in each district exclusive of Port Louis and the Townships. The additional 10 o/o to be levied on the direct taxes may be increased to 25 o/o subject to the approval of the Governor in Executive Council. The Government contribution amounted in 1909–10 to Rs. 10,000.

The powers of the District Boards were extended by Ordinance No. 35 of 1902 to include the construction, maintenance and management of water works. For this purpose they receive an annual contribution from Government which in 1909–10 amounted to Rs. 76,000 and also the proceeds of water rates and of charges paid for water supplies.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

The aggregate value of Imports and Exports, excluding specie, for the years 1908, 1909 and 1910 was as follows :—

	1908	1909	1910
Imports ...	Rs. 26,199,606	Rs. 27,013,970	Rs. 35,014,664
Exports ...	33,691,381	34,424,923	36,528,536
	59,890,987	61,438,893	71,543,200

The value of Imports from and Exports to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during the years 1909 and 1910 is shewn below, (specie is not included) :—

	Imports from		Exports to	
	1909 unit Rs. 1,000	1910 unit Rs. 1,000	1909 unit Rs. 1,000	1910 unit Rs. 1,000
United Kingdom ...	7,437	11,282	4,316	8,267
British Possessions ...	12,288	16,225	29,667	27,863
Foreign Countries ...	7,287	7,507	441	397
Total ...	27,012	35,014	34,424	36,527

The following tables shew the percentage of Imports from and Exports to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during each of the last five years :—

Imports.

From	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
United Kingdom	30.8	27.8	25.3	27.5	32.2
British Possessions	49.4	49.7	50.5	45.5	46.4
Foreign Countries	19.8	22.5	24.2	27.0	21.4

Exports.

To	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
United Kingdom ...	8.1	16.0	11.5	12.5	22.6
British Possessions ...	86.4	79.7	86.7	86.2	76.3
Foreign Countries ...	5.5	4.3	1.8	1.3	1.1

There has been a marked expansion in trade during the year and especially with the United Kingdom the imports from and exports to which have largely increased while in the imports from foreign countries the increase is considerably less. The imports and exports have been classified in accordance with the arrangement adopted by the Board of Trade and a comparison of the returns with those for 1909 gives the following information. In the group "Food etc." the imports of rice from Foreign countries have decreased by 1¾ millions of rupees while the imports from British possessions increased by 1½ millions of rupees. Under "Raw Materials" there are increases in coal of Rs. 348,000 from the United Kingdom and Rs. 726,000 from British Possessions and there is an increase of Rs. 404,000 in chemicals for manure from the United Kingdom. In the group "Manufactured Articles" increases occur under the following heads—from the United Kingdom : Hardware Rs. 499,000, wrought iron Rs. 295,000, Machinery for local manufactures Rs. 698,000, Cottons Rs. 298,000, Soap Rs. 121,000 ; from Foreign Countries: Tramway materials Rs. 251,000, Motor cars Rs. 83,000, Cottons Rs. 112,000, Haberdashery Rs. 239,000, Petroleum Rs. 151,000.

The Colony continues to send practically all its produce to the United Kingdom and British Possessions and though India still takes the bulk of the sugar produced, the exports to the United Kingdom rose considerably in 1910.

In 1910 four commercial travellers deposited samples at the

Customs. They all represented foreign firms and travelled in haberdashery, perfumery, wines, spirits and preserved provisions.

The Customs Revenue showed an increase of Rs. 1,563,000 as compared with 1909 and the chief articles contributing to the revenue in 1910 were :—

	Rs.
Tobacco and Cigars	790,000
Grain (including rice, dholl, etc.)	577,000
Cotton manufactures	204,000
Wines	190,724
Spirits	145,009
Matches	110,000

The Export duty on sugar yielded Rs. 647,000.

Imports.

The value of the imports in 1910 was greater by Rs. 8,000,000 than in the previous year.

The largest increases occur under the following heads :

	Rs.
Coal	1,107,000
Machinery (for local industries)	712,000
Hardware and Cutlery	556,000
Timber	535,000
Animals	452,000
Manures and Fertilizers	500,000
Oils	351,000
Grain	[illegible]
Cotton Manufactures	316,000
Haberdashery	311,000
Machinery (Mechanical Transport) ...	298,000
Provisions (preserved)	259,000
Wines and spirits	156,000
Soap	121,000

The articles in which these increases occur indicate a general and marked improvement in the trade of the colony following the profitable sugar crop of the previous year and there are noteworthy increases in the importations affecting Agriculture.

There was an increase of 2,344 in the number of oxen imported from Madagascar and though the meat supply of the Island is derived from this source a considerable number of draft animals were introduced. Twenty six horses and sixty swine were imported from

the United Kingdom for breeding purposes and 263 horses and poneys were imported from Australia.

The importations of coal increased by 22,000 tons due partly to ships calling to coal and to the more general use of coal in the industries of the colony and especially on Estate tramways. The value of manures imported increased by Rs. 500,000, and there were increases of Rs. 712,000 and Rs. 298,000 under machinery for local industries and under the head Mechanical Transport. The value of the machinery imported was three times greater than in the previous year and practically all of it came from the United Kingdom. The locomotives, wagons and rails for tramways continue to come from foreign countries, the importations of these materials from the United Kingdom though small were nearly doubled in 1910 as compared with the previous year. Fifty four motor cars of value Rs. 263,000, were imported during the year.

The following tables give the value of the importations and the country of origin under the Heads Machinery and Mechanical Transport for the years 1906 to 1910 :—

Machinery.

Country.	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	382,164	437,528	252,354	329,155	1,028,122	2,429,323
France ...	19,807	23,201	6,943	18,616	29,716	98,283
Germany ...	7,831	9,307	3,439	...	...	20,577
Belgium ...	235	2,782	1,728	867	3,411	9,026
Other countries .	...	...	...	810	463	1,273
Total ...	410,037	472,818	264,464	349,448	1,061,715	2,558,482

Mechanical Transport.

Country.	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Germany ...	251,419	240,726	50,681	210,402	398,845	1,152,073
Belgium ...	66,795	92,429	1,233	62.696	140.277	363,430
United Kingdom	...	14,454	13,920	59,726	106,909	195,009
France	15,093	14,082	1,707	15,219	927	47,028
United States ...	...	...	8,887	...	...	8,887
Total ...	333,307	361,691	76,428	348,043	646,958	1,766,427

The total imports of rice which is the chief article of food of the majority of the population were practically the same as in the previous year and amounted to 58,000 tons (metric) being Rs. 183,000 less in value. The imports from British India increased by over 12,000 tons approximately the equivalent of the imports from Non-British India in 1909 from which no rice was imported in 1910. The imports from the Straits Settlements remained steady at 600 tons while those from Madagascar decreased by one-half. A small quantity of rice, excellent as are the local Arrowroot and Tapioca, is grown in the Island, but the price is high and imported rice is generally preferred. "Creole" rice is sold at prices varying from 20 to 25 cents a pound, Madagascar rice at 12 cents and Indian rice at from 7 to 10 cents.

The quantities and value of the imports of dholl and gram increased and the quantity of lentils imported from India, (value Rs. 160,000) was nearly double that of the previous year although lentils of better quality are grown locally.

It is significant of the backward condition of agriculture in other branches than the cultivation of the sugar cane, upon which effort has principally been concentrated and which has been brought to great perfection, that although dairies have been successfully established in the Island the imports of butter, margarine, cheese and milk amounted to Rs. 164,000 and that although the country is adapted to oil bearing trees and plants and a good oil is produced in small quantities from ground nuts the value of the importations of culinary oils, lard and like products amounted to Rs. 894,000. Similarly tea grown in the colony has been favourably reported on, but the imports increased from 47,638 kilogrammes in 1909 to 60,092 kilogrammes in 1910. It is further noteworthy as indicating other directions in which local industries may possibly be developed that the following appear among the Imports for the year :—

Coffee	Rs. 173,592
Castor Oil	144,157
Soap	436,373
Potatoes...	97,261
Salt	71,159
Chillies	49,665
Peas	45,063
Cocoa nut oil	21,973
Tamarinds	14,344
Cart Grease	16,064
Tallow	13,054
Bark and Dyeword	10,170

The following table shews the countries which export goods to Mauritius and the value of the goods exported, exclusive of specie, in the years 1909 and 1910 :—

Country	Exports to Mauritius.	
—	1909	1910
	Rs.	Rs.
British India	10,307,800	13,237,466
United Kingdom	7,431,356	11,282,129
France	2,402,077	3,088,554
Australia	857,627	1,059,195
United States	732,423	888,791
Madagascar	659,844	1,069,101
Germany	530,001	721,828
Natal	471,599	375,301
Cape Colony	295,012	433,953
Transvaal	32,810	670,542
Belgium	286,013	503,596
Reunion	236,661	316,638
Straits Settlements	183,060	247,685
China	153,150	168,149
Indo-China	1,756,409	nil

The United Kingdom, British India or British Possessions are the largest suppliers of wearing apparel, bacon, gunny bags, beer in casks and bottles, books, bran, chemicals for manures, cement, coal, confectionery, dholl, gram, oats, rice, flour, cotton, salt fish, ghee, hardware and cutlery, iron nails, wrought iron, boots and shoes, machinery for local industries, manure (bone), provisions (preserved), salt, soap, whisky, stationery, tea, tin, umbrellas (cotton), shooks, sleepers, timber, woollen goods.

Foreign countries are the largest suppliers of apothecaries' wares, oxen, butter, candles, clocks and watches, enamelled ware, glassware, haberdashery, jewellery, light tramway wagons, locomotives and materials, matches, motor cars, petroleum, cigarette paper, perfumery, potatoes, satin and ribbons, brandy, gin, wine, sulphur, tobacco and cigars, toys, umbrellas (silk), woollen blankets.

Exports.

The total value of the exports, excluding specie but including charges, was in 1909 Rs. 34,424,923 and in 1910 Rs. 36,528,536.

The following table shews the value and the destination of the products of the Colony, other than sugar, which were exported in 1909 and 1910.

Product	Year	Exported to			
		United Kingdom	British Possessions	Foreign Countries	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
Molasses ...	1909	......	702,019	...	702,019
	1910	462	510,265	...	510,727
Rum ...	1909	31,144	12,549	...	43,693
	1910	15,024	14,737	...	29,761
Aloe Fibre..	1909	464,583	8,509	57,605	530,697
	1910	536,458	2,116	88,927	627,501

The following table shows the principal countries to which sugar was exported during the calendar years 1909 and 1910:—

Country	1909 tons.*	1910 tons*
British India...	116,332	140,510
United Kingdom	20,261	47,316
Cape Colony	12,152	19,137
Hong-Kong	3,010	3,854
Australia	3,456	1,860
Portuguese East Africa	548	1,161
Natal	288	740
Seychelles	288	304
Aden	387	377
British East Africa	93	212
Zanzibar	231	99
Ceylon	50	73
France	508	51
St. Helena	15	43
Canada	15,762	...
St Vincent	5,852	...

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* Metric ton=1,000 kilogrammes.

Agriculture

SUGAR.

The crop year for sugar begins on the 1st of August and ends on the 31st of July of the following year. For the purposes of comparison it is convenient to maintain this distinction.

The year closing on the 31st of July 1911 has been one of great activity in the sugar industry. The crop of 1909, produced under most favourable conditions, had reached 246,560 tons* and had exceeded that of any previous year. The heavy yield of cane per acre in 1909 and the favourable prices obtained for the sugar have brought about a rapid extension of the area cultivated, particularly on the lands of peasant proprietors. The total crop of 1910 exclusive of local consumption was 214,372 tons*, which figure is arrived at in the following manner :—

		Tons.*
Exports, 1st August 1910 to 31st July 1911 ...		224,093
In store on the 31st July 1911 ...	24,317 bags	
„ „ 1910 ...	151,806 „	
Subtract balance in Store, (127,489 × 76.25 kilos average weight of 1 bag)		9,721
		214,372

The abnormally heavy rains of June and July 1909 were followed during the growing season of the crop of 1910 by long periods of drought which adversely affected the yield of cane. The harvesting of this relatively large crop in spite of generally unfavourable climatic conditions is due to

(1) An extension of the area planted ;

(2) An exceptionally good " virgin " crop produced by the heavy rains which fell in June and July 1909 immediately after the canes had been planted ;

(3) An unusually rich and pure juice ;

(4) Improved methods of extraction and manufacture.

There has resulted a crop slightly above normal which has in a measure counterbalanced the low price realised for the sugar.

The market opened with a general average price of about Rs. 9 per 50 kilos which fell rapidly in the closing months of 1910, the average for the whole crop, though not yet definitely determined by the Chamber of Agriculture, being approximately Rs. 7 per 50 kilos as compared with Rs. 8.50 in the previous year. The monetary value of the crop for the last five years is shewn below.

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* Metric ton = 1000 kilogrammes.

	Total Produce Tons (metric)	Monetary value units Rs. 1,000,000.
1906– 7	214,699	28.3
1907– 8	163,911	24.9
1908– 9	191,491	28.7
1909–10	246,560	41.9
1910–11	214,372	30.0

The agricultural returns which have this year been prepared in the Statistical Office of the Chamber of Agriculture show that on the 31st. of December, 1910, 144,297 arpents* out of a total area of 439,451 arpents in the Island of Mauritius were under cultivation in sugar cane giving an increase of 16,552 arpents since 1909, of which 4,864 arpents are on large estates and 11,688 on small holdings.

The Protector of Immigrants reports that there was a decrease of 6,447 in the estate population as compared with the previous year and a decrease of nearly 1,000 in the number of written contracts of service, excluding those of new immigrants, entered into during 1910. The introduction of indentured labour from India was restricted and later in the year discontinued. The extended cultivation of small holdings absorbed a large amount of regular labour and there was consequently a scarcity of labour causing some anxiety during harvest and the busier seasons of field work. Agricultural work was plentiful throughout the year and wages ruled high.

Attempts have been made from time to time and recently renewed to introduce steam ploughs for field work, but much of the land under cane cultivation is very rocky and hand labour still prevails, except in a few isolated cases where the soil lends itself to mechanical appliances. The use of cane and mill residue as fertilizers continues to be generally adopted and the imports of manures and chemicals increase annually, the value for 1910 being approximately 2½ millions of rupees. The construction of light tramways has been further extended and their total length is estimated by the Statistical Office of the Chamber of Agriculture at little short of 900 miles. As supplementing the tramway system, a considerable number of oxen are used for transport. The wastage is made good by imports from Madagascar though the "Creole ox", of which about 450 are bred annually, is preferred as better resisting disease and being generally a more sturdy animal.

In 1908 there were 66 Sugar Factories working and this number had at 31st. December 1910 decreased to sixty two. Great improvement has been effected in the manufacture of sugar and large sums have been expended on the machinery of the factories. The total value of the machinery imported in 1910 exceeded one million of rupees and consisted principally of larger vacuum pans, improved turbines, " malaxeurs " and other machinery and labour saving appliances for the work of the sugar factories. In one or two instances improved and powerful crushing plants have been introduced the results from which will be followed with great interest.

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* arpent = 1·043 acre.

Mauritius Hemp.

Furcrœa Gigantea or " Aloës vert " from which is produced the fibre commercially known as " Mauritius Hemp " is believed to have been introduced into the island from South America about 1790 as an ornamental plant. It had by 1871 spread so extensively that its commercial value came to be recognised and 120 cwts. of fibre were exported in that year for experimental purposes. In 1882 the exports had risen to 1228 tons and in 1884 they fell to 324 tons. From 1887 an impetus appears to have been given to the industry and the exports rose to 2729 tons in 1889. In 1894 they had again fallen to 858 tons and in 1900 they reached their maximum of 3105 tons valued at Rs. 940,000. The quantities exported during the last six years and their value are shewn below.

	Tons.	Value. unit Rs. 1000.
1905	1674	564
1906	1951	737
1907	2879	986
1908	2142	623
1909	1878	530
1910	2021	627

An article in the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute (Vol. VIII No. 3, 1910) pointing out the possibility of development in the Mauritius Hemp Industry shows that the price has varied considerably. In the end of 1905 and the beginning of 1906 £ 30 a ton was paid in London for " good fair Mauritius hemp. " The price fell rapidly in 1907 and was as low as £ 19.10 in March 1908. Thereafter it remained low fluctuating between £ 19 and £ 21.10 until it gradually rose in the end of 1909 and was in the latter part of 1910 about £26—£27 per ton. It is at the time of writing quoted at £ 21 to £ 25 per ton. The average selling price, in the Colony, including all grades, was during the year 1909 approximately Rs. 277 per ton, (metric) with an average cost of production of Rs. 188 a ton. The average selling price during 1910 was approximately Rs. 300 a ton varying from Rs. 375 for the best quality to Rs. 150 for the lowest.

The tendency to extend the plantations and to rely less on the product of uncultivated lands, to which reference was made in the report of last year, has increased but only to a small extent, and experiments have also been made in planting agave. The Furcrœa flourishes in the most unproductive and barren lands and reproduces itself with great rapidity by the bulbils which fall from the " pole ". There are low lying lands which are either uncultivated or on which the cultivation of the sugar cane is carried on with difficulty, and on which it seems probable that the cultivation of Furcrœa and the production of Mauritius hemp on a larger scale than has hitherto been attempted might be undertaken with good prospects of success. The industry appears to be capable of considerable development and to offer a profitable opening for capital.

The need for better methods of manufacture and improved machinery is keenly felt. There is a demand for a more efficient decorticating installation than is generally in use, and a machine which could be easily moved from place to place so as to avoid the not inconsiderable cost of the transport of the leaves, would find a ready market.

Cotton.

The cultivation of cotton, which was formerly grown with success in the Island, appears also to offer possibilities on lands not well suited to sugar cane and on fallow lands. During the course of the year the Fine Spinners and Doublers Association Limited of Manchester, and Messrs J. and P. Coats Limited of Paisley offered to supply free, selected seed of "Sea Island" Cotton for experimental sowing, to maintain at their cost a cotton growing expert and to erect ginning and baling apparatus. Towards the end of the year Mr. J.H. Lee arrived in the Colony to supervise and advise on cotton cultivation. A total area of over 400 acres was planted in plots varying from half an acre to 80 acres, the more important being in the districts of Rivière du Rempart, Flacq and Black River. The sowing which was begun late in the season was somewhat unduly prolonged and the climatic conditions in the ensuing growing season were peculiarly unfavourable to the experiment. The damage caused by the cyclones of February and March 1911 does not appear to have been great except in the case of very young seedlings, but the low temperature and shortage of rain were very seriously felt in some districts. A small ginnery has been established in Port Louis with three Macarthy gins driven by a steam engine and a screw baling press with a capacity of 200 lbs. The cotton produced has been generally of a high quality and has been bought at R. 1.80 per kilogramme of cotton lint. Mr. Lee has expressed the opinion that if the cotton is planted at the beginning of the rainy season and if care and attention are bestowed on its cultivation it would pay well, especially on the low lying lands.

Shipping.

There was much activity in shipping during the year. The following comparative tables show the number, tonnage and nationality of ships entered and cleared during the years 1909 and 1910.

Nationality.	1909. Steam vessels.		Sailing vessels.		Total		1910. Steam vessels.		Sailing vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
ENTERED.												
British	113	265,494	27	7,470	140	272,964	139	364,978	33	12,844	172	377,822
French	37	92,412	7	1,122	44	93,534	43	106,225	16	1,501	59	107,726
Norwegian	5	6,482	1	947	6	7,429	...	......	3	3,203	3	3,203
German	1	4,236	...	...	1	4,236	...	......	...	...	...	......
Total entered	156	368,624	35	9,539	191	378,163	182	471,203	52	17,548	234	488,751
CLEARED.												
British	111	263,763	28	8,725	139	272,488	142	373,127	32	12,837	174	385,964
French	37	92,412	6	422	43	92,834	43	106,225	16	2,124	59	108,349
Norwegian	5	6,482	1	947	6	7,429	...	......	3	3,203	3	3,203
German	1	4,236	...	...	1	4,236	...	......	...	...	...	......
Total cleared... ...	154	366,893	35	10,094	189	376,987	185	479,352	51	18,164	236	497,516

These tables show that 234 vessels with a tonnage of 488,751 reported during the year, against 191 with a tonnage 378,163 in the previous year showing a total increase of 43 vessels with a tonnage of 110,588 :—236 vessels with a tonnage of 497,516 cleared as against 189 with a tonnage of 376,987 in the previous year, showing an increase of 47 vessels with a tonnage of 120,529.

The increase in the number reported is divided between those reporting with cargo and those reporting in ballast as follows :

Reported with cargo	35	tonnage	102,249
Reported with ballast	8	„	8,339
	43	„	110,588

The clearances show an increase of 47 vessels with a tonnage of 120,529 divided between vessels cleared with cargo and vessels cleared in ballast, the figures are as follows :

Cleared with cargo	23	tonnage	56,241
Cleared with ballast	24	„	64,288
	47		120,529

Distinguishing steam vessels from sailing vessels there has been an increase of 26 with a tonnage of 102,579 reporting as compared with the previous year and an increase of 31 with a tonnage of 112,459 cleared. The number of steamers reporting with cargo is 22 with a tonnage of 93,501 in excess of the previous year and the number of steamers reporting with ballast is 4 with a tonnage of 9,078 in excess of the previous year. Thirteen steamers (tonnage 54,060) cleared with cargo in excess of the number of the previous year while the number of vessels clearing in ballast in excess of the previous year was 18 with a tonnage of 58,399.

There was an increase in the number of sailing vessels reporting with cargo of 13 with a tonnage of 8,748 and of those reporting in ballast an increase of 4 in number with a tonnage less by 739. The number of sailing vessels cleared with cargo was greater by 10 (tonnage 2,181) and of sailing vessels cleared with ballast greater by 6 (tonnage 5,889).

There were increases in the number of ships entered from the United Kingdom of 10 with a tonnage of 43,853 and of ships cleared for the United Kingdom of 12 with a tonnage of 47,010 ; the number of ships entered from Australia increased by 15 with a tonnage of 41,708, and the number of ships cleared for India increased by 8 with a tonnage of 35,205.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Among the more important legislative measures of the year are the following :—

The Census Ordinance (No. 2) is modelled on the lines of the measure passed in 1900 (Ordinance No. 20). Article 1 is declaratory of the Census and Article 23 provides for the taking of the Census in the Dependencies.

The Importation of Plants (diseases prevention) Ordinance (No. 4) is modelled on an Ordinance of British Guiana (No. 21 of 1903). Power is taken to prohibit or restrict effectively the importation of seeds, plants, cuttings or soil which are likely to be a means of introducing plant diseases.

The Children and Young Persons (Abolition of Death Sentence) Amendment Ordinance (No 6) gives to the Court a discretionary power, in the absence of positive proof in determining the age of a child or young person for the purposes of the Children and Young Persons (Abolition of death sentence) Ordinance of 1909.

The Banishment (Amendment) Ordinance (No 8) restricts the operation of the Banishment Ordinance of 1909 to Aliens (1) convicted by a competent Court of certain offences or (ii) certified by the Court within 12 months after they last entered the Colony to have been sentenced in a foreign country with which there is an extradition treaty for a crime (not being an offence of a political character) which as respects that country is an extraditable offence within the meaning of the Extradition Act 1870.

The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance (No 9) defines in one enactment the terms and conditions applicable to loans hereafter authorized to be raised by the Legislature of the Colony, provides for the creation of inscribed stock and enables the Colony to take advantage of the provisions of the Colonial Stock Act 1877 and subsequent amending enactments.

The Railway (Improvement) Loan Ordinance (No. 10) authorizes the raising of a loan of £270,000 to meet the cost of improvements to the Railways.

The Inquiries into Wrecks and Marine Court Ordinance (No. 11) passed under the authority of Section 478 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 makes better provision for the exercise of the jurisdiction of the District Court of Port Louis, First Division, as a Marine Court sitting with assessors.

The Sale of Food (Municipal Control) Ordinance (No. 14) gives to authorised Municipal Officers within the limits of the town of Port Louis the same power of entering into shops and of inspection and control of food sold or stored therein as are vested in the Sanitary Authorities by Article 41 of the Public Health Law of 1894—1895.

The Crown Lands (amendment) Ordinance (No. 16) empowers the Governor to authorize the exchange by private contract of Crown Lands for other lands subject to the provisions of the Crown Land Ordinances No. 18 of 1874 and No. 19 of 1899 ; the lessee of Crown Lands is also granted a preference over the highest bidder for the lease of adjoining Pas Géométriques.

The Electric Light and Power (purchase) Ordinance (No. 17) gives to the Governor in Executive Council power to purchase undertakings for the supply of electricity for public purposes authorized under Ordinance No. 18 of 1902 and provides a basis of valuation.

The Merchant Shipping Ordinance (No. 19) consolidates 17 local Ordinances which are absorbed in seven parts as follows : Masters and Seamen ; Distressed Colonial Seamen ; Mercantile Marine Officers ; Survey of Passenger Steamers ; Life Saving Appliances ; Unseaworthy ships ; Wrecks and Salvage.

The Merchant Shipping (Extension) Ordinance (No. 20) adapts certain provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act (1906) to the Colony, viz : Sections 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 22, 57 ; and applies Part III (except Section 27) and so much of Part IV and of Part V as relate to shipping officers, engagement and discharge of seamen, payment and allotment of wages, legal rights to wages, mode of recovering wages, wages and effects of deceased seamen, provisions, health and accommodation of seamen, power of seamen to make complaints, protection of seamen from imposition, and discipline, to all ships registered at and trading with Mauritius (except such as are exclusively employed in the coasting trade) when such ships are within the jurisdiction of the Government of the Colony.

The Electoral Registers (Preparation) Amendment Ordinance (No. 21) makes provision for the appointment of additional officers, termed Revising Officers, for the purpose of adjudicating upon all matters incidental to the revision and preparation of yearly registers of electors within the period fixed in Ordinances Nos. 5 of 1887 and 22 of 1895.

The Clearing of Rivers Ordinance (No. 22) extends and better defines the powers of the Executive to grant permission to clean River Reserves and to cut trees growing thereon. The riparian owner may be authorized to clear the bed of a river from trees, weeds, growth or impediment, to clear the banks for a width of ten feet from the water's edge and to remove trees in and under certain conditions.

The Motor Car Ordinance (No.24) regulates the use of motor cars and embodies in substance the main provisions of the Act 3 Edward VII. Cap. 36.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

The Primary schools at the end of the year 1910 numbered 149 of which 61 were Government and 88 Aided Schools. The number of Government Schools has been reduced from 67 in 1908 and 64 in 1909 by the amalgamation of separate schools for Boys and Girls in the same locality. The Schools which were so amalgamated in 1910 were L'Escalier in the District of Grand Port, Flacq Central and Pamplemousses, and considerable economy has resulted both in the salaries of the Teachers and in the working expenses of the schools. Of the Aided Schools there were 66 Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian and 1 Mahomedan.

The number of Primary Schools, Government and Aided, and the number of pupils for the years 1906 to 1910 are shown in the following table :—

	Government Schools.			*Aided Schools.*		
Years.	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.
1906	67	8,919	5,491	88	9,867	6,491
1907	67	8,615	5,670	90	10,367	6,918
1908	67	8,359	5,242	88	10,226	6,779
1909	64	8,634	5,433	88	10,651	7,234
1910	61	9,326	5,951	88	11,621	7,934

The average attendance in Government and Aided Schools for the year was 13,885 with a roll of 20,947 showing an average attendance of 66·2 o/o of the number of pupils on the roll. There is a slight improvement as compared with 1909 when with a roll of 19,285 there was an average attendance of 12,667 or 65·6 o/o of the number of pupils on the roll. The number of pupils on the roll and the number in average attendance have increased by nearly 10 o/o as compared with 1909 but the Director of Public Instruction reports that only a small proportion, between a third and a quarter, of the children of school age attend Government or Aided Schools and that only a very small proportion of the remainder get any schooling at all. The average attendance in 1910 compared favourably with that of 1909 but it is still very low and when the school year is well begun it may be generally considered a good attendance if there are present two thirds of the number of pupils on the register.

The number of Indian children attending the Primary Schools in 1910 was 7,462 as compared with 7,125 in 1909 and 6,996 in 1908.

With an increase in the number of pupils attending the Schools as compared with 1909 the Examination results show a rise in the number of passes but the number of pupils who successfully passed the Examination tests and especially in obligatory subjects showed, as compared with the number of pupils presented for examination, a satisfactory increase. Of the total number of pupils on the roll in the six Standard classes 62 o/o passed the examination tests as compared with 53·64 o/o in 1909, while of the number of pupils who were presented for examination 65 o/o passed in 1910 as compared with 57·59 o/o in 1909. The reports of the Inspectors however indicate that teaching is frequently too much directed to the attainment of examination results at the cost of important matters which are not directly tested by examination.

The total expenditure for the year on the salaries of and grants to Teachers in Primary Schools amounted to Rs. 292,608 of which Rs. 133,885 was expended on Government Schools and Rs. 158,722 on Aided Schools. The figures for 1909 were Rs. 326,625., Rs. 162,334 and Rs. 164,291 respectively. The cost to Government of a pupil in a Government School was Rs. 19.75 and in an Aided School Rs. 15.14 as compared Rs. 20.25 and Rs. 15.42 in 1909.

There are open annually to pupils of Primary Schools six scholarships and six exhibitions at the Royal College for which there is keen competition. The exhibitioners receive free tuition and the scholars free tuition and an allowance of Rs. 100 a year. There were 128 candidates in 1910 against 131 in 1909. Seven candidates failed in the test examination and 14 scored the minimum number of marks. The numbers of candidates from Government Schools was 81 and from Aided Schools 47.

An important addition was made to the Code of the Primary Schools by the inclusion of a syllabus of instruction in Hygiene for the upper standards and of regulations for the payment of grants on examination in this subject.

Secondary Education.

Secondary Education is provided by the Royal College, two schools in connection with it and 22 associated schools of which 17 presented pupils at the Annual Examination. There were in December 1910, 194 pupils at the College, 124 at Curepipe School and 68 at Port-Louis School. Of the 386 pupils at the College and its two schools, 114 did not pay fees.

There were 11 candidates for the London Matriculation Examinations in 1910, 4 of whom passed in the Second Division.

There were 93 candidates for the Senior Cambridge Examination, 20 out of the 71 candidates from the College passed. Out of 29 candidates for the Junior Cambridge Examination 14 passed.

There are scholarships and exhibitions in all the classes of the College and there are two valuable scholarships to enable pupils of the College to continue their studies in Europe.

There are 23 girls' schools which are affiliated to the Royal College in connection with the scheme for the Higher Education of Girls. The number of candidates who were presented for examination was 351 of whom 147 obtained Honours Certificates and 60 Pass Certificates. Eighteen girls entered for the Senior Cambridge Local Examination of whom 5 passed. Nine entered for the Junior

Examination of whom 2 passed. The total sum expended in 1910 on the Higher Education of Girls was Rs. 8,590 as against Rs. 8,818 in 1909.

Training of Teachers.

There are Government Training schools for men and for women. There were 4 candidates from the Men's Training School for the second class teacher's certificate of whom 2 passed and the two candidates for the third class certificate also passed. There was only one candidate from the Women's Training School for the second class certificate, who was not successful but the three candidates for the third class certificate all passed.

The following table shews the number of candidates for certificates and the number who passed during the year :

Class of Certificate.	Candidates.			Successful.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Second	31	8	39	6	0	6
Third	47	29	76	10	10	20
Monitors' ...	123	83	206	18	15	33
Total ...	201	120	321	34	25	59

There are 609 certificated Teachers employed in Government and Aided schools of whom 151 are Head Teachers, 145 Assistant Teachers and 313 Monitors.

Technical Education.

There are eight mechanical engineering apprenticeships for which there were 104 candidates as against 131 in 1909. There are two agricultural apprenticeships for which there were 37 candidates and two engineering studentships for which there were 3 candidates only one of whom was successful.

Needlework receives attention in Girls' schools and the work of the pupils continues to shew improvement. Fifty two candidates entered for the needlwork competition to four of whom apprenticeships were awarded.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

There are 13 Hospitals, including 5 in connection with the Prisons and Reformatory, and there are 29 dispensaries, being an increase of one dispensary over the previous year. There is in addition a Hospital ward attached to the Lunatic Asylum. The number of admissions to all hospitals was 18,128 as compared with 23,205 in 1909 and 27,751 in 1908. The case mortality rose from 5.83 o/o in the previous year to 6.03 o/o, the highest figure since 1896. The number of cases treated at the dispensaries fell from 69,593 in 1909 to 57,889 in 1910 and 5,690 cases were treated as out-patients at the hospitals. Cases so treated have not been included in the figures of previous years and should properly appear amongst the cases receiving dispensary treatment. There have been added to the buildings of the Civil Hospital at Port Louis a kitchen, a mortuary, and a post-mortem room; and an operating room and a maternity ward are in course of construction. An operating room has also been constructed at Mahebourg Hospital.

Lunatic Asylum.

There is a Lunatic Asylum and a Lunatic Ward in connection with the Poorhouse of Barkly Asylum. There were 416 patients in the Asylum on the 31st. December 1910 as compared with 430 on the corresponding date of the previous year and the daily average fell from 427.3 in 1909 to 422 in 1910 giving a reduction of 9 since the year 1908. The decrease in the daily average number of male patients was 3.09 as compared with a decrease of 1.97 in the daily average number of females. The total number of certified lunatics in the Colony on the 31st. of December 1910, including patients out on probation and patients in the Lunatic Ward of Barkly Asylum, was 636 (396 males and 240 females) giving a proportion of one insane to 588 of population.

Poor Relief.

Barkly Asylum is the only institution under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioner at which paupers receive Institutional relief.

The buildings of Barkly Asylum were originally constructed for the purpose of affording Institutional relief to the Poor, and included a Hospital which was later placed entirely under the control of the Medical Department and has come to be used as a General Hospital for the district. Arrangements also exist at various religious institutions for the maintenance of aged and infirm pauper at fixed rates, and there is an asylum for pauper lepers in which patients are maintained at the public expense. The maintenance of paupers at these institutions forms the larger part of the expenditure of the Poor Law Department.

The Poor Law Commissioner reports that there was a further decrease in the number of cases in which relief was afforded. Distinguishing Medical Relief from other forms of relief the number of admissions to the Public Hospitals, in which free treatment was given, fell from 18,918 in 1909 to 14,537 in 1910, while 202 cases were treated at the public expense at Canal Street Convent Hospital as against 183 in 1909 and 176 lepers were maintained at the public cost at St Lazare Asylum as against 191 in 1909. The number of attendances of sick paupers at the Public Dispensaries fell from 61,706 in 1909 to 48,009 in 1910. The number of persons who were treated is not shown and the figures do not include sick paupers attending the Public Hospitals as out patients.

The recipients of Institutional Relief during the year are shown as numbering 1,989 as compared with 2,492 in 1909. In 1910 there were 1,110 aged and infirm, 617 feeble minded and 262 children, in 1909 the aged and infirm numbered 1,520 the feeble minded 610 and the children 362.

The number of persons receiving out-door relief, permanent or temporary, is shewn to be 3,405 in 1910 of whom 834 were males and 2,571 females as compared with 3,872 in 1909 of whom 880 were males and 2,992 were females.

Savings Bank.

At the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th. June 1910 a sum of Rs. 3,000,028 to the credit of 27,316 depositors. The investment funds amounted to Rs. 3,094,171. Interest is allowed at the rate of 3 o/o.

The following table shows the number of depositors who belonged to the General and Indian populations and the amount standing to their credit on the 30th. June 1910.

	Number.	Rs.
General population	16,097	1,673,135
Indian Population	11,219	1,326,893

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The authorized strength of the Police on the 31st. of December 1910 was 1 Inspector General, 7 Inspectors, 12 Sub Inspectors, 1 Staff Sergeant Major, 2 Check Sergeants, 41 Sergeants, 3 Mounted Orderlies, 50 Corporals, 402 European and Creole Constables, and 205 Indian Constables : 57 men were enlisted in 1910 and the total number of dismissals was 12.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the Police in 1910 was 22,254 as against 22,197 in 1909.

They may be classified as follows :—

Homicide	26
Other offences against the person ...	8,963
Prædial Larceny	279
Other offences against property	4,943
Other offences	8,043
	22,254

In connection with these offences 11,890 persons (including 551 persons arrested on suspicion) were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates. In 13,885 of the cases no person was charged.

The total number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts (District, Stipendiary and Bench of Magistrates) in 1910 was 21,749, of these the number prosecuted was 17,848 including persons tried before a Bench of Magistrates or committed to the Court of Assizes. The number discharged for want of prosecution by party complaining or for want of evidence was 3,901.

The cases prosecuted in the District Courts (including preliminary enquiries with a view to commitment to the Assizes and Bench cases) were distributed as follows :—

Offences.	Discharged for want of prosecution or evidence.	Dismissed on the merits.	Convictions.	Committed to the Assizes.
Against the person	195	320	958	45
Prædial larceny	7	31	175	...
Other offences against property	1,550	442	1,484	9
Offences against Revenue Municipal, Road and other laws relating to the social economy of the Colony	288	431	9,943	...
Other offences	70	155	1,498	8
Total	2,110	1,379	14,058	62

The total number of persons prosecuted before the District Courts during the last five years was distributed as follows :—

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Other offences (including Revenue cases etc).	Total.
1906	1,105	369	1,918	12,383	15,775
1907	1,044	453	2,696	12,893	17,086
1908	994	1,156	3,014	10,888	16,052
1909	1,192	432	2,699	12,086	16,409
1910	1,323	206	1,935	12,035	15,499

The convictions (including committal to the Assizes) before the District Courts for the same period were as follows :—

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Other offences.
1906	749	350	1,560	11,826
1907	722	428	2,169	12,370
1908	732	1,044	2,520	10,798
1909	849	370	2,223	11,235
1910	1,003	175	1,493	11,449

There were 32 cases in which 53 persons were brought before the Assizes in 1910 of whom six were acquitted and 45 convicted.

The following table shows the number of persons convicted at the Assizes during the last five years and the offences for which they were convicted.

Year.	Murder other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter and attempt at.	Attempt at murder.	Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Including attempts to commit the several offences.									
					Child murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injury to property.	Larceny with aggravating circumstances.	Other offences against property.	Miscellaneous.
1906	1	8	5	2	...	...	...	2	...	19	5	10	4	...
1907	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	20	13	15	1	...
1908	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	13	28	21	2	...
1909	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	30	3	12	1	...
1910	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	24	3	8	...	1

In 1910, 36 persons were tried at the Assizes for offences against the person as compared with 41 in 1909, the number convicted being 33 in 1910 and 36 in 1909. The number of persons tried at the Assizes for offences against property was 16 in 1910 of whom 11 were convicted and 20 in 1909 of whom 16 were convicted.

PRISONS AND REFORMATORY.

There was a decrease of 1,316 in the number of prisoners admitted to prison after conviction as compared with 1909, the figures are :—

	Males	Females	Total
1909	5,484	269	5,753
1910	4,249	188	4,437

The daily average number under detention shows a decrease of 259·97 as compared with 1909, the daily average for that year being 1,180·49 as against 920·52 in 1910.

The deaths in the Prisons numbered 21 as compared with 59 in 1909. There was a marked improvement in the health of the Prisons; the daily average number under treatment in the Prison Hospitals fell from 56·10 in 1909 to 35·67 in 1910 : the prevailing diseases were malaria and lung diseases.

There were 16 escapes as against 39 in 1909. Thirteen of the prisoners who escaped were recaptured.

The number of offences against discipline by prisoners was 2,847 as against 2,344 in 1909. The rise in the number of offences is in great measure due to an increase in the hard labour task, no less than 1,127 reports being for " non-performance of task ".

The numbers admitted to the Reformatory in 1910 were 82 new boys, 50 ex-Reformatory boys, 34 untried,— a total of 166 as against 237 in 1909. There was a decrease of 28·47 in the daily average as compared with 1909.

Of the 132 boys who were admitted on conviction, 114 entered the Institution with sentences of 6 months or less, of whom 88 were sentenced to a month or less, and 40 of these to sentences varying between one and seven days.

No death occurred during the year and the admissions to hospital decreased by 45. There were two cases of typhoid fever both of which recovered.

The discipline among the boys was on the whole satisfactory; there were 121 departmental offences as against 113 in 1909. The offences were committed by 52 boys, thirty two of whom infringed the rules for the first time.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

At the Census of 1901 the population, excluding the military and non resident shipping population, was 371,023. The population at the end of the year 1910 as estimated by the Registrar General was 375,597. The preliminary report on the Census of the population which was taken on the night of Friday the 31st. of March 1911 shows an error in the estimated population of the previous years due to departures to the Dependencies not being included in the returns while arrivals from the Dependencies were so included. The population has decreased by 2,513 as compared with the Census enumeration of 1901 and a correction of the statistics for the intervening years will be necessary when the report on the census of 1911 is completed. The estimated population in the Dependencies and outlying islands is 6,289.

Birth and Death rates.

There were 12,087 births registered during the year. The law allows a delay of 45 days for free registration and the number of births which were not registered owing to death intervening before registration was 1,251. The total number of births was accordingly 13,338, of which 6,710 were males and 6,628 females giving a proportion of 35·7 infants born to 1,000 persons living. The deaths registered numbered 12,488, giving a proportion of 33·4 deaths to 1,000 persons living, the lowest since the year 1904. The birth rate showed an increase of 1·4 per thousand as compared with 1909 and the death rate a decrease of 3·3 per thousand. The birth and death rates amongst the Indian population were 35·9 and 34·9 per thousand as compared with 35·4 and 38·4 per thousand in 1909.

Public Health.

The year 1910 showed a still further reduction in the number of patients admitted to the public hospitals, the figures falling from 27,751 in 1908 to 23,205 in 1909 and 18,128 in 1910. The case mortality however showed a further rise, that for 1909 being 5·83 o/o, the highest recorded since 1906 and that for 1910 being 6·03 o/o, the highest since 1896.

The number of deaths attributed to diseases classified as Specific Febrile or Zymotic was 6,369 or 51 o/o of the total of which 4,593 were due to malarial diseases ; 732 to Diarrhœal diseases, of which 582 to Dysentery and 150 to Diarrhœa ; 385 to Miasmatic diseases and 519 to Bubonic Plague. There were 1,001 deaths from constitutional diseases of which 105 were due to Phthisis and 775 to Tuberculosis, the figures for these two diseases in 1909 being 182 and 809 respectively. There were 3,382 deaths attributed to local diseases of which 1,522 were due to diseases of the Respiratory system.

There was a severe outbreak of plague, the total number of cases being 731 ; and there were a greater number of cases than in any year since 1903 ,when 1,395 cases were recorded. The first outbreak of plague occurred in 1899 when 1,416 cases were recorded. From 1903 onward, each year, with the exception of 1906, showed a decrease in the number and in 1908 there were only 167 cases.

The following year showed a large increase and the cases in 1910 were not much below the number recorded in 1900. The epidemic began in July and reached its highest point in November when 209 cases and 153 deaths were recorded.

In 1908 the cases were confined to Port Louis and the district of Plaines Wilhems, in 1909 it spread to Pamplemousses, Rivière du Rempart, Moka and Savanne, and in 1910 every district in the Island was attacked. The disease assumed principally the bubonic form, 615 cases being of that type. There were 25 cases of pneumonic and 2 of septicæmic plague, all of which proved fatal. Of the total number of 731 cases, 553 proved fatal, giving a case mortality of 75·6%. Gratuitous vaccination with Haffkine's antiplague vaccine was offered to the public and the fluid was issued free to those who applied for it; 1,218 persons availed themselves of this means of protection of whom one contracted the disease and died.

Malaria.

Malarial fever accounted for 2,338 admissions to the Public Hospitals. During the last ten years the highest number of admissions was 5,123 in 1905 and the lowest in 1910. The following table shows the number of malarial patients admitted to hospital during the last five years :—

Year	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Admissions	3674	4272	5071	3929	2338

The case mortality was 0.8% as compared with 0.91% in the previous year. The death rate for malarial diseases fell to 12·3 per thousand of the population as compared with 14 per thousand in 1909 and 15.5 per thousand in 1908, and the proportion which deaths from malaria bore to deaths from other causes decreased from 38.6% in 1908 and 38.1% in 1909 to 36.8% in 1910. Corresponding to the decrease in the number of malarial patients admitted to the hospitals there is a decrease in the number of admissions for splenic hypertrophy, the figures for 1908, 1909 and 1910 being 1193, 886 and 561 respectively.

In the Government and Aided Schools 12,724 chidren were examined for enlarged spleen 24% of the children being affected and the average spleen being 2. The examination of children on the Estates has not proved successful owing to the disincliration of the labourers to allow their children to be submitted to a spleen examination. The free distribution of quinine from depots and at schools has been continued the amount of the drug so distributed being 2151 lbs.

The drainage and reclamation work undertaken by the Sanitary Branch of the Medical Departement has further progressed. The work begun last year at Roche Bois in the extra urban area of Port Louis has been continued and a masonry drain 1,541 feet in length with section 2′ × 1′ 6″ was constructed. At Rose Belle Village a masonry drain 2′ 6″ × 2′ was prolonged for 664 feet and a culvert built across the road. In order to drain the marshes in the centre of the town of Curepipe further work was undertaken in deepening the bed of the Mesnil Stream and about 6 acres of land were reclaimed. Poule d'Eau and Rivière Sèche in the vicinity of the town were improved near their sources the water courses being cleared of stones and decaying vegetation, the banks dressed and earth channels dug in order to reduce the swampy area.

In April 1910 Malaria broke out in an epidemic form at La Dagotière and Valetta in the district of Moka and a vigorous campaign was at once undertaken in which ready assistance and cooperation was afforded by the proprietor of Valetta Estate. The streams, canals, drains and other places suited to the breeding of mosquitoes were cleared and cleaned and quinine was distributed free by house to house visitation. The amount so distributed was 30 lbs. As a result of these measures the number of deaths at La Dagotière fell from 21 in the first half of the year to 6 in the second half and at Valetta from 14 in the first to 6 in the second half of the year.

Vaccination.

The number of children presented for vaccination at the public vaccine stations was 10,312 as compared with 9,709 in 1909. Of this number the Public Vaccinators certified 10,097 to have been successfully vaccinated. The percentage of successful vaccination was 97·9 o/o and of the infants born during the year over 77 o/o were vaccinated at the public expense.

Meteorological.

Meteorological observations are taken at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, and at eleven second order stations. The Observatory is about three miles from the West coast and is 179 feet above sea level. There are considerable variations both in temperature and humidity in the different parts of the island, the coast districts being hotter and drier than the higher altitudes in the interior. Hurricanes occur between December and April which is the hottest season.

The mean rain-fall from 71 stations was 64.12 inches as compared with 90.50 inches in 1909 and an average of 79.95 inches. The rainfall was specially low in May and June but above the average in July and September.

The rainfall for the year at Port Louis was 19·47 inches on 51 days and at Cluny 143·29 inches on 260 days. The number of " rainy days " at the Observatory was 203 as compared with an average of 204 for the period 1875 to 1905, a " rainy day " being one in which ·005 inches, or more of rain was measured.

The mean temperature of the air at the Observatory was 72°.9 as compared with an average of 73°.4, the highest temperature recorded being 90°·2 on the 5th. of January and the lowest 53°·5 on the 21st. of August. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded at the Observatory between 1875 and 1909 were 94°·7 on the 23rd. of December 1900 and 49°·9 on the 8th. of August 1907.

The abnormality curve of air temperature showed a large irregular negative wave from January to December broken by a positive wave in July. The abnormality curve of vapour tension, humidity, and rainfall followed closely the temperature curve, the rise in July being conspicuous in each element.

During the year 1910 four cyclones occurred in the South Indian Ocean. The tracks of three of them have been determined as follows :—

Number of cyclone.	Date.	Position of centre at noon.		Distance travelled in 24 hours.
		Latitude (South).	Longitude (East).	
1	January 10	16°.3	64°.6	Miles.
	11	18.3	57.9	403
	12	20.7	53.7	278
	13	23.7	51.7	212
2	February 14	19.8	68.3	
	15	21.1	61.8	373
	16	22.5	54.6	410
3	February 17	15.0	67.5	
	18	18.6	66.2	234
	19	21.7	66.1	187
	20	25.8	68.0	267

The fourth cyclone passed to the west and south of Réunion, but further observations are required before its track can be determined.

Halley's Comet was first observed on the 26th. of January with the 6 inch equatorial, as a nebulous body with no nucleus.

The transit over the Sun having been predicted for May 19^d. 6^h. 22^m (Ingress) to 19^d. 7^h. 22^m (Egress) five photographs of the Sun were obtained with the photoheliograph between 7^h. 8^m and 7^h. 35^m, during a break in the clouds ; but no trace of the Comet could be distinguished on the plates.

The maximum length of tail observed was on the morning of May 21. It extended about 5° to the West of θ Aquilæ.

On May 19th., 20th. and 21st. two tails were visible in the morning.

At 5 a.m. on May 22nd. an arch of faint light was visible in the western sky of a dull purple red colour. The arch was about 10° high at its apex and extended from N.W. to S.W. No trace of the Comet's tail could be detected, nor the equatorial band of light suggested by Prof. Birkelund.

The Comet was first seen in the evening on May 21st., its tail being then 30° long and slightly curved. The brightness on May 24th. was estimated to be between 1.0 and 1.5. It was not visible to the unaided eye after June 11th., owing to the brightness of the Moon.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The total number of Offices open in 1909 was 63 of which 57 were also Telegraph Offices. Forty-eight of the Post Offices are at Railway Stations and 15 are in districts at a distance from the Railway system.

The revenue for the year 1910 was Rs. 202,733 as compared with Rs. 139,365 in 1909. The expenditure was Rs. 141,619 in 1909 and Rs. 144,669 in 1910 in which year there was an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of Rs. 58,064.

The total estimated number of letters, post cards, newspapers and postal packets, exclusive of parcels which passed through the Post Office in 1910 was approximately 3,195,306 as compared with 3,032,764 in 1909. Foreign and Inland letters and Post Cards show an increase and Inland newspapers a considerable decrease. The number of postal parcels received and despatched increased by 622, the figures being 14,191 for 1909 and 14,813 for 1910. The business with the United Kingdom showed a decrease of 102 and that with other countries an increase of 724.

The total of the money order business done during 1910 amounted to Rs. 740,910 as compared with Rs. 709,153 in 1909. The Inland money orders amounted to Rs. 327,606. During the year a Telegraphic money order system was inaugurated between Mauritius and Rodrigues. Two orders were received from Rodrigues for Rs. 3,200 and 6 orders were sent to Rodrigues for Rs. 14,853. There was again an increase in the Postal Order business. The orders issued and received increased in number from 3,897 to 5,318 and in value from Rs. 35,480 to Rs. 51,070. The increase in the orders issued was 401 in number and Rs. 4,637 in value and in orders received 1,020 in number and Rs. 10,952 in value.

There are 375 miles of Telegraph and 87 miles of Telephone wires under the charge of the Department. The reconstruction of the line between Port Louis and Rose Hill was completed during the year and the wires have been run on strong poles capable of withstanding storms. The telephone circuit temporarily erectedfor the Railway Department between Port Louis and Grand River South East was made permanent and is working well.

The Railway has not a telegraphic system of its own and the ordinary messages for the working of the traffic and for the administration of the Department are transmitted over the Post Office wires.

The number of Railway messages transmitted in 1910 was 54,881 The number of messages sent by the public increased considerably in 1910. Out of a total number of 270,648 messages forwarded 47,713 were sent by the public as compared with 24,081 out of total of 166,000 in 1909. The receipts for the messages sent by the public amount to a little over Rs. 22,000 in which charges for porterage are included.

IX.—RAILWAYS.

There is a single line of Railway of 120 miles in length. The gauge is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The earnings from all sources for the year amounted to Rs. 2,761,529 being an increase of Rs. 345,601 or 14·3 o/o over 1909. Excluding Government Traffic the earnings amounted to Rs. 2,562,842 and exceeded those of 1909 by Rs. 349,130, of which increase Rs. 183,080 was in Goods Traffic and Rs. 164,000 in Passenger Traffic. The services performed for Government Departments for which no cash payments were made would at ordinary rates have cost Rs. 198,687 of which Rs. 167,129 for Passenger Traffic, Rs. 26,088 for Goods Traffic and Rs. 5,470 for Parcels, representing 7·75 o/o of the total traffic as compared with 8·37 o/o in 1909.

The receipts for passenger traffic show an increase of Rs. 164,048 as compared with the previous year. Season tickets have yielded about Rs. 4,000 less than in the previous year and ordinary tickets Rs. 168,000 more, nearly all of which increase is in 3rd. class tickets.

The following table shows the tonnage of Goods Traffic, exclusive of Government traffic carried in 1909 and 1910.

	1909.	1910.	Increase.	Decrease.
Sugar Canes ...	193,367	157,762	...	35,605
Sugar	159,525	172,062	12,537	...
General Merchandize.	169,028	201,171	32,143	...
			44,680	35,605

The total increase in goods traffic amounted to 9,000 tons, the decrease in the tonnage of canes being almost equalled by an increase in general merchandize while sugar showed a considerable rise due to part of the large crop of 1909 not having been brought to Port Louis until the opening months of 1910. The amount of sugar carried by the railway was larger than in any previous year and represented 76·34 o/o of the total amount brought to Port Louis as estimated by the Statistical Office of the Chamber of Agriculture. Freight on sugar yielded Rs. 653,744 or Rs. 3.80 a ton. Although the weight of canes carried was less than in 1909, the earnings were greater by Rs. 21,000 due to an increase in the rates for freight which does not appear to have had any appreciable effect on the amount of traffic offering.

The total expenditure charged to Capital Account up to the 31st. of December 1910 was Rs. 21,578,943 of which Rs. 18,991 was incurred during the year. The working expenses for 1910 amounted to Rs. 1,628,271. The ratio which working expenses bore to earnings showed a decrease of 6·55 o/o as compared with 1909, the figures being 63·10 o/o and 69·65 o/o respectively. The net earnings amounted to Rs. 1,133,258 representing 5·25 o/o on the capital.

Orders in connection with the re-equipment of the railway were placed during the year including locomotive engines, passenger coaches, wagons, and materials for the permanent way. A Stores branch was established and storage accommodation enlarged in anticipation of the arrival of the materials. The estimated cost of strengthening the viaduct over Grand River North West being very high and the position of the bridge being for several reasons objectionable it was decided to deviate the line between Plaine Lauzun Workshops and Richelieu Station and to construct new bridges on the Grand River and the St. Louis stream.

Bois Chéri.

There is a light railway of 2 ft. 6 inches gauge running from Rivière du Poste Station on the Savanne Branch of the Midland Line to Mexico. The length of the line is 10 miles. The total Goods traffic carried in 1910 amounted to 13,516 tons of which 10,782 tons were sugar cane. The Sugar cane carried in 1910 showed a decrease of 2,418 tons as compared with the previous year. The actual working expenses for 1910 were Rs. 11,504, the earnings Rs. 9,442 and the work done for Government Departments was valued at Rs. 1,724. The Capital expenditure up to 31st. December 1910 was Rs. 264,640.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The most important works undertaken by the Public Works Department during the year were the completion of the Lighthouse at Caves Point and the bridge across Rivière La Chaux at Mahebourg.

Caves Point Lighthouse.

The ferro-concrete tower 67½ feet height was begun in August 1909 and completed at the end of April 1910. A second order, double flashing, dioptric apparatus was installed under the direct supervision of the makers Messrs Chance Brothers. The height of the 300,000 candle power light above high water level is 146 feet. At a height of 100 feet above high water there is a fixed red light which with a Wigham Buoy at the entrance of Port Louis Harbour marks the anchorage. The light has been working satisfactorily since the 1st. of October 1910. The total cost of the Lighthouse was Rs. 130,731 in which are included in addition to the tower and apparatus the cost of quarters for the Lightkeepers, the reconstruction of a mile and a quarter of road and the supply of Mare-aux-Vacoas water.

Rivière La Chaux Bridge.

The bridge in ferro-concrete for heavy traffic was practically completed by the end of the year. It was satisfactorily tested in March 1911 by passing over it a traction engine of 17 tons and three trailers (total weight 28 tons). The deflection in any one span did not exceed one twenty fourth of an inch. The bridge has been completed within the estimate of Rs. 125,000.

Mare aux Vacoas Water Works.

The reservoir at Mare aux Vacoas, where the average annual rainfall is 137 inches, has a catchment area of about 5 square miles. The top water level is 1,840 feet above the mean sea-level and the reservoir has a maximum capacity of 570 millions of gallons. The water flows from the Reservoir for 4,900 feet, in an open channel and for a further distance of 7,700 feet is taken in a 16″ cast iron pipe to the filtering establishment at La Marie, which is 1,040 feet above sea-level.

At the filtering establishment there is a depositing reservoir with a capacity of 1,300,000 gallons and a covered service reservoir with a capacity of 500,000 gallons. Owing to the water being at times heavily charged with organic matter the "Anderson Process" for the purification of water was installed and concrete partitions were erected in the depositing reservoir to improve the settlement of solids. Originally there were only 4 filter beds with a superficial area of 6,720 square feet, but five additional filter beds have since been constructed with a superficial area of 18,000 square feet, and extra aerating trays have been added. These additional works and the increased filtration area enable two filters to be always left exposed to sun and air and with a slower process of filtration there are few complaints of the quality of the water.

The daily consumption of water exceeds 1,600,000 gallons and with the exception of the supply to the town of Curepipe the water flows by gravitation to the lower districts. The supply for Curepipe is pumped by means of hydraulic rams to two reservoirs standing 368 feet above the Filtering Establishment, the motor being driven by water power from the 16″ supply main. The increase in the population of Curepipe has necessitated additions to the pumping plant and the reconstruction of the reservoirs.

An additional main has been laid to supply the Bacteriological Laboratory, the Station Agronomique, Government House Le Réduit and the lower part of the district of Moka including the village of that name and the village of St Pierre. The length of piping laid was

50,000 feet varied from 9 to 4 inches in diameter. The cost was Rs 100,000 to which the District Board of Moka contributed the largest proportion.

The revenue derived from the supply of water has risen from Rs. 13,000 in 1891 to approximately Rs 50,000.

Port Louis Drainage Works.

The Port Louis drainage works were begun in 1895, the sewers being designed on the separate system and the surface drainage being carried in the street gutters to the various streams which flow into the Harbour. The town is divided for drainage purposes into four districts three of which drain by gravitation sewers into separate collecting wells which are connected by means of syphon pipes to the pumping station near Caudan Bassin. From there, the sewage is pumped through cast iron pipes for 7,000 feet to the sea outfall at the mouth of Grand River North West and is discharged in 10 feet of water at low tide, a thousand feet from the shore. Sewers have been laid in districts Nos. 2 and 3, and in the immediate vicinity of Line Barracks in District No. 4. The laying of the sewers in the remaining portion of District No. 4 is being proceeded with and the pumping plant is being enlarged.

The cost of the house drainage works is defrayed by the owners of the properties who are permitted to repay the expendiditure incurred by instalments.

XI.—FORESTS AND GARDENS.

The area of forests, mountain and river reserves and curatelle lands under the care of the Forest Department was 84,867 acres of which 68,082 acres are Crown lands.

Utilization.

The improvement fellings at Kanaka and Talbot were continued on a limited scale yeilding about 890 cubic feet of timber and in addition 1,126 tons of firewood were sold to sugar estates. The revenue from these operations exceeded the expenditure for the year by Rs. 22,618. Fuel to the value of Rs. 44,000 was supplied to the Public Departments at a cost of Rs. 10,651 for felling and transport. The greater portion of the firewood was taken from the Pouce Valley where a wire rope 5,000 feet long was erected to bring down the wood.

The cuttings of casuerina on the Pas Géométriques yielded fuel valued at Rs. 20,553 which was sold to the lessees who replanted the areas cleared.

Thinnings in forest plantations brought in a revenue of Rs. 3,457. The net profit realised in the pine forest of La Brasserie in 1909 and 1910 amounted to Rs. 2,333 while in addition 747 cords of Yatis were supplied to Public Institutions for firewood and timber to the value of Rs. 500 was used by the Forest Department.

There are reserves covering an area of 6,000 acres along the banks of the rivers which vary from 10 to 50 feet in width on each side of the water-course according to the importance of the stream. The protection of these belts of trees on private lands is entrusted to the Forest Department the powers of which were extended by Ordinance No. 22 of 1910 owing to difficulties which had arisen though the pressure of Agriculture and the greater attention to the clearing and cleaning of river beds near populous centres which anti-malarial measures demanded.

Forest Plantations.

The year was favourable to artificial reproduction and the work of raising and planting seedlings was actively carried on. The nurseries in which the greater number of seedlings were raised were Kanaka and Talbot, La Pipe and Nouvelle Découverte, and the species propagated included Natte, Colophane, Makak, Ebony, Sandal, Toon, Mahogany, Eucalyptus, Camphor, Juniper and Cryptomaria Japonica.

The remaining portion of the slope of the Black River Peak, measuring about 278 arpents, in the mountain reserves of Chamarel, was acquired during the year and the reafforestation of the catchment area of Rivière Viande Salée and its tributaries which supply water to six hamlets along the sea coast in Black River district was started. A nursery was established at an altitude of 1075 feet above sea-level and was stocked with plants, and the planting out of Juniper and Pines was begun.

The sisal plantation at Plaine Lauzun was further extended and in Dauguet orchard progress was made in the planting of Cacao, Coffee, Mangoes and other fruit trees.

Gardens.

At the Royal Botanic Gardens, Pamplemousses the grafting of selected mangoes, including Auguste, Aristide, Rosat, José, Gélée and Villars, was continued. Sugar canes from Queensland and the West Indies which had been grown experimentally were sold by auction and had a ready demand. Eighteen varieties of Cassava from Barbados were reaped in June and distributed to planters and nurseries for propagation and the plants and seeds of seven varieties of tobacco from Java were given to planters who are interested in tobacco cultivation. A large number of seedlings were raised in the nurseries and were either sold or used for planting out on Crown lands.

The distribution of indigenous trees from the Curepipe nursery Gardens was continued and a large number of conifers raised in the nurseries were planted on Crown lands or sold to the public. Several new species of conifers and other economic trees were received for experimental growing. The cultivation of Cowpeas and Pois sabre as fodder crops did not prove successful.

XII.—DEPENDENCIES.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small Islands situated between 5° and 19° 50′ South Latitude and 51° and 72° 30′ East longitude of which the nearest is 230 miles and the most remote about 1,200 miles distant from Mauritius.

The largest and most important is Rodrigues with an area of 42 square miles and a population of 4,500. It is administered by a resident Magistrate and has a public Hospital to which 47 patients were admitted during the year and two Government Schools with a roll of 217 pupils. There is a branch of the Mauritius Savings Bank. There were on the 30th. of June 1910, 33 depositors with a total of Rs. 7,399 to their credit as compared with 9 depositors and a total of Rs. 1,687 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The chief exports to Mauritius are Salt fish, Cattle, Pigs, Goats and Fowls, Acacia seeds and Tobacco.

Most of the Islands in the Lesser Dependencies have been conceded or sold with the exception of a few Islands in the St. Brandon group and two islands in the Diego Garcia group, Tromelim Island, and one near the great Chagos Bank which are leased. The islands are administered by two Magistrates who are resident in Mauritius and pay regular visits to the Dependencies. The chief exports from the Dependencies are cocoanut oil, cocoanuts, guano and fish (dried and salted).

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The term of office of His Excellency Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G. as Governor and Commander in Chief of the Colony and its Dependencies was extended from the 20th. of August 1910 until July 1911. Sir John Graham Bower, K.C.M.G. who had held the post of Colonial Secretary since 1899 retired from the Public Service on the 14th. of January 1910. He was succeeded as Colonial Secretary by Mr. George Smith, Registrar General of Cyprus, who arrived in the Colony on the 12th. of July 1910.

The report of the Commissioners appointed by His Majesty on the 13th of May 1909 to enquire into the condition and resources of the Colony was published on the 22nd of June 1910.

J. MIDDLETON,

August 1911.

Acting Colonial Secretary.

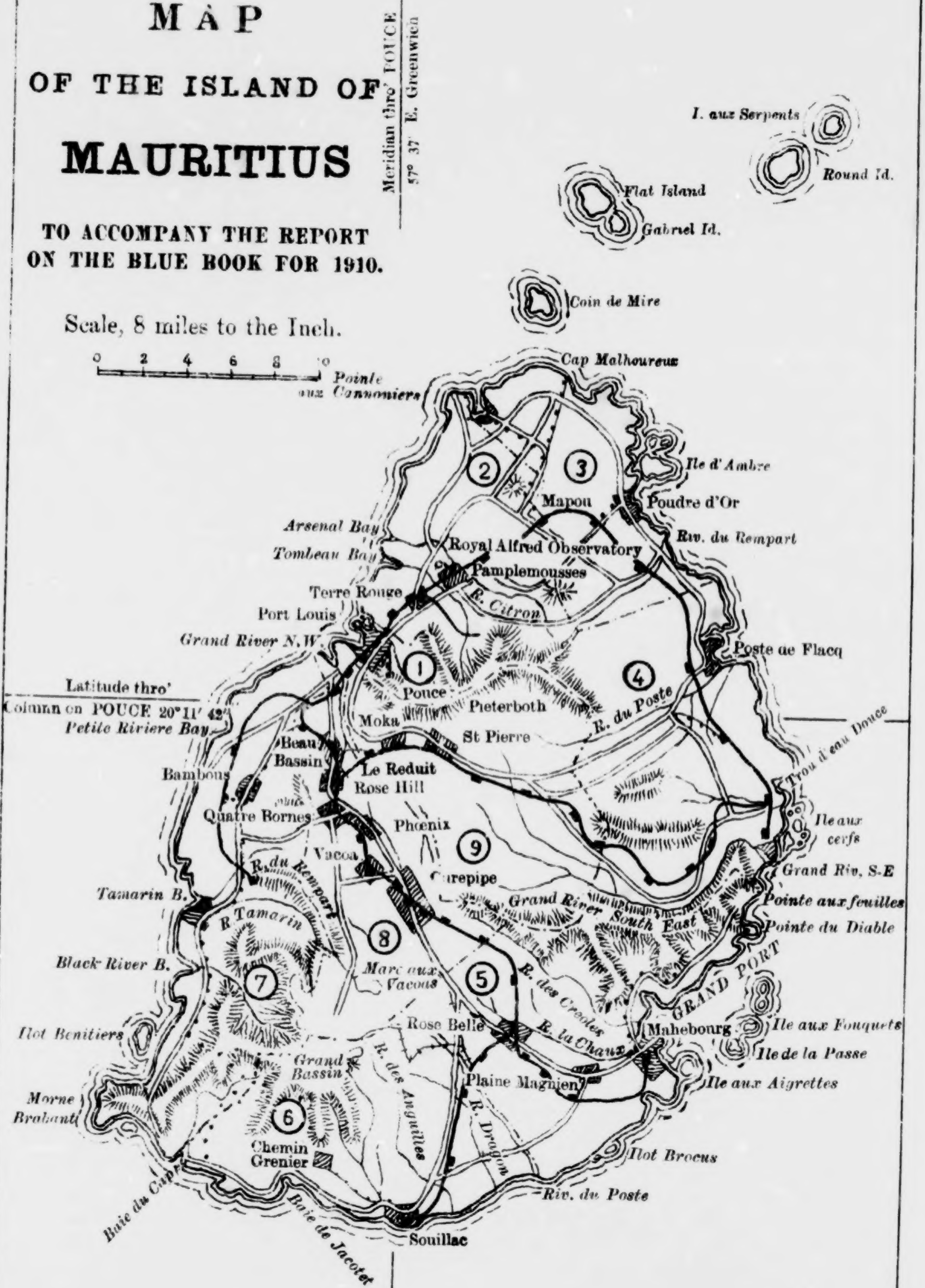
MAP

OF THE ISLAND OF

MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT
ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1910.

Scale, 8 miles to the Inch.


0 2 4 6 8 10
Meridian thro' POUCE
57° 37' E. Greenwich
Latitude thro'
Column on POUCE 20° 11' 42"
I. aux Serpents
Round Id.
Flat Island
Gabriel Id.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Mapou
Poudre d'Or
Riv. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
Port Louis
Grand River N.W.
Poste de Flacq
Pouce
Moka
Pieterboth
R. du Poste
St Pierre
Petite Riviere Bay
Beau Bassin
Le Reduit
Rose Hill
Bambous
Trou d'eau Douce
Quatre Bornes
Phœnix
Ile aux cerfs
Vacoa
R. du Rempart
Curepipe
Grand Riv. S-E
Tamarin B.
Grand River South East
Pointe aux feuilles
R. Tamarin
Pointe du Diable
Black River B.
Marc aux Vacoas
GRAND PORT
R. des Creoles
Rose Belle
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ilot Benitiers
R. la Chaux
Ile de la Passe
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
Plaine Magnien
Ile aux Aigrettes
Morne Brabant
R. Dragon
Chemin Grenier
Ilot Brocus
Riv. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs ...... ▬
Railway Stations ...... ▬■▬■▬
Other Telegraph lines ...... ─┴─┴─
Narrow Gauge Light Railway ...... ─┼─┼─
Main Roads ...... ═

DISTRICTS

1 Port-Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 Pl. Wilhems
9 Moka

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	"
680	Ashanti	"
681	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
682	Falkland Islands	"
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
684	Bahamas	1910–1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	"
686	Malta...	"
687	Imperial Institute	1910
688	Gold Coast	"
689	Fiji	"
690	Somaliland	"
691	Hong Kong	"
692	Nyasaland	1910–1911
693	Seychelles	1910
694	Sierra Leone	"
695	Southern Nigeria	"
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1910–1911
697	Swaziland	"
698	Barbados	"
699	Trinidad and Tobago	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Island.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.

COLONIAL REPORTS--ANNUAL

No. 744.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 700.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
January, 1913.

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Errata.

Page 26 last line for "Ispectors" *read* "Inspectors."

Page 27 line 22 for "Magistates" *read* "Magistrates."

Page 37 line 14 after "capacity" *insert* "of."

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1911.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

For the twelve months immediately following the harvesting of the largest and most valuable crop of sugar which the Island has produced, it is satisfactory to record the collection of a revenue from normal sources considerably in excess of that of any previous year. The revenue for the year 1904–05, which followed the harvesting in 1903-04 of a crop most nearly approaching in quantity that of 1909-10, amounted to Rs. 10,399,555, which was greater than that of any previous year, and than that of the year immediately preceding by Rs. 926,443. In the two succeeding years normal sources of revenue yielded Rs. 10,287,821 and Rs. 10,329,618. There was a fall in 1907-08 to Rs. 8,722,727 due to special circumstances, a slight rise in 1908-09 to Rs. 8,824,464, and a marked recovery in 1909-10, when the total revenue from normal sources amounted to Rs. 10,559,348 and exceeded the collections of any previous year. The revenue from normal sources in 1910-11 showed a still further increase of Rs. 330,641 and amounted to Rs. 10,889,989.

In the report for the year 1910 in determining the revenue from normal sources for the financial year 1909-10 there was deducted from the total collections of Rs. 10,799,723 the sum of Rs. 240,375 (Head II, Harbour) which had been received during the year on account of the lease and sale of the dredger "Cerné". The total encashments for 1910-11 amounted to Rs. 11,129,989 and included Rs. 256,142 derived from Droits of the Crown and Escheats (Head IX, Miscellaneous, Item 1). The increase from Rs. 28,318 in the previous year was due to the operation of the Curatelle Ordinance of 1890 (No. 9). The period of prescription of 30 years fixed by Article 2262 of the Civil Code had been reduced to 20 years by Ordinance No. 16 of 1883, but the shorter period of limitation was only made applicable to Vacant Estates by the enactment of the Curatelle Ordinance, No. 9 of 1890. By article 57 of that Ordinance the prescriptions of 30 years begun under the previous Curatelle laws were allowed to run, but the maximum period was made not to exceed 20 years from the passing of the Ordinance (6th. October 1890): hence the falling in on the 7th. of October 1910 of Estates of considerable value, which was the cause of the large increase in revenue from Droits of the Crown and Escheats which for the 5 years preceding 1909-10 had yielded on an average a little over Rs. 19,000. In comparing the revenue for the years 1909-10 and 1910-11 a deduction of Rs. 240,000, very nearly corresponding to the deduction made in the previous year, has been made from the collections of 1910-11 under the Head Miscellaneous.

The following is a comparative statement showing the actual revenue from normal sources collected during the financial years 1909-10 and 1910-11.

Head of Revenue.	1909-10.	1910-11.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Customs	3,956,174	4,059,116	102,942	...
2. Harbour	287,716	213,259	...	74,457
3. Licenses, Excise, &c ...	2,287,394	2,558,911	271,517	...
4. Fees of Court, &c.... ...	399,334	368,790	...	30,544
5. Post and Telegraphs ...	173,776	210,275	36,499	...
6. Railways	2,502,831	2,519,235	16,404	...
7. Rent	67,003	74,179	7,176	...
8. Interest	829,546	844,120	14,574	...
9. Miscellaneous	54,433	41,589	...	12,844
Rs. ...	10,558,207	10,889.474	449,112	117,845
10. Land Sales...	1,141	515	...	626
Total Rs. ...	10,559,348	10,889,989	449,112	118,471
Net increase of normal revenue	...	...	330,641	...

The sources which principally contributed to the total increase in normal revenue of Rs. 330,641 over the previous year were : Customs duties Rs. 102,942 ; Licenses, Excise and Internal Revenue Rs. 271,517 ; and Post and Telegraphs Rs. 36,499. Import duties yielded Rs. 181,392 more and Export duties Rs. 78,450 less than in the previous year. Shop licenses yielded an increase of Rs. 18,581, Excise duties an increase of Rs. 220,357 due in no small measure to stricter control, and Taxes on vehicles and animals an increase of Rs. 7,861. The receipts from the main lines of Railway showed an increase of Rs. 104,306 in passenger traffic but a decrease of Rs. 117,557 in goods traffic which was chiefly due to the smaller quantity of sugar carried. The total receipts of the Railways reached Rs. 2,519,235 which is the highest amount for any one year with the exception of 1904-05 when they were Rs. 2,657,596.

The only head of revenue under which the actual revenue encashed fell short of the amount which it was estimated would be received was that of Harbour, the collections being Rs. 6,741 less than the estimate of Rs. 220,000. The amount collected was Rs. 74,457 less than that of the preceding year owing to the discontinuance of the special dues levied under Ordinance No. 12 of 1905 to meet the working expenses of dredging Port Louis harbour.

There was on the 30th. of June 1910 a surplus balance of Rs. 750,494. The revenue for the year 1910-11 exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 1,551,745 bringing up the surplus at the 30th. of June 1911 to Rs. 2,302,239. From this sum there was advanced during the year on account of Railway re-equipment Rs. 1,611,595. The accounts for the first half of the current financial year show that the revenue amounted to Rs. 5,424,891 and the expenditure to Rs. 4,878,005. The expenditure was less than the revenue by Rs. 546,886 and at the 31st. of December 1911 the surplus balance had been increased to Rs. 2,849,125. From the 1st. of July to the 31st. of December 1911 additional advances amounting to Rs. 765,200 were made for Railway re-equipment. The total amount so advanced up to the 31st. of December 1911 was Rs. 2,376,795 which will be repaid when the loan of £ 270,000 authorized by the Railway (Improvement) Loan Ordinance, 1910, is raised. Deducting these advances the actual surplus balance at the 31st. of December 1911 was reduced to Rs. 472,330.

It is to be regretted that the surplus and deficit account does not permit of accurate comparison, over a long period, of the financial position of the Colony, and deductions drawn from the financial returns are liable to be misleading. Previous to the financial year 1904-05 the surplus and deficit account has apparently been regularly increased by sums which did not pass through the revenue account and decreased by sums which did not pass through the expenditure account. The accounts show that there existed at the close of the financial year 1883 a surplus balance of Rs. 4,011,418, that during the succeeding years up to the 30th. of June 1904 the total excess of expenditure over revenue reached Rs. 4,939,533 and that the period closed with a surplus balance of Rs. 82,246 of which no explanation is given. Taking then the accounts for the seven financial years from 1904-05 to 1910-11, which included the very critical period of 1907-08, it is shown that there were deficits on three occasions but that the total excess of revenue over expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,219,992. In this total are included the following sums which cannot properly be considered as revenue from normal sources: 1905-06 Rs. 881,962 recovered from Loan Funds; 1909-10 Rs. 240,375 for the lease and sale of the dredger "Cerné"; and 1910-11 Rs. 240,000 due to the operation of the Curatelle Ordinance (1890). Deducting these sums there remains a balance of normal revenue over expenditure of Rs. 857,655 for the seven years, and of Rs. 2,421,832 for the two last years of the period.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1910-11 amounted to Rs. 9,578,244 or Rs. 473,238 less than the estimated expenditure.

The following are the principal heads under which the expenditure was less than the estimate: Railways Rs. 185,377, Medical and Health Department Rs. 107,518, Poor Rs. 46,929, Prisons Rs. 32,928, Education Rs. 28,258. It was necessary to appropriate additional sums of Rs. 21,884 under Pensions, Rs. 17,133 under Military expenditure, Rs. 53,861 under Miscellaneous. In the expenditure under Miscellaneous were included the following items for which provision was not made in the original estimate : Rs. 32,373 in connection with the Coronation festivities, approximately Rs. 15,000 in connection with the disturbances in Port Louis in January 1911 and Rs. 13,357 on the acquisition of Mountain reserves.

The following is a comparative statement of the Expenditure for the years 1909-10 and 1910-11 :—

Head of Service.	1909-10.	1910-11.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	1,256,368	1,236,695	...	19,673
2. Pensions	617,588	628,542	10,954	...
3. The Governor & Legislature	91,241	93,498	2,257	...
4. Colonial Secretariat ...	54,548	57,806	3,258	...
5. Treasury	152,931	152,524	...	407
6. Customs	122,293	117,050	...	5,243
7. Audit	56,450	54,914	...	1,536
8. Port & Marine	133,807	131,739	...	2,068
9. Observatory	19,766	19,929	163	...
10. Public Library & Museum	8,119	8,263	144	...
11. Registrar General	15,707	45,636	29,929	...
12. Registration & Mortgage	40,524	41,642	1,118	...
13. Archives	7,452	7,495	43	...
14. Law and Justice	442,660	433,698	...	8,962
15. Ecclesiastical	152,721	152,696	...	25
16. Police	535,708	546,240	10,532	...
17. Prisons and Reformatory...	169,152	161,989	...	7,163
18. Medical & Health	733,750	678,151	...	55,599
19. Quarantine...	8,016	9,132	1,116	...
20. Plague	133,913	123,796	...	10,117
21. Education	591,600	606,877	15,277	..
22. Poor	261,237	224,395	...	36,842
23. Storekeeper General ...	33,069	28,676	...	4,393
24. Immigration	88,291	95,876	7.585	...
25. Dependencies ...	54,003	53,866	...	137
26. Military Expenditure ...	427,540	473,897	46,357	...
27. Miscellaneous	421,587	463,501	41,914	...
28. Charitable Allowances ...	9,594	8,550	...	1,044
29. Interest and Exchange ...	211,069	209,821	...	1,248
30. Post Office	147,012	164,733	17,721	...
31. Railways	1,542,042	1,569,664	27,622	...
32. Forests and Gardens ...	161,544	165,316	3,772	...
33. Public Works Department	113,754	111,918	...	1,836
34. Public Works, Recurrent...	471,923	496,270	24,347	...
35. Public Works, Extraordinary	152,293	193,526	41,233	...
36. Loan Commission	9,989	9,923	...	66
Total Rs...	9,449.261	9,578,244	285,342	156,359
Net Increase	...	...	128,983	...

The total expenditure for the year 1910-11 exceeded the expenditure for the year 1909-10 by Rs. 128,983. The principal heads under which the expenditure in 1910-11 was greater were : Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary Rs. 65,580, Military expenditure

Rs. 46,357, Miscellaneous Rs. 41,914, Registrar General Rs. 29,929, Railways Rs. 27,622, Post Office Rs. 17,721, Education Rs. 15,277. The expenditure on Recurrent works exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 24,347 but attention has previously been drawn to the inadequacy of the amounts appropriated and actually expended in recent years under this head. The Extraordinary works on which the largest expenditure was incurred were enlarging the pumping plant for Curepipe water supply Rs. 44,434, Port Louis Drainage—completing sewerage in Districts No. 2 and No. 4 and extending the Pumping Station Rs. 54,865. For these works, which are purely local improvements, the expenditure had previously been met from loan funds. The interruption during storms of telegraphic communication between the Observatory and Port Louis and on the Railway and the attendant danger had shown the necessity for the construction of an underground Telegraph line in connection with which Rs. 28,165 was expended during the year. In addition to these works Rs. 11,662 was expended on completing Caves Point Lighthouse. The increase in the Military Expenditure was due to the increase in the revenue. The increase under Registrar General is accounted for by the expenditure on the taking of the Census of 1911 and the preparation of the Decennial Tables, and under Post Office largely to charges for sea and territorial transit for previous years being brought to account in the year under review. It will be observed that the excess of Rs. 128,983 in the expenditure of 1910-11 as compared with that of 1909-10 is more than covered by the charges under head Miscellaneous, for which, as already explained, no provision was made in the original estimate, by the increase in the Military expenditure and by the cost of the taking of the Census and the preparation of the Decennial Tables.

The principal heads under which the expenditure in 1910-11 was less than in 1909-10 were : Medical and Health Rs. 55,599, Poor Rs. 36,842 and charge on account of Public Debt Rs. 19,673.

The expenditure on Establishments amounted to Rs. 3,432,404 as compared with Rs. 3,480,220 in the preceding year and Rs. 3,503,434 in 1907-08, the year in which the expenditure was highest. There is a decrease of Rs. 47,816 as compared with 1909-10 and of Rs. 71,030 as compared with 1907-08. The total expenditure on personal emoluments rose from Rs. 3,053,841 in 1904-05 to Rs. 3,401,870 in 1905-06 and Rs. 3,503,434 in 1907-08. This sudden rise is not due to increase in the Establishments but to re-classification of expenditure, the cost of the salaries of persons in continuous employment, principally in the Railway Department and on Plague preventive duties, being transferred from the sub-head "Other charges" to "Personal emoluments." In comparing the expenditure of subsequent years it will be necessary to take into consideration changes in the arrangement of the Estimates and the classification of expenditure.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on the 30th. of June 1911 were Rs. 2,632,538 and the liabilities Rs. 1,941,894 the assets thus exceeding the liabilities by Rs. 690,644.

	Rs.
The assets included :—	
Cash in the hands of the Receiver General and sub-accountants	724,460
Investments at cost	663,669
Temporary investments at Bank rate £16,000 at 1s. 4 d.	240,000
Miscellaneous advances	354,550
Advances on account of loan authorized for mechanical transport (Ordinance No. 34 of 1902)	649,858
The chief liabilities were :—	
General Deposits	1,872,559
Loan Funds, unexpended	14,475
Government of India	31,715
Drafts and Remittances	23,144

There was brought to account during the year expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,611,481 on Railway re-equipment.

Public Debt.

The total indebtedness of the Colony on the 30th. of June, 1911, was £ 1,296,090 and the Sinking Funds amounted to £ 306,066 leaving a net debt of £ 990,024.

In 1894 the net debt was £ 1,147,409 and approximately two and a half times the annual revenue of £ 471,172. The net debt on the 30th. of June 1911 was approximately one and a third times the normal revenue for the year.

Under Ordinances No. 10 of 1876, No. 10 of 1879 and No. 2 of 1887 outstanding debentures are redeemed by annual drawings. Provision is made for the repayment of other loans by means of a sinking fund.

The raising of a loan of £ 70,000 for the purpose of making advances to Planters to assist them in substituting mechanical for animal transport on their estates was authorised by Ordinance No. 34 of 1902. The loan was not raised but advances were made partly from Treasury balances and partly from temporary advances obtained from the Crown Agents. The actual amount lent was £ 185,185 of which there remained due in capital sum on the 30th. June 1911 £ 43,323 as compared with £ 63,282 on the 30th. of June 1910. The advances obtained from the Crown Agents were settled in full in February 1910. The last payments on account of sums lent are due to be made in September 1913.

The Railway (Improvement) Loan Ordinance 1910 authorizes the raising of a loan of £ 270,000 for the improvement and re-equipment of the Railways. The loan has not yet been raised the expenditure incurred having so far been met by payment from surplus cash balances.

Currency and Banking.

The Currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The following Mauritius Bronze and Silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :
  (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents.
  (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.
(2) The Silver rupee of India with its silver subdivisions.
(3) Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

On the 30th. June, 1911, the value of Currency notes in circulation was Rs. 5,080,250. The specie held amounted to Rs. 2,760,000 and the Investment and Depreciation Funds to Rs. 2,320,250 and Rs. 301,867 respectively.

The Banks which do business in the Colony are the Bank of Mauritius Limited and the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Municipality of Port Louis for the five years 1907 to 1911 :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1907	512,172	502,916
1908	476,130	500,776
1909	484,841	476,448
1910	523,494	504,058
1911	510,285	498,614

The indebtedness of the Municipality up to the end of the year and the provision for payment are shown below :—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1912.
Conversion Loan	£ 111,100	£ 2,145
Electric Lighting Loan	8,000	333
Municipality Loan, 1908	3,571	143
Municipality Loan, 1909	4,643	179
	£ 127,314	£ 2,800
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892...	Rs. 50,334	Rs. 7,588
Manure Factory and Night Soil Service Loan	10,000	2,000
Municipality Loan, 1903	14,000	2,000
	Rs. 74,334	Rs. 11,588

LOCAL BOARDS.

There are Boards of Commissioners for the Towns of Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes which are entrusted with the general improvement and conservancy of these towns.

The Board of Curepipe receives the amount of taxes on vehicles and animals collected in the town and of licenses paid by traders and others. The Board may also levy a tax not exceeding one per cent. on house property. The two other Boards receive the amount of the taxes paid on vehicles and animals in the towns and may also levy a similar tax on house property.

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure of the Boards for the past five years :—

CUREPIPE.

	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	67,496	79,331	73,759	90,966	68,510
Expenditure	66,885	75,659	72,516	85,369	72,008

BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	30,995	37,044	33,541	35,804	36,996
Expenditure	30,164	37,695	33,476	34,639	36,651

QUATRE BORNES.

	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	12,957	13,815	13,842	12,513	12,748
Expenditure	12,800	13,865	13,508	12,615	11,096

Below will be found a statement of the debts of the Boards :—

Curepipe	Net Amount of Debt	Rs. 52,500
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill	„	„ 5,600
Quatre Bornes	„	nil

There is a District Board for each of the eight rural districts of the Island. To them is entrusted under Ordinance No. 9 of 1900 the maintenance of the branch roads.

They receive as revenue a contribution from Government equivalent to 10 o/o of the direct taxes collected in each District during the year and an addition of 10 o/o to the direct taxes to be levied in each year in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and the Townships. The additional 10 o/o to be levied on the direct taxes may be increased to 25 o/o subject to the approval of the Governor in Executive Council. The Government contribution amounted in 1910-11 to Rs. 10,495.

The powers of the District Boards were extended by Ordinance No. 35 of 1902 to include the construction, maintenance and management of water works. For this purpose they receive an annual contribution from Government, which in 1910-11 amounted to Rs. 76,000, and also the proceeds of water rates and of charges paid for water supplies.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

The Customs returns for the year 1911 show the aggregate value of Imports and Exports, exclusive of specie, to be Rs. 77,854,660 the value of Imports being Rs. 37,440,332 as compared with Rs. 35,014,664 in 1910. Import duties however yielded Rs. 74,882 more in 1910 than in 1911 when there were large importations from the United Kingdom of materials for the re-equipment of the Government Railways upon which no duties were paid. The exact value of these importations as appearing in the Customs returns is not easily determinable as they are classified in various groups, but an approximate estimate may be arrived at by a comparison of the total imports from the United Kingdom the value of which was Rs. 11,282,129 in 1910 and Rs. 11,995,549 in 1911 in spite of a large decrease in the last year in the value of Textile Manufactured Articles. The largest increase is in Hardware and Cutlery the importations of which from the United Kingdom increased by Rs. 1,700,000 in 1911. Under this head most of the material for the re-equipment of the Railways appears to have been classified and following the method adopted by the Customs for determining the value of importations the total value of these materials, although the Railway Department returns a lower figure, may be estimated at approximately 2 millions of rupees.

The aggregate value of Imports and Exports, excluding specie, for the years from 1908 to 1911 was as follows :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1908	26,199,606	33,691,381	59,890,987
1909	27,013,970	34,424,923	61,438,893
1910	35,014,664	36,528,536	71,543,200
1911	37,440,332*	40,414,328	77,854,660*

*Including Railway re-equipment materials.

The value of Imports from, and Exports to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during the same years is shown below, (specie is not included) :—

Year.	Imports from (Unit Rs. 1,000.)			Exports to (Unit Rs. 1,000.)		
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
1908	6,627	13,232	6,339	3,887	29,212	590
1909	7,437	12,288	7,287	4,315	29,667	441
1910	11,282	16,225	7,506	8,267	27,863	397
1911	11,995*	18,130	7,313	13,397	22,170	4,846

The following tables show the percentage of Imports from, and Exports to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during each of the last five years :—

Imports.

From	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
United Kingdom	27.8	25.3	27.5	32.2	32.1†
British Possessions ...	49.7	50.5	45.5	46.4	48.4
Foreign Countries... ...	22.5	24.2	27.0	21.4	19.5

Exports.

To	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
United Kingdom	16.0	11.5	12.5	22.6	33.1
British Possessions ...	79.7	86.7	86.2	76.3	54.9
Foreign Countries... ...	4.3	1.8	1.3	1.1	12.0

An examination of the returns of imports and exports shows that—the United Kingdom and British Possessions supply most of the Colony's needs and purchase nearly all its produce; the supplies from Foreign Countries are mainly in the groups (1) Food, Drink and Tobacco and (2) Manufactured Articles; owing to the failure of the beet sugar crop a large quantity of Mauritius sugar was in the year 1911 diverted from the markets of India to those of Europe; in these markets the United Kingdom was by far the largest purchaser though purchases greatly in excess of former years were made by France and Spain; the trade of the Colony is principally with the United Kingdom and India and in normal years the trade with India represents nearly one-half of the aggregate import and export trade.

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*Including Railway re-equipment materials.

†Including Railway re-equipment materials, exclusive of which percentage is United Kingdom 28.2, British Possessions 51.2, Foreign Countries 20.6.

In 1911 the total imports in the group Food, Drink and Tobacco exceeded the value of the imports in 1910 by 2½ millions of rupees the increase being due to larger importations of Rice, Dholl and Wheat Flour from India. An apparent increase of half a million of rupees in the imports of Raw Materials from Foreign Countries is due to a reclassification of oils. In the group Manufactured Articles the total imports were about a million of rupees less than in 1910. Those from British Possessions and Foreign Countries fell by Rs. 765,000 and Rs. 825,000 respectively while those from the United Kingdom rose by Rs. 700,000 in the special circumstances already explained.

In 1910 there were imported from India approximately two millions of rupees in specie as compared with four thousand in 1911, these fluctuations being due to importations made by the Banks and to exchange operations. Specie in silver was imported from France to the value of Rs. 157,000 in 1910 and of Rs. 134,000 in 1911, and there were re-exports to Madagascar to the value of Rs. 132,000 in 1910 and Rs. 255,000 in 1911 evidently to meet payments for the purchase of cattle.

Five commercial travellers deposited samples at the Customs· They all represented foreign firms and travelled in haberdashery, perfumery, hardware and earthenware.

The chief articles contributing to the customs revenue in 1911 were :

	Rs.
Tobacco and Cigars	892,000
Grain (including rice, dholl, etc.)	680,000
Wines	153,000
Spirits	136,000
Matches	116,000
Cotton Manufactures	113,000

The export duty on sugar yielded Rs. 711,150.

Imports.

The value of the imports (including Railway re-equipment materials) in 1911 was greater by approximately 2½ millions of rupees than in the previous year and by 10½ millions of rupees than in 1909.

The largest increases as compared with 1910 occur under the following heads :

Grain	Rs.	2,251,000
Hardware and Cutlery		1,732,000
Machinery (Local Industries)		498,000
Manures and Fertilizers		359,000
Provisions (all sorts)		350,000

The largest decreases occur under the following heads :

Cotton manufactures	Rs.	847,000
Coal		465,000
Machinery (Mechanical Transport) ...		395,000
Gunny bags and pockets		195,000
Soap		123,000
Malt Liquors and spirits		114,000

The meat supply of the Island is obtained from Madagascar from which country it is shown that there were imported in 1911 7,875 oxen of a total value of Rs. 847,692 giving an average of Rs. 107.6, as compared with 8,167 oxen of a total value of Rs. 799,975 and an average of Rs. 97.9 in 1910. The values given appear excessive as the average selling price of the oxen in the local market varies from Rs. 70 to Rs. 80 per head. The imports of rice, which is the chief article of food of the majority of the population, reached nearly 69,000 tons (metric) as compared with 59,000 tons in the previous year, the value of the importations being Rs. 9,200,000 in 1911 and Rs. 7,400,000 in 1910. India supplied practically all the rice imported. There were no importations from the Straits Settlements from which 610 tons were imported in 1910 and the importations from Madagascar fell from 203 tons to 29 tons. The imports of dholl from India increased from 4,808 tons value Rs. 550,000 to 7,207 tons value Rs. 814,000. The imports of wheat flour from Australia fell from 2,702 tons value Rs. 396,000 to 1,977 tons value Rs. 271,000 while those from India rose from 5,148 tons value Rs. 632,000 to 7,370 tons value Rs. 917,000. There continue to be imported supplies which the Colony appears to be capable of producing at least in quantity sufficient to make production profitable.

The importations of coal decreased by 22,500 tons, a quantity approximately equivalent to the increase of the importations in 1910 over those of the previous year. The United Kingdom is the principal source of supply and there were marked decreases in the quantities imported from Australia and South Africa. The value of manures and fertilizers showed a still further increase of Rs. 359,000 and it will be observed that 2,927 tons of guano value Rs. 135,000 were imported from Seychelles in 1911 as compared with 610 tons value Rs. 20,000 in 1910.

There was an increase of Rs. 498,000 in the value of imports of machinery for local industries and a decrease of Rs. 395,000 in machinery for mechanical transport. The following tables give the value and country of origin of importations under the heads Machinery and Mechanical Transport for the years 1907 to 1911.

Machinery.

Country.	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	437,528	252,354	329,155	1,028,122	1,125,953	3,173,112
France ...	23,201	6,943	18,616	29,716	428,267	506,743
Germany ...	9,307	3,439	...	...	...	12,746
Belgium ...	2,782	1,728	867	3,414	786	9,577
Other countries..	...	...	810	463	4,281	5,554
Total ...	472,818	264,464	349,448	1,061,715	1,559,287	3,707,732

Mechanical Transport.

Country.	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Germany ...	240,726	50,681	210,402	398,845	150,587	1,051,241
Belgium ...	92,429	1,233	62,696	140,277	72,232	368,867
United Kingdom	14,454	13,920	59,726	106,909	29,338	224,347
France	14,082	1,707	15,219	927	...	31,935
United States...	...	8,887	...	...	...	8,887
Total ...	361,691	76,428	348,043	646,958	252,157	1,685,277

The value of machinery for local industries imported in 1911 was Rs. 1,559,000 and the imports during the last five years have reached the not inconsiderable total of Rs. 3,700,000. Practically all the machinery comes from the United Kingdom but in 1911 a powerful sugar mill was imported from France. The rolling stock for the light tramways is of foreign manufacture. Two steam ploughs value Rs. 46,700 were imported during the year from the United Kingdom.

The use of motor cars and motor cycles has developed rapidly in the last 3 years. In 1907 13 cars and 2 cycles were imported and in 1908 6 cars and 3 cycles, while during the last 3 years 142 cars valued at Rs. 697,000 and 37 cycles valued at Rs. 23,500 have been imported. The average value of the cars imported rose from Rs. 4,380 in 1909 to Rs. 5,580 in 1911 and of cycles from Rs. 588 to Rs. 769.

The following table shows the countries which export goods to Mauritius and the value of the goods exported, exclusive of specie, in the years 1910 and 1911 :—

Country	Exports to Mauritius.	
—	1910	1911
British India	Rs. 13,237,000 ...	Rs. 15,711,000
United Kingdom... ...	11,282,000 ...	*11,995,000
France	3,089,000 ...	3,317,000
Madagascar	1,069,000 ...	997,000
Australia	1,059,000 ...	618,000
United States	889,000 ...	630,000
Germany	721,000 ...	451,000
Transvaal...	671,000 ...	612,000
Cape Colony	434,000 ...	498,000
Natal	375,000 ...	190,900
Belgium	506,000 ...	387,000
Réunion	317,000 ...	340,000
Straits Settlements ...	248,000 ...	213,000
China	168,000 ...	202,000
Seychelles	55,000 ...	144,000

The United Kingdom, British India or British Possessions are the largest suppliers of wearing apparel, bacon, gunny bags, beer in casks and bottles, books, bran, chemicals for manures, cement, coal, confectionery, dholl, gram, oats, rice, flour, cotton, salt fish, ghee, hardware and cutlery, iron nails, wrought iron, boots and shoes, machinery for local industries, manure (bone), provisions (preserved), salt, soap, whisky, stationery, tea, tin, umbrellas (cotton), shooks, sleepers, timber, woollen goods.

Foreign countries are the largest suppliers of apothecaries' wares, oxen, butter, candles, clocks and watches, enamelled ware, glassware, haberdashery, jewellery, light tramway wagons, locomotives and materials, matches, motor cars, petroleum, cigarette paper, perfumery, potatoes, satin and ribbons, brandy, gin, wine, sulphur, tobacco and cigars, toys, umbrellas (silk), woollen blankets.

Exports.

The total value of the Exports, excluding specie but including charges, was in 1910 Rs. 36,528,536 and in 1911 Rs. 40,414,328.

The following table shows the value and the destination of the products of the Colony, other than sugar, which were exported in 1910 and 1911 :

Product.	Year.	Exported to			
		United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Molasses ...	1910	462	510,265	...	510,727
	1911	...	292,964	7	292,971
Rum	1910	15,024	14,737	...	29,761
	1911	24,137	13,377	2,157	39,671
Aloe Fibre ...	1910	536,458	2,116	88,927	627,501
	1911	556,634	3,561	45,357	605,552

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* Including Railway re-equipment materials.

The following table shows the principal countries to which sugar was exported during the calendar years 1910 and 1911 :

Country	1910. tons.*	1911. tons.*
British India	140,510	106,157
United Kingdom	47,316	77,672
Cape Colony	19,137	17,047
Hong-Kong	3,854	882
Australia	1,860	1,500
Portuguese East Africa	1,161	1,279
Natal	740	665
Seychelles	304	268
Aden	377	332
British East Africa	212	265
Zanzibar	99	123
Ceylon	73	35
France	51	19,544
St. Helena	43	43
Spain	......	6,560
St. Vincent	......	4,643

It will be observed that although British India continues to be the largest purchaser of Mauritius sugar the exports to Europe were, owing to the failure of the beet crop, nearly equal to the exports to India. In 1911 77,672 tons were exported to the United Kingdom as compared with 47,316 tons in the previous year; 19,544 tons were exported to France as compared with 51 tons in 1910 and 6,560 tons were exported to Spain which had not been a purchaser in recent years. Australia and South Africa can no longer be relied on as markets, Queensland and Natal having both become producers. The exports to Australia, which were formerly about one-third of the total crop, fell in 1911 to 1,500 tons. In Natal the sugar industry is reported to have developed rapidly in the last five years. The machinery of the mills has been improved and the area under cultivation has been greatly increased. The yield has risen from 35,000 tons of sugar in 1907 to 92,000 tons in 1911 and it is expected that the 1912 crop will produce 112,000 tons, an amount nearly sufficient to supply all the requirements of South Africa —(*Annual report* (1911), *Durban Chamber of Commerce*).

Agriculture.

SUGAR.

The crop year for sugar begins on the 1st. of August and ends on the 31st. of July of the following year. For the purposes of comparison it is convenient to maintain this distinction.

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* Metric ton = 1,000 kilogrammes.

The crop for the year closing on the 31st. of July 1912 owing principally to the extremely low temperature during the growing season was deficient in all the districts of the Island with the exception of that of Black River.

The crop of 1910 produced 214,372 tons* of sugar ; the crop of 1911 exclusive of local consumption was 165,806 tons or 23 o/o less than that of the previous year. This figure is arrived at in the following manner :

	Tons*
Exports 1st. August 1911 to 31st. July 1912 ...	165,567
In store on 31st. July 1912—27,372 bags	
„ 31st. July 1911—24,317 „	
Add balance in store (3,055 bags × 78.23 kilos the average weight of 1 bag) ...	239
	165,806

The shortage in the crop was in a measure compensated by the unusually high price at which it was disposed of. The average selling price, as determined by the Chamber of Agriculture, was approximately Rs. 9.68 per 50 kilos giving to the crop a monetary value of about 32 millions of rupees and, on the assumption that the cost of producing 50 kilos of sugar is about Rs. 6.00, leaving a profit of over 12 millions of rupees. The average selling price in 1910 was Rs. 7.09 per 50 kilos and in 1909 Rs. 8.50. With the exception of 1905 when the average price was Rs. 9.70 that of 1911 is the highest in the last 15 years.

The weight and the monetary value of the crop for the last five years is shown below :

	Total Produce Tons*	Monetary value unit Rs. 1,000,000.
1906- 7	214,699	28.3
1907- 8	163,911	24.9
1908- 9	191,491	28.7
1909-10	246,560	41.9
1910-11	214,372	30.4
1911-12	165,803	32.0

The agricultural returns prepared in the Statistical Office of the Chamber of Agriculture show that on the 31st. of December 1911 out of a total area of 439,451 arpents† in the Island, 144,480 arpents were under cultivation in sugar cane. The area shows practically no extension from the previous year in which there was an increase of 16,500 arpents as compared with 1909. During the year under review development in the sugar industry has taken place principally in improvement of the machinery of the mills which, with a further reduction of one, numbered 61 on the 31st. of December 1911. The value of the machinery imported, in addition to that made by local engineering firms, was 1½ million of rupees in 1911, one million of rupees in 1910, and approximately 3¾ millions of rupees during the last five years. In consequence there has been a marked reduction in the period of cane crushing and great improvement in the methods of manufacture. A powerful 14 roller mill of British make and a 9 roller mill of French make were working during the last crop. Both these mills are stated to be capable of crushing 60 tons of cane per hour. The most interesting developments are however to be observed in improvement of the machinery for the treatment of the masse-cuite and the recovery and curing of the sugar. The adoption of the process of crystallisation in movement by means of malaxeurs or sugar mixers, the replacement of the earlier forms of centrifugal machines or turbines by those of the Weston type and double curing of the crystals cannot fail to have an important effect on the output of the high grade consumption white sugar which the Colony exports. The quantity of sugar present as crystals in first masse-cuites, irrespective of their purity, does not greatly vary. A pure juice produces crystals readily recoverable in the centrifugal machines but the small crystals contained in masse-cuite resulting from juice of low purity pass through the perforated baskets in the turbines and are only recovered from the molasses at a later stage in the form of low syrups. The mechanical action of crystallisation in movement permits the fine grain to deposit on crystals already formed so that a larger quantity of first grade sugar is recovered in the centrifugals. The yield is further increased by the process of double curing which though commonly practised in sugar manufacture was only introduced into Mauritius in the course of 1911 by Mr. W. P. Ebbels at Beau Séjour. When the operations of separating the sugar from the molasses, of washing the crystals with water and purging them with high pressure steam are carried out in the same centrifugal machine there is a diminution in the output of sugar and in the quantity of masse-cuite cured. With double curing the washing and purging of the crystals are carried out in a separate machine, and a higher output results. These changes in the methods of manufacture and the use of improved machinery have had for their effect largely to increase the proportion of high grade sugar which is recovered from the masse-cuite as a first product.

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* Metric ton=1,000 kilogrammes.

† 1 arpent=1.043 acre.

There was a further addition in the course of the year to the already considerable list of insect pests which attack the sugar cane in the appearance of the hitherto unidentified Phytalus Smithi. The damage was fortunately confined to a small area in the Pamplemousses district. The young virgin plantations suffered most, large numbers of larvæ being found at the roots of the canes and in the ground between the lines of canes. In the plantations where the larvæ were most numerous the ground was ploughed and insecticides freely used, but it was not until later when the adult beetle appeared that destruction could be most effectively undertaken. The beetles remain buried in the soil during the day and only take their short flight at sunset. Large numbers of the beetles were collected after dark on hedges, trees and grass and were destroyed. The damage which borers are doing to the sugar cane is specially referred to in the report for 1911 of the Director of the Station Agronomique and concerted measures for the protection of the cane plantations from insect pests and from disease deserve serious consideration.

Other Industries.

There is no progress to record in other forms of cultivation than that of the sugar cane and the history of the Colony shows that development is unlikely to take place without the active assistance of a technical staff and the establishment of agricultural education beginning in the primary schools. Reference was made in the report of 1910 to the possibility of development in the "Mauritius hemp" industry and the need for improved machinery. There are over 50 fibre factories in the island and the area producing fibre is returned at 20,000 arpents. Automatic machinery is generally employed elsewhere for the manufacture of sisal hemp but the adaptability of the same machines for use with the leaves of furcroea gigantea has not been established. At least one important firm of manufacturers is engaged in adapting the sisal machines to the peculiarities of the leaves of furcroea gigantea by practical test. Mauritius seems to offer a profitable field for the conduct of such experiments.

The Customs returns show considerable fluctuations in the imports of coffee, a beverage largely consumed in the Colony. The quantities re-exported are small but the imports vary from 423,000 kilos value Rs. 251,000 in one year to 135,000 kilos value Rs. 67,000 in the following year. The average annual imports during the last five years have been 268,000 kilos value Rs. 149,000. A small quantity of coffee is produced locally and finds a ready market; it is however questionable whether it can be produced on a large scale owing to the liability of the tree to damage by violent storm and the existence of leaf disease. The tea shrub on the other hand is better able to resist storm and there are lands in the higher parts of the island admirably suited to its cultivation. Further the consumption of tea is becoming more general. The imports in 1884 amounted to 26,000 kilos value Rs. 35,000; in 1909 they were 48,000 kilos value Rs. 45,000; in 1910 they rose to 60,000 kilos value Rs. 55,000 and in 1911 to 71,000 kilos value Rs. 70,000. The area under cultivation in tea in 1911 is returned at 260 arpents showing only a very slight increase over the previous year. All the tea produced is disposed of locally the best quality being retailed at 95 cents of a rupee per pound: it would seem that production could with a factory fitted with modern plant profitably be undertaken on a larger scale than at present if only to supply the local demand.

Shipping.

The following comparative tables show the number, tonnage and nationality of ships entered and cleared during the years 1910 and 1911.

Nationality.	1910.						1911.					
	Steam vessels.		Sailing vessels.		Total.		Steam vessels.		Sailing vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	139	364,978	33	12,844	172	377,822	130	321,616	27	8,932	157	330,548
French	43	106,225	16	1,501	59	107,726	37	89,663	9	1,114	46	90,777
Norwegian	...	......	3	3,203	3	3,203	5	6,270	5	4,639	10	10,909
German	...	......	...	......	...	......	3	3,560	...	......	3	3,560
Swedish	...	......	...	......	...	......	1	2,287	...	......	1	2,287
Total entered ...	182	471,203	52	17,548	234	488,751	176	423,396	41	14,685	217	438,081
British	142	373,127	32	12,837	174	385,964	129	323,997	26	8,603	155	332,600
French	43	106,225	16	2,124	59	108,349	36	88,380	10	2,122	46	90,502
Norwegian	...	......	3	3,203	3	3,203	6	7,053	4	3,608	10	10,661
German	...	......	...	......	...	......	3	3,560	...	......	3	3,560
Swedish	...	......	...	......	...	......	1	2,287	...	......	1	2,287
Total cleared...	185	479,352	51	18,164	236	497,516	175	425,277	40	14,333	215	439,610

These tables show that 217 vessels with a tonnage of 438,081 reported during the year against 234 with a tonnage of 488,751 in the previous year, giving a total decrease of 17 vessels and a reduction of 50,670 in tonnage :—215 vessels with a tonnage of 439,610 cleared as against 236 with a tonnage of 497,516 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 21 vessels and a reduction of 57,906 in tonnage.

In 1911 19 fewer ships reported with cargo than in the previous year the reduction in tonnage being 64,524, while the ships reported with ballast number two more in 1911 than in 1910, with an increase of 13,854 in tonnage.

The clearances show a decrease of 21 vessels and of 57,906 in tonnage. Divided between vessels cleared with cargo and vessels cleared in ballast, the figures are as follows :

Cleared with cargo	15	tonnage	27,850
Cleared with ballast	6	,,	30,056
	21		57,906

Distinguishing steam vessels from sailing vessels there has been a decrease of 6 in the number reporting and of 47,807 in tonnage as compared with the previous year and a decrease of 10 in the number cleared and of 54,075 in tonnage. The number of steamers reporting with cargo is 13 less than in the previous year with a reduction of 61,921 in tonnage, and the number of steamers reporting with ballast is 7 more than in the previous year with an increase of 14,114 in tonnage. Two fewer steamers cleared with cargo than in the previous year while the number of vessels clearing in ballast was less by 8.

There was a decrease in the number of sailing vessels reporting with cargo of 6 and of those reporting in ballast a decrease of 5 in number. The number of sailing vessels cleared with cargo was less by 13 and of sailing vessels cleared with ballast greater by 2.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Among the more important legislative measures of the year are the following :—

The Police Constitution (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) leaves the determination of the numbers, pay and organisation of the police force to the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State.

The District and Stipendiary Courts (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) gives discretionary power to District and Stipendiary Magistrates, in civil causes or matters, to take evidence out of their Courts, in cases where a party or a witness cannot attend through serious and lawful impediment.

The White Phosphorus Matches Prohibition Ordinance (No. 5) gives effect to the provisions of the International Convention for the prohibition of the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches, and is adapted from the Gibraltar Ordinance No. 2 of 1910.

The Plants Diseases Prevention Ordinance (*No. 8*) is borrowed from a Cyprus enactment and was introduced with the object of empowering the Executive to take effective measures for destroying an insect pest which was threatening the sugar industry. The duration of the Ordinance was limited to one year.

The Hurricane Loan Administration (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No. 9*) amends the Hurricane Loan Administration Ordinances Nos. 13 of 1894 and 14 of 1907 by increasing the annual contribution of the Government towards the payment of interest and sinking fund from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 75,000 a year.

The Public Contracts (*Stamp and Registration*) *Ordinance* (*No. 10*) settles troublesome and moot questions in respect of the stamping and registration of Government Contracts under the Stamp and Registration Laws by enacting that there shall be no fixed period for the registration of such contracts, and by exempting the contracts from stamp duties.

The Surveyors (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No. 11*) requires Surveyors to deposit at one and the same time, and within the statutory delay for registration, the duplicate minutes of every memorandum of survey, at the Registration Office. The Ordinance further provides for the suspension and dismissal of any Surveyor failing to cause a memorandum of survey made by him to be registered within the statutory delay.

The Farmers Protection Ordinance (*No. 13*) is the outcome of the recommendations of a Committee appointed to consider what protection against prædial larcenies could be afforded to small cultivators and farmers; it provides for the registration of "farmers" within the meaning of the Ordinance, and for the better control of persons selling, hawking or being found in possession of vegetables, animals and poultry.

The Post Office (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No. 14*) regulates the conveyance of inland and foreign parcels and the issue and transmission of money and postal orders on the lines of the Imperial Statutes.

The Explosives (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No. 15*) adapts to the existing legislation (Ordinance No. 30 of 1884-85) provisions borrowed from the Trinidad and Tobago Explosives Ordinance (No. 15 of 1907) in respect of search for, seizure, detention and forfeiture of explosive substances.

The Explosive Substances (*Offences*) *Ordinance* (*No. 16*) strengthens the existing penal law by adapting to local circumstances some of the repressive provisions of the Imperial Statutes (46 & 47 VICT. Cap. 3 and 24 & 25 VICT. Cap. 97, Sections 9 and 10), in respect of the criminal use of explosives.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

The Primary schools at the end of the year 1911 numbered 148 of which 60 were Government and 88 Aided schools. The number of Government schools has been reduced from 67 in 1908 principally by the amalgamation of separate schools for Boys and Girls in the same locality. The reduction of one in 1911 is due to the closing of the school at Black River, the few children attending it being able to obtain instruction at the Aided schools in the neighbourhood. Of the Aided schools there were 67 Roman Catholic, 18 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian and 1 Mahomedan. There is an increase of one in the number of Roman Catholic schools as compared with the previous year, one Church of England school having been taken over.

The number of Primary schools, Government and Aided, and the number of pupils for the years 1907 to 1911 are shown in the following table :—

	Government Schools.			*Aided Schools.*		
Years.	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.
1907	67	8,615	5,670	90	10,367	6,918
1908	67	8,359	5,242	88	10,226	6,779
1909	64	8,634	5,433	88	10,651	7,234
1910	61	9,326	5,951	88	11,621	7,934
1911	60	9,421	6,030	88	11,589	7,972

The average attendance in Government and Aided schools for the year was 14,002 with a roll of 21,010,showing an average attendance of 66.6% of the number of pupils on the roll. There is a slight improvement as compared with 1910 when with a roll of 20,947 there was an average attendance of 13,885 or 66.2% of the number of pupils on the roll. The figures for 1909 were 19,285 and 12,667 or 65.6%. The number of pupils on the roll and the number in average attendance have increased although the increases are comparatively not so great as in the previous year. The number of pupils on roll and the number in average attendance in the year 1911 are higher than in any previous year.

The number of Indian children attending the Primary schools in 1911 was 8,175, as compared with 7,462 in 1910, 7,125 in 1909 and 6,996 in 1908. The increase is probably in some measure due to the age at which minors may enter into a written contract of service having been raised from 10 to 13 in 1908.

Of the total number of pupils on the roll in the six standard classes

60 o/o passed the examination tests as compared with 62 o/o in 1910 and 53.64 o/o in 1909, while of the number of pupils who were presented for examination 63 o/o passed in 1911 as compared with 65 o/o in 1910 and 57.59 o/o in 1909. The results as compared with those of recent years, and if allowance is made for the increase in school attendance, may be considered as generally satisfactory, but it should not be overlooked that there have not for some time been any changes in the subjects of study. Instruction however appears frequently to be directed too much to the attainment of examination results at the cost of important matters which are not directly tested by examination as is shown by the following extract from the annual report of the Director of Public Instruction :—

"The reports which I have received from the Inspectors and "my own observations indicate that there is much to be done, which "could be done by the present staff of Inspectors, to remedy the defects in the methods of teaching and organisation, if arrangements "could be made to give the Inspectors more time for this work. At "present any improvement which the Inspectors can produce in the "schools is produced mainly by showing up their deficiencies by "means of examinations. It would be better if the Inspectors could "spend less time in showing what the teachers ought to do and more "in showing them how to do it. At present, too, no part of the "emoluments of a teacher or of the payments made to a school "depends upon the general quality of the teaching and organisation, as tested by inspection of the schoolwork as it is carried on "day by day. And the system encourages teachers to believe that "nothing has to be done by them but to produce examination "results and that examinations are the only proper test of their "efficiency. Any advice to encourage good handwriting or tidiness "or system or quiet behaviour in the children or anything that is "not directly represented by a result grant in the Code is in too "many cases listened to with little seriousness and very soon "forgotten".

The total expenditure for the year on the salaries of, and grants to Teachers in Primary schools amounted to Rs. 293,634 of which Rs. 135,393 was expended on Government schools and Rs. 158,241 on Aided schools. The figures for 1910 were Rs. 292,608, Rs. 133,885 and Rs. 158,722 respectively. The cost to Government of a pupil in a Government school was Rs. 19.48 and in an Aided school Rs.15.14 as compared with Rs. 19.75 and Rs. 15.14 in 1910.

There are open annually to pupils of Primary schools six scholarships and six exhibitions at the Royal College for which there is keen competition. The exhibitioners receive free tuition and the scholars free tuition and an allowance of Rs. 100 a year. There were 140 candidates in 1911 against 128 in 1910. Eight candidates failed in the test examination and 26 scored the minimum number of marks. The number of candidates from Government schools was 109 and from Aided schools 31 as compared with 81 from Government and 47 from Aided schools in the previous year.

Secondary Education.

Secondary Education is provided by the Royal College, two schools in connection with it and associated schools. 298 candidates from 13 associated schools were presented for examination of whom 84 passed. There were in December 1911, 204 pupils at the College, 101 at Curepipe School and 60 at Port Louis School. Of the 365 pupils at the College and its two schools, 112 did not pay fees.

There were 23 candidates for the London Matriculation Examinations in 1911, six of whom passed, one in the First Division.

There were 91 candidates for the Senior Cambridge Examination, 29 out of the 68 candidates from the College, and one of the 23 others passed. Out of 29 candidates from the Royal College for the Junior Cambridge Examination 16 passed.

There are scholarships and exhibitions in all the classes of the College and there are two valuable scholarships to enable pupils of the College to continue their studies in Europe.

There are 23 girls' schools which are affiliated to the Royal College in connection with the scheme for the Higher Education of Girls. The number of candidates who were presented for examination was 374 of whom 142 obtained Honours Certificates and 42 Pass Certificates. Eighteen girls entered for the Senior Cambridge Local Examination of whom 6 passed. Ten entered for the Junior Division and two passed. The total sum expended in 1911 on the Higher Education of Girls was Rs. 7,275 as compared with Rs. 8,590 in 1910.

Training of Teachers.

There are Government Training schools for men and for women. There were 10 candidates from the Men's Training School for the second class teacher's certificate, of whom 8 passed. There were three candidates from the Women's Training School for the second class certificate, and one candidate for the third class certificate, all of whom passed.

The following table shows the number of candidates for certificates and the number who passed during the year :

Class of Certificate.	Candidates.			Successful.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Second	35	6	41	17	4	21
Third	41	29	70	7	11	18
Monitors' ...	105	81	186	22	15	37
Total ...	181	116	297	46	30	76

There are 632 certificated Teachers employed in Government and Aided schools of whom 150 are Head Teachers, 147 Assistant Teachers and 335 Monitors.

Technical Education.

There are eight mechanical engineering apprenticeships for which there were 110 candidates as against 104 in 1910. There are two agricultural apprenticeships for which there were 22 candidates and two engineering studentships for which there were 5 candidates.

Needlework receives attention in Girls' schools and the work of the pupils continues to show improvement. 45 candidates entered for the needlework competition to four of whom apprenticeships were awarded.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

There are 13 Hospitals, including 5 in connection with the Prisons and Reformatory, and there is also a Hospital ward with 30 beds attached to the Lunatic Asylum. The eight public Hospitals have 947 beds. The total number of "cases" treated at all hospitals as indoor patients was 18,074 and as out patients 6,783 as compared with 18,128 and 5,690 in 1910. The number of "cases" treated at 27 dispensaries was 62,384.

Lunatic Asylum.

There is a Lunatic Asylum and a Lunatic Ward in connection with the Poorhouse of Barkly Asylum. There were 456 patients in the Asylum on the 31st. December 1911 as compared with 416 on the corresponding date of the previous year and the daily average rose from 422 in 1910 to 430.9. The total number of certified lunatics in the Colony on the 31st. of December 1911, including patients out on probation and patients in the Lunatic Ward of Barkly Asylum, was 660 : 406 males and 254 females, giving a proportion of one insane to 564 of population. There were 25 criminal lunatics of whom 21 were males and 4 females.

Poor Relief.

Barkly Asylum is the only institution under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioner at which paupers receive institutional relief.

The buildings of Barkly Asylum were originally acquired for the purpose of affording institutional relief to the poor. The hospital was later placed entirely under the control of the Medical Department and has come to be used as a general hospital for the district. Arrangements also exist at various religious institutions for the maintenance of aged and infirm paupers at fixed rates, and there is an asylum for pauper lepers in which patients are maintained at the public expense. The maintenance of paupers at these institutions forms the larger part of the expenditure of the Poor Law Department, which amounted to Rs. 224,000 in 1911 as compared with Rs. 239,000 in 1910.

The Poor Law Commissioner reports that there was a further decrease in the number of cases in which relief was afforded exclusive of dispensary treatment. Distinguishing medical relief from other forms of relief the number of " cases " treated free in the Public Hospitals, fell from 14,537 in 1910 to 13,800 in 1911 ; 250 cases are shown to have been treated at the public expense at Canal Street Convent Hospital as against 202 in 1910 and 156 lepers to have been maintained at the public cost at St. Lazare Asylum as against 176 in 1910. There were 52,552 applications at the Public Dispensaries for free medicines as compared with 48,009 in 1910.

The recipients of institutional relief during the year are shown as numbering 1,869 as compared with 1,989 in 1910. In 1911 there were 995 aged and infirm, 640 feeble minded and 234 children, in 1910 the aged and infirm numbered 1,110, the feeble minded 617 and the children 262.

The number of persons receiving out-door relief, permanent or temporary, is shown to be 3,353 of whom 773 were males and 2,580 females as compared with 3,405 in 1910 of whom 834 were males and 2,571 were females.

Savings Bank.

At the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th. June 1911 a sum of Rs. 3,254,195 to the credit of 28,032 depositors as compared with Rs. 3,000,028 to the credit of 27,316 depositors on the 30th. June 1910. The investment funds amounted to Rs. 3,494,171. Interest is allowed at the rate of 3 o/o.

The following table shows the number of depositors who belonged to the General and Indian populations and the amount standing to their credit on the 30th. June 1911.

	Number	Rs.
General population	15,634	1,710,204
Indian population	12,398	1,543,991

VI—JUDICIAL STATISTICS

Police.

The authorised strength of the Police on the 31st. of December 1911 was 1 Inspector General, 7 Ispectors, 12 Sub Inspectors, 1 Staff Sergeant Major, 2 Check Sergeants, 41 Sergeants, 3 Mounted Orderlies, 50 Corporals, 402 European and Creole Constables, and 205 Indian Constables: 63 men were enlisted in 1911 and the total number of dismissals was 6.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the Police in 1911 was 23,725 as against 22,254 in 1910

They may be classified as follows:

Homicide	29
Other offences against the person	9,454
Prædial Larceny	341
Other offences against property	5,570
Other offences	8,331
	23,725

In connection with these offences 12,335 persons (including 565 persons arrested on suspicion) were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates. In 15,088 of the cases no person was charged.

The total number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts (District, Stipendiary and Bench of Magistrates) in 1911 was 21,842; of these the number prosecuted was 18,105 including persons tried before a Bench of Magistates or committed to the Court of Assizes. The number discharged for want of prosecution by party complaining or for want of evidence was 3,737.

The cases prosecuted in the District Courts (including preliminary inquiries with a view to commitment to the Assizes and Bench cases) were distributed as follows:—

Offences.	Discharged for want of prosecution or evidence.	Dismissed on the merits.	Convictions.	Committed to the Assizes.
Against the person	149	444	935	19
Prædial Larceny	8	15	159	...
Other offences against property	1,836	492	1,691	185
Offences against Revenue, Municipal, Road and other laws relating to the social economy of the Colony	307	296	8,753	4
Other offences	101	280	2,940	...
Total	2,401	1,527	14,478	208

The total number of persons prosecuted before the District Courts during the last five years was distributed as follows :

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial Larceny.	Other offences against property.	Other offences (including Revenue cases &c.)	Total.
1907	1,044	453	2,696	12,893	17,086
1908	994	1,156	3,014	10,888	16,052
1909	1,192	432	2,699	12,086	16,409
1910	1,323	206	1,935	12,035	15,499
1911	1,398	174	2,368	12,273	16,213

The convictions (including committal to the Assizes) before the District Courts for the same period were as follows :—

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Other offences.
1907	722	428	2,169	12,370
1908	732	1,044	2,520	10,798
1909	849	370	2,223	11,235
1910	1,003	175	1,493	11,449
1911	954	159	1,876	11,697

There were 32 cases in which 153 persons were brought before the Assizes in 1911. Of these 94 persons were acquitted or discharged in cases of plunder committed by bodies or bands with open force under article 352 of the Penal Code in connection with the disturbances of the 19th. of January 1911. The number of convictions whether on graver or subsidiary charge was 54.

The following table shows the number of persons convicted at the Assizes during the last five years and the offences for which they were convicted.

Year.	Murder other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter and attempt at.	Attempt at murder.	Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Including attempts to commit the several offences.									
					Child murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injury to property.	Larceny with aggravating circumstances.	Other offences against property.	Miscellaneous.
1907	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	20	13	15	1	...
1908	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	13	28	21	2	...
1909	3	1	...	..	...	...	...	2	...	30	3	12	1	...
1910	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	24	3	8	...	1
1911	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	49	2	...	...

In 1911 5 persons were tried at the Assizes for offences against the person as compared with 36 in 1910, the number convicted being 3 in 1911 and 33 in 1910. The number of persons tried at the Assizes for offences against property was 148 in 1911 of whom 51 were convicted and 16 in 1910 of whom 11 were convicted.

PRISONS AND REFORMATORY.

There was a decrease of 364 in the number of prisoners admitted to prison after conviction as compared with 1910, the figures are :—

	Males	Females	Total
1910	4,249	188	4,437
1911	3,905	168	4,073

The number of prisoners under detention on the 31st. of December 1911 was 774 as compared with 765 on the corresponding date in the previous year. The daily average number under detention shows a decrease of 61.22 as compared with 1910, the daily average for that year being 920.52 as against 859.30 in 1911.

The deaths in the Prisons numbered 23 as compared with 21 in 1910.

The daily average number under treatment in the Prison Hospitals was 38.55 in 1911 as compared with 35.67 in 1910 : the prevailing diseases were malaria and dysentery.

There were 16 escapes and the same number in 1910. Fifteen of the prisoners who escaped were recaptured during the year.

The number of offences against discipline by prisoners was 2,595 as compared with 2,847 in 1910. The number is high but in a great measure due to the enforcement of a full task from prisoners undergoing sentences of hard labour.

The numbers admitted to the Reformatory in 1911 were 80 new boys, 43 ex-Reformatory boys, 48 untried,— a total of 171 as against 166 in 1910. There was a decrease of 8·76 in the daily average as compared with 1910.

Of the 123 boys who were admitted on conviction, 86 entered the Institution with sentences of 6 months or less, of whom 55 were sentenced to a month or less, and 22 of these to sentences varying between two and six days.

One death occurred during the year, due to pneumonia. The general state of health of the boys was fair except for the temporary appearance of bilharziasis. The admissions to hospital increased by 15 as compared with the previous year and two cases of typhoid were removed to Barkly Asylum Hospital, both patients recovering.

The discipline among the boys was satisfactory ; there were 94 departmental offences as against 121 in 1910. The offences were committed by 42 boys, 21 of whom infringed the rules for the first time. Two boys of mischievous disposition together incurred 20 reports. None of the offences were of a serious nature.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

A Census of the population was taken on the night of Friday the 31st. of March 1911. The returns show that the resident population of Mauritius and the adjacent islands, exclusive of the population of the Dependencies, of the Military in barracks and of foreign shipping, numbered 368,791 of whom 194,095 were males and 174,696 females.

The population in barracks was returned as 1,602 and 34 officers and men residing out of barracks were enumerated in the general population. The population of the Dependencies amounted to 6,690 bringing the total population of the Colony and its Dependencies, exclusive of foreign shipping, up to 377,083 persons of whom 199,138 were males and 177,945 females.

For the first time since the Census of 1846, the population of Mauritius and the adjacent islands is found to be a decreasing quantity being 2,232 less than in 1901, of which 843 is attributable to a decrease in the general population and 1,389 to a decrease in the indian population.

The general population was highest in 1861 when it numbered 117,416; it fell to 99,784 in 1871 and rose again to 114,668 in 1891; during the following intercensal period it decreased by 2,731 and fell to 111,094 in 1911. The indian population was greatest in 1901 when it numbered 259,086: it fell to 257,697 in 1911. In the total population the males have steadily decreased from 208,655 in 1881 to 194,095 in 1911 and in the general population the females now exceed the males.

In the Census Report the returns of the civil condition of the population have for the first time been drawn up in age periods and the classification of occupations is made to follow that of the report on the Census of the British Empire in 1901. The returns show a marked tendency on the part of the Indian population to replace the General population under the three main occupational classes—Professional, Commercial and Industrial—and there is a large decrease in the Indian Agricultural Class.

Births and Deaths.

There were 13,326 births registered during the year. The law allows a delay of 45 days for free registration and the number of births which were not registered owing to death intervening before registration was 1,258. The total number of births was accordingly 14,584 of which 7,365 were males and 7,219 females. The deaths registered number 12,204.

Public Health.

In commenting on the prevalence of sickness the Director of the Medical and Health Department observes in his report for 1911 that—

“ The disease that caused most deaths was Malaria—4,313
“ deaths being attributed to this disease alone, *i.e.* more than one-
“ third of the total. This figure is not reliable; “ la fièvre ” is a
“ common and easy diagnosis and is the cause of death usually
“ given when the registration is made by the friends of the de-
“ ceased and without a certificate from a medical man. The next
“ highest comes Pneumonia with 1,186, Tuberculosis, 836, and
“ Debility (Ankylostomiasis ?) 809. Adding the deaths caused by
“ these diseases and subtracting their sum from the total deaths,
“ we find that 58.5 o/o of the people who die in Mauritius die from
“ diseases that are now looked upon as preventable ones and that
“ with proper sanitary precautions it should be possible to reduce
“ the death-rate of the Island considerably. As I have said above,
“ the figures for malaria are not reliable, but considering the
“ weakening of resisting power caused by repeated attacks of ma-
“ laria, we may take it as certain that though many of the deaths
“ recorded as due to malaria were not immediately due to that

" disease, the possibility is that they would not have occurred if the " patient had not been weakened previously by several attacks of " fever during his life."

There was a decrease in the cases of plague, the total numbering 173 as compared with 731 in 1910. The number in 1911 is, with the exception of 1908 when there were 167 cases, the lowest since the first outbreak in 1899: 131 cases were fatal giving a death rate of 75.7 o/o. The worst month of the year was January when 86 cases were recorded; then 22 in February, 5 in March and 6 in April the last being declared on 20th. April. No further case was reported until June 2nd. The next was reported on 27th. August and from September to the end of the year there were 51 additional cases. There was a sharp outbreak in the town of Rose Hill between the 18th. of November and the 11th. of December when there were 19 cases of which 13 proved fatal. An insanitary block of buildings in which the cases occurred was demolished and there has been no subsequent case in the town.

Malaria.

Malaria fever accounted for 2,117 cases appearing on the hospital returns. Malaria is distinctly on the decrease: the cases in 1911 were 221 fewer than in 1910 and the lowest number in any of the last ten years. The following are figures for the years 1907 to 1911.

Year ...	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
Cases ...	4,272	5,071	3,929	2,338	2,117

The case mortality was 0.89 o/o an increase of .01 o/o as compared with the previous year. Of the total of 12,204 deaths in the Colony in 1911 4,313 were ascribed to fever. Corresponding to the decrease in the cases of malaria treated in the hospitals there is a decrease in the number of cases of splenic hypertrophy, the figures for 1908, 1909, 1910 and 1911 being 1193, 886, 561 and 380 respectively.

The spleen census and treatment of school children with quinine has been continued and a number of minor anti-malarial works have been carried out under the supervision of the officers of the Sanitary Branch of the Medical and Health Department.

Vaccination.

The number of children presented for vaccination at the public vaccine stations was 11,290 as compared with 10,312 in 1910. Of this number the Public Vaccinators certified 11,090 to have been successfully vaccinated; 68 vaccinations were unsuccessful. The percentage of successful vaccination was 98.2 o/o and of the infants born during the year 77 o/o were vaccinated.

Meteorological.

Meteorological observations are taken at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, and at eleven second order stations. The Observatory is about three miles from the West coast and is 179 feet above sea level. There are considerable variations both in temperature and humidity in the different parts of the island, the coast districts being hotter and drier than the higher altitudes in the interior. Hurricanes occur between December and April which is the hottest season.

The mean rain-fall from 73 stations was 79.97 inches as compared with 64.12 inches in 1910 (71 stations) and an average of 79.23 inches. A severe drought commenced in July and persisted throughout the remainder of the year being exceptionally severe in November. The rain-fall at the Observatory for the year was 46.30 inches as compared with an average of 47.95 inches for the period 1875–1910. The number of "rainy days" recorded was 150 as compared with an average of 204, a "rainy day" being one in which .005 inches or more of rain was measured.

The mean temperature of the air at the Observatory was 72°.8 as compared with an average of 73°.4, the highest temperature recorded being 92°.3 on the 2nd. and 5th. of December and the lowest 54°.8 on the 11th. and 12th. of June. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded at the Observatory between 1875 and 1910 were 94°.7 on the 23rd. of December 1900 and 49°.9 on the 8th. of August 1907.

The temperature abnormality curve showed a long negative wave lasting from January to August. This wave was a continuation of the period of low temperature which commenced in 1909, the mean monthly temperature being above normal in only one month out of the twenty-five from August 1909 to August 1911 inclusive.

During the year 1911, so far as is yet known, there were eight cyclonic disturbances in the South Indian Ocean as follows :—

January	28 to 31
February	1 to 7
March	7 to 12
,,	23 to 24
March	29 to 31
November	20 to 25
,,	25 to 29
December	15

The cyclone of March 29 to 31 caused some damage to crops and property in the Central and Southern portions of the Island, while that of November 25 to 29 passed near Rodrigues, and that of December over or near Agaléga, causing considerable damage.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The total number of Offices open in 1911 was 63 of which 57 were also Telegraph Offices. Forty-eight of the Post Offices are at Railway Stations and 15 are in districts at a distance from the Railway system.

The revenue for the year 1911 was Rs. 182,622 as compared with Rs. 202,733 in 1910. The expenditure was Rs. 156,830 in 1911 and Rs. 144,669 in 1910 leaving an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of Rs. 58,064 in 1910 and Rs. 25,792 in 1911.

The total estimated number of letters, post cards, newspapers and postal packets, exclusive of parcels, which passed through the Post Office in 1911 was approximately 3,077,321 as compared with 3,195,306 in 1910. Foreign letters, post cards and newspapers showed decreases as did Inland post cards and newspapers ; while there was an increase in Inland letters which may partly be accounted for by the introduction of letter cards. The system of reply coupons was inaugurated towards the close of the year. The number of postal parcels received and despatched increased by 298, the figures being 14,803 for 1910 and 15,101 for 1911. The number of parcels received from abroad increased by 663 and the duty collected amounted to Rs. 41,212.

The number of Inland money orders issued and paid was 43,358 and their value Rs. 449,105 being an increase of Rs. 121,498 over the previous year. The number of money orders issued on Foreign Countries was 9,322 and their value Rs. 272,466 being Rs. 12,349 less than in 1910.

There was a large decrease in the money order business with Rodrigues the rates of commission having been raised in the course of the year. There was again an increase in the postal order business : the orders issued and received increased in number from 5,318 to 6,435 and in value from Rs. 51,069 to Rs. 62,828. The increase in the orders issued was 438 in number and Rs. 3,581 in value and in orders received 679 in number and Rs. 8,177 in value.

There are 359 miles of Telegraph and 110 miles of Telephone wires under the charge of the Department. During the year under review all the wires between Quatre Bornes and Curepipe and between Montagne Blanche and Rivière Sèche were renewed. An eight pair (16 wire) cable was laid through the Central Railway Station.

The Railway has not a telegraphic system of its own and the ordinary messages for the working of the traffic and for the administration of the Department are transmitted over the Post Office wires. The number of Railway messages and signals transmitted in 1911 was 132,401. The number of messages sent by the public increased in 1911. Out of a total number of 255,084 messages forwarded 59,274 were sent by the public as compared with 47,713 out of a total of 270,648 in 1910. The receipts for the messages sent by the public amount to a little over Rs. 25,123 in which charges for porterage are included.

IX.—RAILWAYS.

There is a single line of Railway of 120 miles in length. The gauge is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The earnings from all sources for the year amounted to

Rs. 2,601,001 as compared with Rs. 2,761,529 in 1910 being a decrease of 5.81 o/o. Excluding Government Traffic the earnings amounted to Rs. 2,392,482 being Rs. 170,360 less than in 1910. The services performed for Government Departments for which no cash payments were made would at ordinary rates have cost Rs. 208,519 of which Rs. 174,278 for Passenger Traffic, Rs. 29,455 for Goods Traffic and Rs. 4,786 for Parcels, representing 8.02 o/o of the total traffic as compared with 7.19 o/o in 1910.

The receipts for passenger traffic were greater than in any previous year and amounted to Rs. 1,219,714. They exceeded the receipts of 1910 by Rs. 52,682 and the mean of the last ten years by Rs. 102,787. The increase is principally in the ordinary 3rd. class tickets. It is difficult to estimate the exact effect of the more general use of motor cars during the last 3 years on the receipts for 1st. and 2nd. class passenger traffic. The number of motor cars licensed in 1911 was 164 and of motor cycles 25. In 1908 the receipts from 1st. and 2nd. class season tickets were Rs. 124,842 and from ordinary tickets Rs. 129,240 a total of Rs. 254,082. The figures for 1911 were Rs. 121,803, Rs. 142,793 and a total of Rs. 264,596. Whatever loss of traffic there may have resulted to the Railway it is probable that at least a part could be regained by the establishment of a quicker service of passenger trains on the busiest section of the line between Port Louis and Curepipe Stations which improvements in rolling stock and the system of working will eventually make possible.

The following table shows the tonnage of Goods Traffic, exclusive of Government traffic, carried in 1910 and 1911 :

	1910.	1911.	Decrease.
Sugar Canes ...	157,762	131,418	26,344
Sugar ...	172,062	138,164	33,898
General Merchandize ...	209,888	182,342	27,546
Total ...	539,712	451,924	87,788

The total tonnage carried was 87,788 tons or 16.27 less in 1911 than in 1910. This reduction is mainly due to the shortage in the sugar crop. The aggregate earnings for goods traffic were Rs. 203,015 or 15.27 o/o below those of 1910. The earnings for sugar cane traffic were Rs. 104,415 or 79.45 cents of a rupee per ton carried as compared with 79.19 cents in 1910. The earnings for sugar traffic were Rs. 538,917 or Rs. 3.90 per ton carried as against Rs. 3.80 in 1910. The earnings for general merchandize were Rs. 483,439 or Rs. 2.65 per ton carried as against Rs. 2.61 in 1910. The total expenditure charged to capital account including all sums paid from general revenue, surplus balances or loans up to the 31st. of December 1911 was Rs. 30,583,168* in which is included Rs. 2,377,000 advanced on account of the re-equipment of the

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* Figures subject to confirmation by the Treasury.

Railways and which is eventually to be met from loan funds. The working expenses for 1911 amounted to Rs. 1,597,853. The ratio which working expenses bore to earnings showed an increase of 3.68 o/o as compared with 1910, the figures being 66.78 o/o and 63.10 o/o respectively. The net earnings amounted to Rs. 1,003,148 or 3.28 o/o on the capital. The actual payments made to the Treasury by the Railways in 1911 amounted to Rs. 2,496,192 and deducting charges for working expenditure, interest and sinking fund of loans and pensions there remained a balance of Rs. 299,969 which sum does not include any credit for work done for Government Departments.

The following work in connection with the re-equipment of the Railways was undertaken in 1911. Three 16″ cylinder six wheels coupled tank engines, six 2-8-2 85 ton side tank engines, 3 pasenger coaches, 1 brake van, 85 open high sided 20 ton wagons and 132 covered 23 ton wagons were erected. Turntables were put up at Port Louis, Mahebourg and Rose Belle Stations. Eight miles of the permanent way were relaid with 80 lbs. B.S. bull headed rails. The steel work for eleven bridges on the Midland line was rivetted ready for erection. On the Plaine Lauzun—Richelieu deviation line 12,000 cubic yards of excavation were completed, and 2,400 feet of permanent way was laid and ballasted ; one-third of the masonry work of the St. Louis bridge and the excavations for the abutments as well as one pier of the Grand River bridge were completed.

Bois Chéri.

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from Rivière du Poste Station on the Savanne Branch of the Midland Line to Mexico. The length of the line is 10 miles. The total goods traffic carried in 1911 amounted to 12,695 tons of which 10,362 tons were sugar cane as against a total traffic of 13,516 tons and 10,782 tons of sugar cane in 1910. The actual working expenses for 1911 were Rs. 14,756, the earnings Rs. 6,243 and the work done for Government Departments was valued at Rs. 1,374. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 11,504, Rs. 9,142 and Rs. 1,724.

The decrease in the sugar cane traffic from the high land through which the line passes is greater than the figures indicate. Of the total carried in 1911 4,000 tons was entirely new traffic from Joli Bois Estate to Gros Bois factory.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The most important works undertaken by the Public Works Department during the year were in connection with the reconstruction of road bridges, the Mare-aux-Vacoas water works and the Port Louis drainage works.

Bridges.

The reconstruction of two large bridges in the district of Savanne was undertaken. Colville bridge with one span of 50′ and one of

42′ 6″ had not been completed at the close of the year but Ste. Marie bridge with three spans of 35 feet was completed at a cost of Rs. 24,500. Seven small bridges in the same district were also rebuilt.

Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.

The reservoir at Mare-aux-Vacoas, where the average annual rainfall is 137 inches, has a catchment area of about 5 square miles. The top water level is 1,840 feet above the mean sea-level and the reservoir has a maximum capacity of 570 millions of gallons. The water flows from the Reservoir for 4,900 feet in an open channel and for a further distance of 7,700 feet is taken in a 16″ cast iron pipe to the filtering establishment at La Marie, which is 1,645 feet above sea-level.

At the filtering establishment there is a depositing reservoir with a capacity 1,300,000 gallons and a covered service reservoir with a capacity of 500,000 gallons. Owing to the water being at times heavily charged with organic matter the "Anderson Process" for the purification of water was installed and concrete partitions were erected in the depositing reservoir to improve the settlement of solids. Originally there were only 4 filter beds with a superficial area of 6,720 square feet, but five additional filter beds have since been constructed with a superficial area of 18,000 square feet, and extra aerating trays have been added. These additional works and the increased filtration area enable two filters to be always left exposed to sun and air and with a slower process of filtration there are few complaints of the quality of the water.

The daily consumption of water exceeds 1,600,000 gallons and with the exception of the supply to the town of Curepipe the water flows by gravitation to the lower districts. The supply for Curepipe is pumped by means of hydraulic rams to two reservoirs standing 368 feet above the filtering establishment, the motor being driven by water power from the 16″ supply main. The increase in the population of Curepipe has necessitated additions to the pumping plant and the reconstruction of the reservoirs. A masonry building was erected at the filter beds for the pumping machinery and a second 16″ cast iron pipe has been laid to supply the motive power. The open conduit from the reservoir to the filter beds which is liable to pollution is being replaced by a concrete conduit with a ferro concrete covering.

Port Louis Drainage Works.

The Port Louis drainage works were begun in 1895, the sewers being designed on the separate system and the surface drainage being carried in the street gutters to the various streams which flow into the harbour. The town is divided for drainage purposes into four districts three of which drain by gravitation sewers into separate collecting wells which are connected by means of syphon pipes to the pumping station near Caudan Bassin. From there, the sewage is pumped through cast iron pipes for 7,000 feet to the sea outfall at the mouth of Grand River North West and is discharged in 10 feet of water at low tide, a thousand feet from the shore. Sewers have been laid in districts Nos. 2 and 3, the laying of the sewers in district No. 4 is being proceeded with ; the enlargement of the pumping station has been completed and the additional pumps have been installed. The total length of sewers laid is 19.28 miles and 732 properties have been connected. The amount expended on construction works in districts 2, 3 and 4 is Rs. 796,740 and on house services Rs. 470,000.

XI.—FORESTS AND GARDENS.

The area of forests, mountain and river reserves and curatelle lands under the care of the Forest Department was 84,866 acres of which 68,296 acres are Crown lands, 10,330 acres Mountain Reserves and 6,000 acres River Reserves.

Utilization.

The improvement fellings at Kanaka and Talbot were continued on a limited scale yielding about 490 cubic feet of timber. Improvement fellings were also begun during the year at Coutanceau which adjoins Talbot and has an area of 304 arpents. The wood-crop was found to be in much the same condition as in Kanaka and Talbot the trees being partly or wholly destroyed from the effects of wind, insects and fungi, and the yield thereby greatly diminished. The tramway line was extended across Talbot to permit of the extraction of the timber. Public establishments were supplied with 4,896 cords of firewood taken principally from the Port Louis district. A trial shipment of logwood from the Pouce Valley was sent to England in the course of the year. About 10 cords of standing timber were cut for one ton of heartwood, the difference being used as fuel. There were difficulties in extracting the wood from the forest in the Pouce Valley which added considerably to the cost of the operation. The cost of felling, extraction by wire rope and final conversion was Rs. 38.14 a ton. The logwood was reported to be of good quality and offers were made for the purchase of larger quantities at 43 shillings per ton f.o.b., Port Louis. The price offered did not permit of operations being profitably continued in the Pouce Valley but it is possible that logwood may be obtained at a less cost from other lands where the difficulties of extraction are not so great.

The cuttings of casuarina on the Pas Géométriques yielded fuel valued at Rs. 25,746 which was sold to the lessees who replanted the areas cleared.

Forest Plantations.

A cyclone in February 1911 did considerable damage to young trees. The year was otherwise favourable to artificial reproduction and the work of raising and planting seedlings was actively carried on. The nurseries in which the greater number of seedlings were raised were Kanaka and Talbot, La Pipe, Nouvelle Découverte, Curepipe, Escalier and Bois Sec. The species propagated included Natte, Colophane, Makak, Ebony, Sandal, Toon, Mahogany, Bois d'Olive, Moreton Bay Pine, Eucalyptus, Camphor, Cinnamon, Champac, Juniper and Cryptomaria Japonica.

The re-afforestation of the catchment area of Rivière Viande Salée and its tributaries in Black River district was continued but some inconvenience was caused through difficulties in transporting plants from other nurseries. During the year about 200 acres were acquired in the Nicolière Mountain in Pamplemousses district. A considerable part of the area, forming the gathering ground of Rivière du Rempart is subject to erosion and is being re-afforested.

Gardens.

At the Royal Botanic Gardens, Pamplemousses, the grafting of selected mangoes, including Auguste, Aristide, Rosat, José, Gélée and Villars was continued. From the grafts of the best local varieties 31 were planted at Mon Plaisir. Experiments were carried out in rubber tapping during April. A large number of seedlings were raised in the nurseries and were either sold or used for planting out on Crown lands, but these operations were temporarily interfered with by the restrictions which it was found necessary to impose on the removal of plants from the gardens on account of the danger of the Phytalus Smithi spreading. Further progress was made in the planting of Cacao, Coffee, Mangoes and other fruit trees in Dauguet orchard.

The distribution of indigenous trees from the Curepipe nursery Gardens was continued and a large number of conifers raised in the nurseries were planted on Crown lands or sold to the public. Several new species of conifers and other economic trees were received for experimental growing. The experimental plots of Cowpeas and Pois Sabre were destroyed by the cyclone of February 1911.

XII.—DEPENDENCIES.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small Islands situated between 5° and 19° 50′ South Latitude and 51° and 72° 30′ East Longitude of which the nearest is 230 miles and the most remote about 1,200 miles distant from Mauritius.

Rodrigues, the largest and most important, is administered by a resident Magistrate, has an area of 40 square miles and had at the Census of 1911 a population of 4,829 of whom 2,523 were males and 2,306 were females. The total population showed as compared with 1901 an increase of 1,667.

The increase was almost entirely in the general population which numbered 4,667 or 1,567 more than in 1901. The Indo-

Mauritian population numbered 102, other Indians 36 and Chinese 24. The male agricultural population has increased considerably in the last ten years and development is noticeable in the trade of the island. The Customs returns show that 69 cattle were sent to Mauritius in 1911 as against 39 in 1910, and that two bulls were introduced for the improvement of stock. In 1911 1,466 pigs value Rs. 26,500 were sent to Mauritius as against 195 value Rs. 4,800 in 1910 and 3,221 goats and sheep value Rs. 11,242 as against 605 value Rs. 2,100 in 1910. The poultry trade is growing but to what extent is not shown by the returns. There was a large increase in the exports of salted fish the figures being 42,000 kilos in 1910 and approximately 270,000 in 1911. Tobacco however showed a decrease from 50,000 to 36,000 kilos.

At the Rodrigues branch of the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th. of June 1911 a sum of Rs. 22,322 to the credit of 46 depositors as compared with Rs. 7,399 and 33 depositors on the corresponding date of 1910 and Rs. 1,687 and 9 depositors in 1909 in which year the branch was opened.

Most of the Islands in the Lesser Dependencies have been conceded or sold with the exception of a few Islands in the St. Brandon group and two islands in the Diego Garcia group, Tromelin Island, and one near the great Chagos Bank, which are leased. The islands are administered by two Magistrates who are resident in Mauritius and pay regular visits to the Dependencies. The chief exports from the Dependencies are cocoanut oil, cocoanuts, guano and fish (dried and salted).

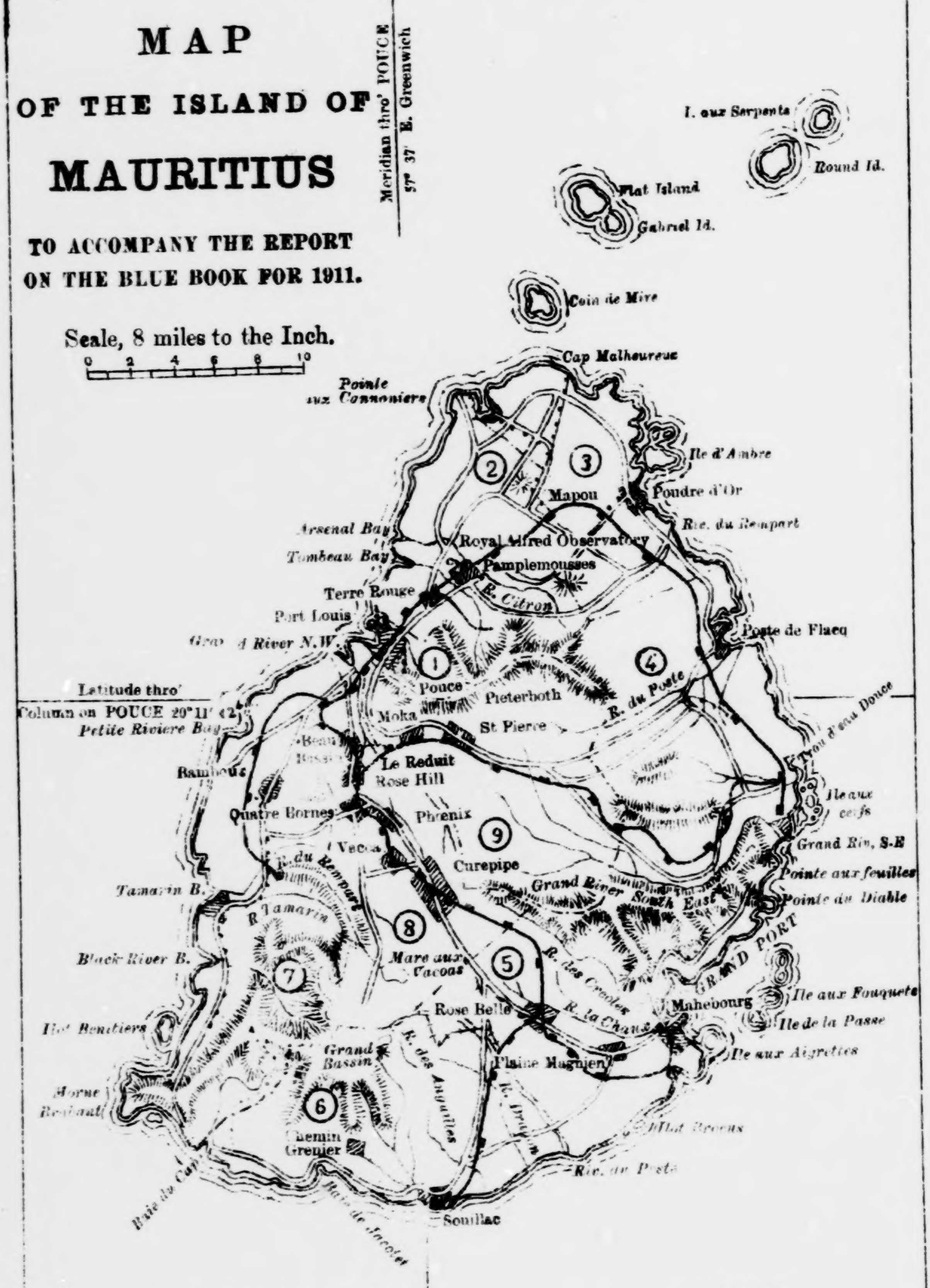
XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Coronation of Their Majesties The King and Queen was celebrated in Mauritius with every mark of loyalty and enthusiasm. The 22nd. and 23rd. of June were proclaimed public holidays and the 24th. of June an estate holiday. The celebrations opened with thanksgiving services in the two cathedrals of Port Louis on the morning of the 22nd. of June and later in the day a levee was held by His Honour the Officer Administering the Government at which all classes of the community were represented. In the afternoon there was a review of the troops of the garrison on the Champ-de-Mars when the Colour was trooped by the 3rd. Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers and in the evening the town which was brilliantly illuminated was filled with dense crowds. The Railway carried over 9,000 passengers to the Capital during the day and large numbers travelled by road. The 23rd. of June was devoted to celebrations organised by the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis and the festivities were continued in the districts on later dates. All parts of the Island vied with each other in their manifestations of rejoicing and loyalty. The fact that the personalities of Their Majesties had become known to the inhabitants of Mauritius in the course of the Royal visit of 1901 probably accounts for

MAP
OF THE ISLAND OF
MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT
ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1911.

Scale, 8 miles to the Inch.


0 2 4 6 8 10
Meridian thro' POUCE
57° 37' E. Greenwich
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20° 11' 42
I. aux Serpents
Round Id.
Flat Island
Gabriel Id.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
Riv. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
Port Louis
Grand River N.W.
Poste de Flacq
Pouce
Pieterboth
Moka
St Pierre
R. du Poste
Petite Riviere Bay
Trou d'eau Douce
Beau Bassin
Le Reduit
Rose Hill
Bambous
Quatre Bornes
Phœnix
Ile aux cerfs
Vacoa
R. du Rempart
Curepipe
Grand Riv. S-E
Grand River South East
Pointe aux feuilles
Pointe du Diable
Tamarin B.
R. Tamarin
Grand Port
Black River B.
Mare aux Vacoas
R. des Creoles
Ile aux Fouquets
Mahebourg
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Ile de la Passe
Ilot Benitiers
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
Plaine Magnien
Ile aux Aigrettes
Morne Brabant
Ilot Brocus
R. Dragon
Chemin Grenier
Riv. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs...	▬▬
Railway Stations...........	▬■▬■▬
Other Telegraph lines..........	-·-·-·-
Narrow Gauge Light Railway.......	———
Main Roads	═══

DISTRICTS

1 Port-Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 Pl. Wilhems
9 Moka

the universally personal note of loyalty and respect which found expression in the rejoicings of every class of the community on the occasion of Their Majesties' Coronation.

The extended term of office, as Governor and Commander-in-Chief, of His Excellency Sir Cavendish Boyle K.C.M.G., who left the Colony on leave of absence on the 10th. of April, expired on the 10th. of July 1911. He was succeeded by His Excellency Major J. R. Chancellor R.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., who arrived in the Colony and assumed the Administration on the 13th. of November 1911. In the interval the Government was administered by Mr. George Smith, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

J. MIDDLETON,

September 1912.

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
713	St. Lucia	1910
714	St. Helena	1911
715	Weihaiwei	"
716	Ceylon	1910–1911
717	Gibraltar	1911
718	Gambia	"
719	Ashanti	"
720	Falkland Islands	"
721	Seychelles	"
722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
723	Hong Kong	"
724	Sierra Leone	"
725	Gold Coast	"
726	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
727	Fiji	"
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1911–1912
729	Basutoland	"
730	Colonial Survey Committee	"
731	Malta	"
732	Nyasaland	"
733	British Honduras	1911
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1910
735	Southern Nigeria	1911
736	Somaliland	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute	1911
738	Northern Nigeria	"
739	Jamaica	1911–1912
740	Swaziland	"
741	Bahamas	"
742	Grenada	1911
743	Uganda	1911–1912

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 788.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, see No. 744.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1914.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1912.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year 1911–1912 amounted to Rs. 10,435,648, being Rs. 94,768 above the estimate and Rs. 474,344 above the average for the five years immediately preceding. The revenue was less than the revenue from normal sources in the previous year by Rs. 454,341. The total encashments for 1910–11 amounted to Rs. 11,129,989, including Rs. 256,142 derived from Droits of the Crown and Escheats, and for reasons explained in the Report for 1911 a deduction of Rs. 240,000 was made from this item in comparing the revenue of the years 1909–10 and 1910–11.

The following is a comparative statement showing the actual revenue from normal sources collected during the financial years 1910–11 and 1911–12 :—

Head of Revenue.	1910-11.	1911-12.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Customs	4,059,116	3,841,092	...	218,024
2. Harbour	213,259	206,930	...	6,329
3. Licenses, Excise, &c. ...	2,558,911	2,545,369	...	13,542
4. Fees of Court, &c.... ...	368,790	340,871	...	27,919
5. Post and Telegraphs ...	210,275	217,604	7,329	...
6. Railways	2,519,235	2,334,982	...	184,253
7. Rent	74,179	70,466	...	3,713
8. Interest	844,120	828,363	...	15,757
9. Miscellaneous	41,589	47,352	5,763	...
	10,889,474	10,433,029	13,092	469,537
10. Land Sales...	515	2,619	2,104	...
Total	10,889,989	10,435,648	15,196	469,537
Net decrease of normal revenue	...	...	...	454,341

The revenue of 1910–11 exceeded that of any previous year and, with the exception of the year 1909–10 when the receipts from normal sources amounted to Rs. 10,559,318, the revenue of the year 1911–12 most nearly approached that of 1910–11. The heads of revenue under which the receipts in 1911–12 show the greatest disparity as compared with 1910–11 are Customs and Railways, the collections being Rs. 218,024 and Rs. 184,253 less respectively in 1911–12 than in 1910–11. Import duties however in 1911–12 yielded Rs. 85,556 more than the estimate, while Export duties yielded Rs. 100,000 less than the estimate owing to the shortage of the sugar crop. For the same reason the earnings of the Railway from Goods Traffic were less than was anticipated, while the receipts from Passenger Traffic exceeded the estimate. There were small increases as compared with 1910–11 under Post and Telegraphs of Rs. 7,300 due to a reclassification of revenue from stamps, and under Miscellaneous of Rs. 5,800.

There was on the 30th. of June 1911 a surplus balance of Rs. 2,302,239. The revenue for the year 1911–12 exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 591,668 bringing up the surplus at the 30th. of June 1912 to Rs. 2,893,907. From this sum there had been advanced on account of Railway re-equipment Rs. 2,678,557. The accounts for the first half of the current financial year show that the revenue amounted to Rs. 5,544,822 and the expenditure to Rs. 4,929,044. The expenditure was less than the revenue by Rs. 615,778 and at the 31st. of December 1912 the surplus balance had been increased to Rs. 3,509,685. From the 1st. of July to the 31st. of December 1912 advances amounting to Rs. 384,197 were made for Railway re-equipment. The total amount so advanced up to the 31st. of December 1912 was Rs. 3,062,754 and the actual surplus balance at that date was accordingly reduced to Rs. 446,931.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1911–12 amounted to Rs. 9,843,980, which is Rs. 131,348 below the original estimate, Rs. 265,736 above the expenditure for the previous year and Rs. 108,685 above the average of the preceding five years. The amounts originally estimated to be expended during the year were exceeded to an appreciable extent under the following Heads : Pensions Rs. 10,400, Military Expenditure Rs. 52,700, Miscellaneous Rs. 150,000 and Forests and Gardens Rs. 36,300 ; the expenditure in the first two cases is regulated by special laws, while the excess under Head Miscellaneous includes a sum of Rs. 148,000 paid by way of compensation in connection with the disturbances in Port Louis in January 1911. It was necessary to appropriate an additional sum of Rs. 43,000 under Head Forests and Gardens to meet expenditure on measures for the destruction of an insect pest which seriously threatened the sugar industry in one locality. The following are the principal Heads under which the actual expenditure was less than the original estimate for the year :—Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary (Rs. 79,000) due to works for which provision had been made not being carried out, Medical and Health (Rs. 73,000), Education (Rs. 40,000), Law and Justice (Rs. 37,000) and Police (Rs. 33,000).

The following is a comparative statement of the Expenditure for the years 1910-11 and 1911-12 :—

Head of Service.	1910-11.	1911-12.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	1,236,695	1,244,986	8,291	...
2. Pensions	628,542	671,534	42,992	...
3. Governor and Legislature	93,498	79,048	...	14,450
4. Colonial Secretariat ...	57,806	88,964	31,158	...
5. Treasury	152,524	185,139	32,615	...
6. Customs	117,050	118,589	1,539	...
7. Audit	54,914	53,537	...	1,377
8. Port and Marine	131,739	126,914	...	4,825
9. Observatory	19,929	15,684	...	4,245
10. Public Library and Museum	8,263	8,136	...	127
11. Registrar General	45,636	32,657	...	12,979
12. Registration and Mortgage	41,642	42,529	887	...
13. Archives	7,495	5,862	...	1,633
14. Law and Justice	433,698	399,536	...	34,162
15. Ecclesiastical	152,696	152,718	22	...
16. Police	546,240	522,865	...	23,375
17. Prisons and Reformatory...	161,989	165,757	3,768	...
18. Medical and Health ...	678,151	710,371	32,220	...
19. Quarantine...	9,132	8,167	...	965
20. Plague	123,796	110,553	...	13,243
21. Education	606,877	604,277	...	2,600
22. Poor	224,395	230,511	6,116	...
23. Storekeeper General ...	28,676	...	...	28,676
24. Immigration	95,876	84,596	...	11,280
25. Dependencies ...	53,866	55,760	1,894	...
26. Military Expenditure ...	473,897	513,256	39,359	...
27. Miscellaneous	681,872	734,449	52,577	...
28. Post Office	164,733	159,291	...	5,442
29. Railways	1,569,664	1,677,237	107,573	...
30. Forests and Gardens ...	165,316	217,996	52,680	...
31. Public Works Department	111,918	111,624	...	294
32. Public Works Recurrent...	496,270	547,477	51,207	...
33. Public Works Extraordinary	193,526	154,046	...	39,480
34. Loan Commission	9,923	9,914	...	9
Total ...	9,578,244	9,843,980	464,898	199,162
Net Increase	...	...	265,736	...

The principal Heads under which the expenditure in 1911-12 was greater than in the previous year were: Railways Rs. 107,500, Forests and Gardens Rs. 52,600, Miscellaneous Rs. 52,500, Public Works Recurrent Rs. 51,200, Pensions Rs. 43,000, Military Expenditure Rs. 39,300, Treasury Rs. 32,600, Medical and Health

Rs. 32,200 and Colonial Secretariat Rs. 31,100, while the expenditure in 1911–12 was less than in the previous year under: Public Works Extraordinary Rs. 39,500, Law and Justice Rs. 34,000 and Police Rs. 23,300.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on the 30th. of June 1912 were Rs. 2,386,773 and the liabilities Rs. 2,171,423, the assets thus exceeding the liabilities by Rs. 215,350.

The assets included :—	Rs.
Cash in the hands of the Receiver General and sub-accountants	438,414
Investments at cost	671,671
Temporary investments at Bank rate £ 33,000 at 1s. 4 d.	495,000
Miscellaneous advances	364,170
Advances on account of loan authorized for mechanical transport (Ordinance No. 34 of 1902)	342,518
Drafts and Remittances	75,000

The chief liabilities were :—	
General Deposits	2,070,341
Government of India	77,287
Drafts and Remittances	17,934
Loan Funds, unexpended	5,861

There was brought to account during the year expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,066,962 on Railway re-equipment.

Public Debt.

The total indebtedness of the Colony on the 30th. of June 1912 was £ 1,290,690 and the Sinking Funds amounted to £ 324,558, leaving a net debt of £ 966,132 as against £ 990,024 on 30th. June 1911, as compared with a debt of £ 1,147,409 and a revenue of £ 471,172 in 1894.

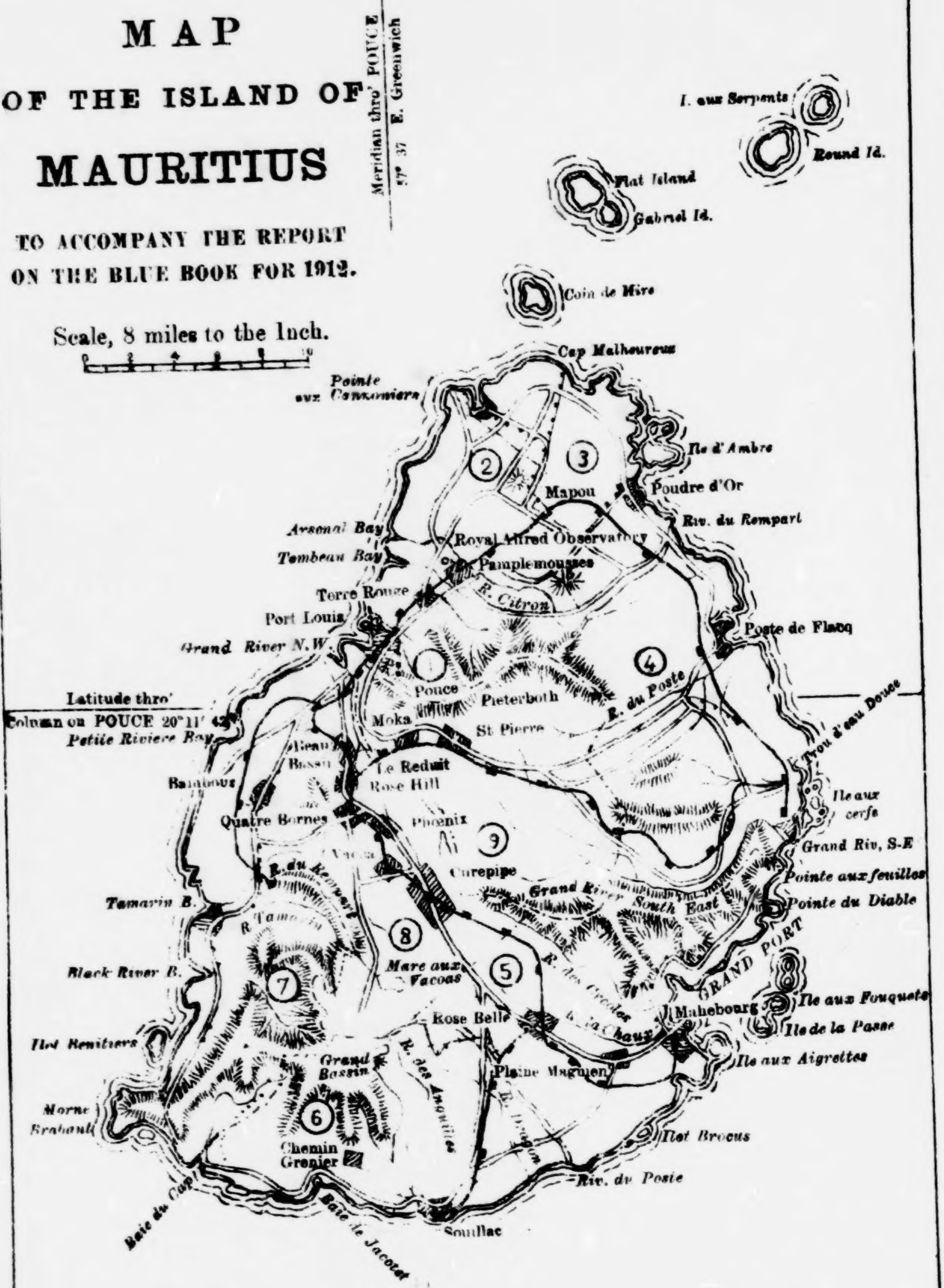
Under Ordinances No. 10 of 1876, No. 10 of 1879 and No. 2 of 1887 outstanding debentures are redeemed by annual drawings. Provision is made for the repayment of other loans by means of a sinking fund.

The raising of a loan of £ 70,000 for the purpose of making advances to Planters to assist them in substituting mechanical for animal transport on their estates was authorized by Ordinance No. 34 of 1902. The loan was not raised but advances were made partly from temporary advances obtained from the Crown Agents which have

MAP
OF THE ISLAND OF
MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT
ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1912.

Scale, 8 miles to the Inch.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Meridian thro' POUCE
57° 37' E. Greenwich
I. aux Serpents
Round Id.
Flat Island
Gabriel Id.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
2
3
Mapou
Poudre d'Or
Riv. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
Port Louis
Poste de Flacq
Grand River N.W.
4
Pouce
Pieterboth
R. du Poste
Latitude thro'
Column on POUCE 20°11' 42"
Petite Riviere Bay
Moka
St Pierre
Trou d'eau Douce
Beau Bassin
Le Reduit
Rose Hill
Bambous
Ile aux cerfs
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
9
Grand Riv. S-E
Vacoas
R. du Rempart
Curepipe
Pointe aux feuilles
Grand River South East
Pointe du Diable
Tamarin B.
R. Tamarin
8
GRAND PORT
Black River B.
Mare aux Vacoas
5
7
R. des Creoles
Ile aux Fouquets
Mahebourg
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Ile de la Passe
Ilot Benitiers
Ile aux Aigrettes
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
Plaine Magnien
Morne Brabant
6
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Riv. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs...

Railway Stations..................

Other Telegraph lines.............

Narrow Gauge Light Railway........

Main Roads.........................

DISTRICTS

1 Port-Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 Pl. Wilhems
9 Moka

now been settled in full, and partly from Treasury balances. The actual amount lent was £ 185,185 of which there remained due in capital sum on the 30th. June 1912 £ 22,834 as compared with £ 43,323 on the 30th. of June 1911. The last payments on account of sums lent are due to be made in September 1913.

The Railway (Improvement) Loan Ordinance 1910 authorizes the raising of a loan of £ 270,000 for the improvement and re-equipment of the Railways. The loan has not yet been raised, the expenditure incurred to the 31st. December 1912 amounting to £ 204,183 having been met by payment from surplus cash balances.

Currency and Banking.

The Currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :

(a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents.

(b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.

(2) The silver rupee of India with its silver subdivisions.

(3) Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

On the 30th. June 1912, the value of Currency notes in circulation was Rs. 5,080,250. The specie held amounted to Rs. 2,760,000 and the Investment and Depreciation Funds to Rs. 2,320,250 and Rs. 328,900 respectively.

The Banks which do business in the Colony are the Bank of Mauritius Limited and the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Municipality of Port Louis for the five years 1908 to 1912 :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1908	476,130	500,776
1909	484,841	476,448
1910	523,494	504,058
1911	510,285	498,614
1912	515,504	509,944

The indebtedness of the Municipality up to the end of the year and the provision for payment are shown below :—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1913.
Conversion Loan	£ 109,000	£ 2,300
Electric Lighting Loan	7,667	333
Municipality Loan, 1908	3,428	142
Municipality Loan, 1909	4,464	178
	£ 124,559	£ 2,953

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1913.
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892...	Rs. 42,745	Rs. 7,892
Manure Factory and Night Soil Service Loan	8,000	2,000
Municipality Loan, 1903	12,000	2,000
	Rs. 62,745	Rs. 11,892

LOCAL BOARDS.

There are Boards of Commissioners for the towns of Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes which are entrusted with the general improvement and conservancy of these towns.

The Board of Curepipe receives the amount of taxes on vehicles and animals collected in the town and of licenses paid by traders and others. The Board may also levy a tax not exceeding one per cent. on house property. The two other Boards receive the amount of the taxes paid on vehicles and animals in the towns and may also levy a similar tax on house property.

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure of the Boards for the past five years :—

CUREPIPE.

	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	79,331	73,759	90,966	68,510	73,136
Expenditure	75,659	72,516	85,300	72,008	76,420

BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	37,044	33,541	35,804	36,996	34,811
Expenditure	37,695	33,476	34,639	36,651	36,507

QUATRE BORNES.

	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	13,815	13,842	12,513	12,748	13,374
Expenditure	13,865	13,508	12,615	11,096	11,720

Below will be found a statement of the debts of the Boards :—

Curepipe	Net amount of Debt	Rs. 47,500
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill	,,	Rs. 4,100
Quatre Bornes	,,	nil

There is a District Board for each of the eight rural districts of the Island. To them is entrusted under Ordinance No. 9 of 1900 the maintenance of the branch roads.

They receive as revenue a contribution from Government equivalent to 10 °/₀ of the direct taxes collected in each district during the year and an addition of 10 °/₀ to the direct taxes to be levied in each year in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and the Townships. The additional 10 °/₀ to be levied on the direct taxes may be increased to 25 °/₀ subject to the approval of the Governor in Executive Council. The Government contribution amounted in 1911–12 to Rs. 10,904.

The powers of the District Boards were extended by Ordinance No. 35 of 1902 to include the construction, maintenance and management of water works. For this purpose they receive an annual contribution from Government, which in 1911-12 amounted to Rs. 76,000, and also the proceeds of water rates and of charges paid for water supplies.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

The Customs returns for the year 1912 show the aggregate value of Imports and Exports, exclusive of specie, to be Rs. 68,895,709, the value of Imports being Rs. 32,002,440 as compared with Rs. 37,440,332 in 1911. Import duties show a decrease of Rs. 138,509 as compared with 1911.

Most of the material imported from the United Kingdom for the re-equipment of the Railways valued at about Rs. 227,000 (as returned by the Railway Department) or Rs. 1,800,000 less than in 1911 has been classified under the head "Hardware and Cutlery", which shows a decrease of Rs. 1,900,000 which is very nearly equal to the decrease in the imports from the United Kingdom under that head.

The aggregate value of Imports and Exports, excluding specie, for the years 1908 to 1912 was as follows :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1908	26,199,606	33,691,381	59,890,987
1909	27,013,970	34,424,923	61,438,893
1910	35,014,664	36,528,536	71,543,200
1911	37,440,332*	40,414,328	77,854,660*
1912	32,002,440*	36,893,269	68,895,709*

The value of Imports from, and Exports to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during the same years is shown below, (specie is not included) :—

Year.	Imports from (Unit Rs. 1,000.)			Exports to (Unit Rs. 1,000).		
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
1908	6,627	13,232	6,339	3,887	29,212	590
1909	7,437	12,288	7,287	4,315	29,667	441
1910	11,282	16,225	7,506	8,267	27,863	397
1911	11,995*	18,130	7,313	13,397	22,170	4,846
1912	11,504*	14,117	6,382	4,467	32,038	389

The following tables show the percentage of Imports from, and Exports to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during each of the last five years :—

Imports.

From	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
United Kingdom	25.3	27.5	32.2	32.1*	36.0*
British Possessions ...	50.5	45.5	46.4	48.4	44.1
Foreign Countries	24.2	27.0	21.4	19.5	19.9

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* Including Railway re-equipment materials.

Exports.

To	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
United Kingdom	11.5	12.5	22.6	33.1	12.2
British Possessions ...	86.7	86.2	76.3	54.9	86.8
Foreign Countries	1.8	1.3	1.1	12.0	1.0

An examination of the returns of imports and exports shows that—the United Kingdom and British Possessions supply most of the Colony's needs and purchase nearly all its produce ; the supplies from Foreign Countries are mainly in the groups (1) Food, Drink and Tobacco and (2) Manufactured Articles.

The trade of the Colony is principally with the United Kingdom and India and in normal years the trade with India represents nearly one-half of the aggregate import and export trade.

In 1912 the value of the imports in the group Food, Drink and Tobacco was less by 4½ millions of rupees than in the previous year. There was also a decrease of 2½ millions of rupees in the group Manufactured Articles, while the imports of Raw Materials show an increase of 1½ millions of rupees.

Six commercial travellers deposited samples at the Customs. One represented an English firm and the others French firms. They travelled in woollens, haberdashery, ironmongery and biscuits.

The chief articles contributing to the customs revenue in 1912 were :

	Rs.
Tobacco and Cigars	837,000
Grain (including rice, dholl, etc.)	539,000
Cotton Manufactures	162,000
Oil (manufactured)	147,000
Wines	130,000
Spirits	127,000
Matches	101,000

The export duty on sugar yielded Rs. 618,201.

Imports.

The value of the imports in 1912 was less by approximately 5½ millions of rupees than in the previous year and by 3 millions of rupees than in 1910.

The largest increases as compared with 1911 occur under the following heads :

Cement	Rs. 893,000
Cotton manufactures	418,000
Manures and Fertilizers	383,000
Soap	150,000

The largest decreases occur under the following heads:

Corn grain	Rs. 3,247,000
Hardware and Cutlery	1,912,000
Machinery (Local Industries)	767,000
Provisions (all sorts)	530,000
Animals	460,000
Woodenware	303,000

The meat supply of the Island is obtained from Madagascar from which country it is shown that there were imported in 1912 7,397 oxen of a total value of Rs. 465,839 giving an average of approximately Rs. 63 as compared with 7,875 oxen of a total value of Rs. 847,692 and an average of Rs. 107.6 in 1911, and 8,167 oxen of a total value of Rs. 799,975 and an average of Rs. 97.9 in 1910. The values given for 1910 and 1911 appear excessive as the average selling price of the oxen in the local market varies from Rs. 70 to Rs. 80 per head. The imports of rice, which is the chief article of food of the majority of the population, was approximately 50,000 tons (metric) as compared with 69,000 tons in the previous year, the value of the importations being Rs. 6,605,000 in 1912, and Rs. 9,200,000 in 1911. India supplied practically all the rice imported ; the importations from Madagascar amounted to only 25 tons and 90 tons were imported from China. The imports of dholl from India fell from 7,207 tons value Rs. 814,000 to 4,577 tons value Rs. 508,000.

The importations of coal increased from 44,774 tons to 56,984, the United Kingdom continuing to be the principal source of supply.

There was a decrease of Rs. 767,000 in the value of imports of machinery for local industries and of Rs. 92,000 in machinery for mechanical transport. The following tables give the value and country of origin of importations under the heads Machinery and Mechanical Transport for the years 1908 to 1912.

Machinery.

Country.	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom.	252,354	329,155	1,028,122	1,125,953	667,535	3,403,119
France ...	6,943	18,616	29,716	428,267	121,746	605,288
Belgium ...	1,728	867	3,414	786	2,101	8,896
Germany ...	3,439	...	...	...	646	4,085
Other countries...	...	810	463	4,281	...	5,554
Total ...	264,464	349,448	1,061,715	1,559,287	792,028	4,026,942

Mechanical Transport.

Country.	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Germany ...	50,681	210,402	398,845	150,587	89,965	900,480
Belgium ...	1,233	62,696	140,277	72,232	53,043	329,481
United Kingdom.	13,920	59,726	106,909	29,338	17,472	227,365
France	1,707	15,219	927	...	...	17,853
United States ...	8,887	...	...	...	...	8,887
Total ...	76,428	348,043	646,958	252,157	160,480	1,484,066

The value of machinery for local industries imported in 1912 was Rs. 792,000 and the imports during the last five years amount to Rs. 4,000,000. Practically all the machinery comes from the United Kingdom, the rolling stock for the light tramways being of foreign manufacture.

The use of motor cars and motor cycles has developed rapidly in the last 4 years. In 1907 13 cars and 2 cycles were imported and in 1908 6 cars and 3 cycles, while during the last 4 years 219 cars valued at Rs. 1,058,000 and 53 cycles valued at Rs. 33,000 have been imported. The number of motor cars imported in 1912 was 77 valued at Rs. 361,239 and of cycles 16 valued at Rs. 9,688.

The following table shows the countries which export goods to Mauritius and the value of the goods exported, exclusive of specie, in the years 1911 and 1912 :—

Country	Exports to Mauritius.	
—	1911	1912
British India	Rs. 15,711,000 ...	Rs. 12,186,000
United Kingdom ...	*11,995,000 ...	*11,504,000
France	3,317,000 ...	2,906,000
Madagascar	997,000 ...	617,000
Australia	618,000 ...	396,000
United States	630,000 ...	847,000
Germany	451,000 ...	354,000
Transvaal	612,000 ...	311,000
Cape Colony	498,000 ...	564,000
Natal	190,000 ...	181,000
Belgium	387,000 ...	544,000
Réunion	340,000 ...	356,000
Straits Settlements ...	213,000 ...	371,000
China	202,000 ...	154,000
Seychelles	144,000 ...	8,000

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*Including Railway re-equipment materials.

The United Kingdom, British India or British Possessions are the largest suppliers of wearing apparel, bacon, gunny bags, beer in casks and bottles, books, bran, chemicals for manures, cement, coal, confectionery, dholl, gram, oats, rice, flour, cotton, salt fish, ghee, hardware and cutlery, iron nails, wrought iron, boots and shoes, machinery for local industries, manure (bone), provisions (preserved), salt, soap, whisky, stationery, tea, tin, umbrellas (cotton), shooks, sleepers, timber, woollen goods.

Foreign countries are the largest suppliers of apothecaries' wares, oxen, butter, clocks and watches, enamelled ware, glassware, haberdashery, jewellery, light tramway wagons, locomotives and materials, matches, motor cars, petroleum, cigarette paper, perfumery, potatoes, brandy, gin, wine, sulphur, tobacco and cigars, toys, umbrellas (silk).

Exports.

The total value of the Exports, excluding specie but including charges, was in 1911 Rs. 40,414,328 and in 1912 Rs. 36,893,269.

The following table shows the value and the destination of the products of the Colony, other than sugar, which were exported in 1911 and 1912 :

Product.	Year.	Exported to			
		United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Molasses ...	1911	...	292,964	7	292,971
	1912	30	176,348	...	176,378
Rum	1911	24,137	13,377	2,157	39,671
	1912	4,591	13,911	...	18,502
Aloe Fibre ...	1911	556,634	3,561	45,357	605,552
	1912	640,663	584	40,731	681,978

The following table shows the principal countries to which sugar was exported during the calendar years 1911 and 1912:

Country.	1911. Tons.*	1912. Tons.*
British India	106,157	143,361
United Kingdom	77,672	20,869
Cape Colony	17,047	10,560
Australia	1,500	26,273
Hong-Kong	882	2,017
Portuguese East Africa	1,279	429
Natal	665	575
Seychelles	268	479
Aden	332	657
British East Africa	265	316
Zanzibar	123	275
France	19,544	177
Spain	6,560	......
St. Vincent	4,643	......

It will be observed that British India continues to be the largest purchaser of Mauritius sugar. The exports to Europe fell from 103,000 tons in 1911 to 21,000 tons in 1912. The exports to Australia, which were formerly about one-third of the total crop, rose from 1,500 tons in 1911 to 26,000 tons in 1912.

Agriculture.

SUGAR.

The crop year for sugar begins on the 1st. of August and ends on the 31st. of July of the following year. For the purposes of comparison it is convenient to maintain this distinction.

The conditions under which the crop for the year ending on the 31st. of July 1913 was grown and harvested were by no means favourable. Although temperatures were generally high, drought in the period from October 1911 to January 1912 was severely felt and was followed by excessive rains in February 1912 which were especially harmful in the South Eastern Districts of the Island.

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*Metric ton = 1,000 kilogrammes.

The generally favourable conditions of April and May were in a measure compensated by dry and cold weather in June.

The crop of 1911 produced 165,806 tons of sugar: the crop of 1912 exclusive of local consumption was 206,677 tons which is arrived at in the following manner :

		Tons *
Exports 1st. August 1912 to 31st. July 1913...		208,772
In store on 31st. July 1913—	598 bags ...	48
„ „ 1912—	27,372 „ ...	2,143
Subtract excess of balance in store in July 1912 over that in July 1913		2,095
Total Produce for Export 1912=		206,677

The average selling price as determined by the Chamber of Agriculture was approximately Rs. 7 per 50 kilos giving to the crop a monetary value of 28.9 millions of rupees and, on the assumption that the cost of producing 50 kilos of sugar is about Rs. 5.50, leaving a profit of over six millions of rupees. The average selling price in 1911 was approximately Rs. 9.68 per 50 kilos the highest price, with the exception of Rs. 9.70 in 1905, recorded in the last 16 years. The average selling price in 1910 was Rs. 7.09 per 50 kilos and in 1909 Rs. 8.50.

The weight and monetary value of the crop for the last five years is shown below :—

	Total Produce Tons *	Monetary value unit Rs. 1,000,000.
1908– 9	191,491	28.7
1909–10	246,560	41.9
1910–11	214,372	30.4
1911–12	165,806	32.0
1912–13	206,677	28.9

The agricultural returns prepared in the Statistical Office of the Chamber of Agriculture show that on the 31st. of December 1912 out of a total area of 439,451 arpents† in the Island 147,897 arpents were under cultivation in sugar cane. This area shows an extension of 3,417 arpents as compared with the previous year and of approximately 20,000 arpents as compared with 1909. There is noticeable in the year under review continued progress in factory improvements and in the adoption of labour saving appliances.

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* Metric ton=1,000 kilogrammes.

† 1 arpent =1.043 acre.

Shipping.

The following comparative tables show the number, tonnage and nationality of ships entered and cleared during the years 1911 and 1912.

Nationality.	1911.						1912.					
	Steam vessels.		Sailing vessels.		Total.		Steam vessels.		Sailing vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	N o.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	130	321,616	27	8,932	157	330,548	113	289,637	32	8,897	145	298,534
French	37	89,663	9	1,114	46	90,777	32	79,931	4	168	36	80,099
Norwegian	5	6,270	5	4,639	10	10,909	...	...	2	1,733	2	1,733
German	3	3,560	...	...	3	3,560	2	1,969	...	...	2	1,969
Swedish	1	2,287	...	...	1	2,287	1	2,044	...	...	1	2,044
Portuguese	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	879	...	...	1	879
Total entered ...	176	423,396	41	14,685	217	438,081	149	374,460	38	10,798	187	385,258
British	129	323,997	26	8,603	155	332,600	112	285,576	30	8,083	142	293,659
French	36	88,380	10	2,122	46	90,502	32	87,342	4	208	36	87,550
Norwegian	6	7,053	4	3,608	10	10,661	...	...	2	1,733	2	1,733
German	3	3,560	...	...	3	3,560	2	1,969	...	...	2	1,969
Swedish	1	2,287	...	...	1	2,287	1	2,044	...	...	1	2,044
Portuguese	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	879	...	...	1	879
Total cleared ...	175	425,277	40	14,333	215	439,610	148	377,810	36	10,024	184	387,834

These tables show that 187 vessels with a tonnage of 385,258 reported during the year against 217 with a tonnage of 438,081 in the previous year, giving a total decrease of 30 vessels and a reduction of 52,823 in tonnage:—184 vessels with a tonnage of 387,834 cleared as against 215 with a tonnage of 439,610 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 31 vessels and a reduction of 51,776 in tonnage.

The decrease in the number reported is divided between those reporting with cargo and those reporting in ballast as follows:

Reported with cargo	21	tonnage	32,918
„ „ ballast	9	„	19,905
	30		52,823

The clearances show a decrease of 31 vessels and of 51,776 in tonnage. Divided between vessels cleared with cargo and vessels cleared in ballast, the figures are as follows:

Cleared with cargo	24	tonnage	44,773
„ „ ballast	7	„	7,003
	31		51,776

Distinguishing steam vessels from sailing vessels there has been a decrease of 27 in the number reporting and of 48,936 in tonnage as compared with the previous year and a decrease of 27 in the number cleared and of 47,467 in tonnage. The number of steamers reporting with cargo is 17 less than in the previous year with a reduction of 29,009 in tonnage, and the number of steamers reporting with ballast is 10 less than in the previous year with a decrease of 19,927 in tonnage. Twenty-five fewer steamers cleared with cargo than in the previous year with a corresponding decrease of 43,094 in tonnage; the number of steamers clearing in ballast was less by 2 with a corresponding decrease of 4,373 in tonnage.

The number of sailing vessels reporting with cargo was less by 4 with a corresponding decrease of 3,909 in tonnage, the number of those reporting in ballast was greater by 1 with a corresponding increase of 22 in tonnage. There was an increase of 1 in the number of sailing vessels cleared with cargo but a decrease of 1,679 in tonnage; the number of sailing vessels cleared with ballast was less by 5 with a corresponding decrease of 2,630 in tonnage.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Among the more important legislative measures of the year are the following:—

The Audit (Transfer of Powers) Amendment Ordinance, (*No.* 3) and *The Audit (Transfer of Powers) Extension Ordinance* (*No.* 22) give effect to changes in laws, under which certain offices were held and duties performed *ex-officio* by the Auditor General, necessitated by the accounts of Mauritius being placed under the control of the Director of Colonial Audit and by a Local Auditor being appointed in place of the Auditor General.

The Labour Law (Medical Officer's Duties) Amendment Ordinance (No. 4) transfers the various duties and powers attached to the office of Medical Officer of the Immigration Department created under article 25 of Ordinance No. 12 of 1878 or vested in that Officer, to the Director of the Health Department or such officer as the latter may with the Governor's approval appoint.

The Copyright (Repeal) Ordinance (No. 6) repeals the local Ordinance No. 24 of 1851 on the subject of Copyright in consequence of the coming into operation in the Colony under Proclamation No. 33 of 1912 of the Copyright Act, 1911, (1 and 2 Geo. 5 Ch. 46).

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 11) reduces the import duty on ghee, while readjusting the duty on similar articles of diet (butter, margarine and oils).

The Registration of Voters (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13) amends the law as to registration of voters (Ordinances No. 5 of 1887 and No. 22 of 1895) by providing that all claims by persons desirous of being registered as electors shall be made only in the district in respect of which the vote is to be exercised.

The Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund (Actuaries) Ordinance (No. 14) settles difficulties which have from time to time arisen in respect of the quinquennial appointment of actuaries under article 36 of Ordinance No. 2 of 1886.

The Prosecution of Certain Offences (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15) empowers the Supreme Court without a jury to try seditious libels, and outrages committed against Public Officers (particularly those entrusted with the administration of Justice).

The Magistrates and Bench Jurisdiction (Extension) Ordinance (No. 16) removes doubts as to the powers of Magistrates to act in any district of the Colony as "Riot Magistrates" under article 127 of Ordinance No. 23 of 1888 and Ordinance No. 11 of 1890; it also includes within the jurisdiction of Bench of Magistrates offences under article 352 of the Penal Code (riotous damage or destruction of property committed by a body or band and with open force.)

The Cinematograph Ordinance (No. 17) provides for the censorship and control of cinematograph exhibitions generally, on the lines of the Grenada Cinematograph Ordinance No. 9 of 1911 and the Hong-Kong Ordinance No. 17 of 1910.

The Money Lending Transactions (Relief) Ordinance (No. 18). This Ordinance is reproduced from the Trinidad and Tobago Ordinance No. 3 of 1912 which is itself borrowed from sections 1 and 4 of the Money Lenders Act 1900 (63 and 64 Vict. Ch. 51). It allows of the re-opening of money lending transactions in the discretion of the Court where there is evidence which satisfies the Court that the interest or the amounts charged for expenses, &c. are excessive, and that the transaction is harsh and unconscionable, or is otherwise such that a Court of equity would give relief. The powers to relieve a borrower under article 1 are advisedly hedged round, as in the English Act, with conditions carefully designed to prevent any abuse. The duration of the Ordinance was limited to one year.

The Pharmacy Ordinance (*No.* 19) consolidates the Pharmacy laws of the Colony. The main improvements are the following :—

In *Part I* it is made compulsory for a Pharmacist's shop to be in charge of a competent and responsible person.

In *Part II* better provision is made for a Board of Examiners and the conduct of examinations and the curriculum of studies.

Part III deals with the attendance of the Pharmacist at his shop, the mixture of drugs, the dispensing of prescriptions, the sale of poisons and the control and inspection of pharmacists' shops.

Part IV deals with the substances to be deemed poisons under the Ordinance and with regulations concerning the same.

The Cremation (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 24) facilitates the procedure relating to applications for cremation, while maintaining all essential safeguards.

The Wireless Telegraphy (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 25) completes the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance No. 33 of 1903 by providing for the framing and issue of Regulations concerning the use of wireless telegraphy on board Merchant ships, whether British or foreign, while in the territorial waters of the Colony.

The Curatelle (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 27) fixes a commission on a sliding scale on immoveable property and on moveable property not being money actually received as principal, revenue or rent in whatsoever manner vested in the Curator of Vacant Estates ; it further provides for the mode of valuation of property vested in the Curator and for the inscription of mortgage on such property and erasure thereof on proof of payment of the commission. It also fixes the time required for prescription in favour of the Government of estates or property belonging to absentees.

The Civil Status (*Indian Marriages*) *Amendment Ordinance* (*No.* 28) empowers the Governor to appoint Hindu and Mahomedan priests for the celebration of marriages between Hindus or Mahomedans of the same religion as such priests, and provides for the procedure for such marriages and the registration thereof, and for the conditions required for their validity.

The Donations Inter Vivos and Wills (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 29) empowers persons domiciled in the Colony, at the time of marriage, under certain conditions to declare and cause to be recorded their intention that the limitations imposed by the local law (the Civil Code) regarding the power to dispose of property either by gift *inter vivos* or by will shall not apply to any estate, real or personal, of which they or either of them may die possessed.

The Department of Agriculture (Organisation) Ordinance (No. 30) provides for the establishment and organisation of a Department of Agriculture.

The Companies Ordinance (No. 35) places on the Statute Book a measure borrowed from the English Companies (Consolidated) Act 1908 as adapted by the Transvaal Act No. 31 of 1909 with certain additions and modifications to suit local circumstances.

The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 36) provides for the hearing and determination of certain cases before one Judge only and does away with the compulsory attendance of the *Ministère Public* in Court in causes where the Crown or the public revenue is concerned and in any matter connected with the civil status of any person, any divorce, guardianship of any minor or interdicted person, or in which the Procureur General may, under the existing law, intervene as a party.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

The Primary schools at the end of the year 1912 numbered 149 of which 60 were Government and 89 Aided schools. The number of Government schools has been reduced from 67 in 1908 principally by the amalgamation of separate schools for Boys and Girls in the same locality. Of the Aided schools there were 67 Roman Catholic, 18 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian and 2 Mahomedan. There is an increase of one in the number of Mahomedan schools as compared with the previous year.

The number of Primary schools, Government and Aided, and the number of pupils for the years 1908 to 1912 are shown in the following table :—

	Government Schools.			*Aided Schools.*		
Years.	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.
1908	67	8,359	5,242	88	10,226	6,779
1909	64	8,634	5,433	88	10,651	7,234
1910	61	9,326	5,951	88	11,621	7,934
1911	60	9,421	6,030	88	11,589	7,972
1912	60	9,522	5,775	89	11,987	7,635

The average attendance in Government and Aided schools for the year was 13,410 with a roll of 21,509 showing an average attendance of 62.34 °/₀ of the number of pupils on the roll. There is a further increase in the number of pupils on the roll but a slight decrease in attendance due to sickness in the latter part of the year as compared with 1911 when with a roll of 21,010 there was an average attendance of 14,002 or 66.6 °/₀ of the number of pupils on the roll. The figures for 1910 were 20,947 and 13,885 or 66.2 °/₀. The number of pupils on the roll is greater than in any previous year and notwithstanding the absence of pupils through sickness the average attendance is higher than in any year except 1910 and 1911.

The increase in the number of Indian children attending the Primary schools is maintained, the figures being as follows: 8,316 in 1912—8,175 in 1911—7,462 in 1910—7,125 in 1909 and 6,996 in 1908.

Of the total number of pupils on the roll in the six standard classes 56 °/₀ passed the examination tests as compared with 60 °/₀ in 1911 and 62 °/₀ in 1910 while of the number of pupils who were presented for examination 59 °/₀ passed in 1912 as compared with 63 °/₀ in 1911 and 65 °/₀ in 1910.

The reports of the Inspectors on the examination of the schools indicate the necessity for more frequent visits of inspection at times other than those fixed for holding examinations by which the amounts of the annual grants in aid are determined.

The total expenditure for the year on the salaries of, and grants to Teachers in Primary schools amounted to Rs. 296,860 of which Rs. 133,438 was expended on Government schools and Rs. 163,422 on Aided schools. The figures for 1911 were Rs. 293,634, Rs. 135,393 and Rs. 158,241 respectively. The cost to Government of a pupil in a Government school was Rs. 19.09 and in an Aided school Rs. 15.14 as compared with Rs. 19.48 and Rs 15.14 in 1911.

There are open annually to pupils of Primary schools six scholarships and six exhibitions at the Royal College for which there is keen competition. The exhibitioners receive free tuition and the scholars free tuition and an allowance of Rs. 100 a year. There were 145 candidates in 1912 against 140 in 1911. 21 candidates failed in the test examination and 33 scored the minimum number of marks. The number of candidates from Government schools was 105 and from Aided schools 40 as compared with 109 from Government and 31 from Aided schools in the previous year.

Secondary Education.

Secondary Education is provided by the Royal College, two schools in connection with it, and associated schools. 322 candidates from 13 associated schools were presented for examination of whom 138 passed. There were in December 1912, 220 pupils at the College, 89 at Curepipe School and 15 at Port Louis School. Of the 324 pupils at the College and its two schools, 103 did not pay fees.

There were 24 candidates for the London Matriculation Examinations in 1912. Seven out of the twenty candidates from the Royal College passed, three in the First Division, and one of the 4 others passed in the Second Division.

There were 112 candidates for the Senior Cambridge Examination, 34 out of the 90 candidates from the Royal College and 6 of the 22 others passed. Out of 25 candidates from the Royal College for the Junior Cambridge Examination 8 passed.

There are scholarships and exhibitions in nearly all the classes of the Royal College and there are two valuable scholarships to enable pupils of the College to continue their studies in Europe.

There are 15 girls' schools which are affiliated to the Royal College in connection with the scheme for the Higher Education of Girls. The number of candidates who were presented for examination was 397 of whom 157 obtained Honours Certificates and 32 Pass Certificates. Eighteen girls entered for the Senior Cambridge Local Examination of whom 8 passed. Nine entered for the Junior Division and 6 passed. The total sum expended in 1912 on the Higher Education of Girls was Rs. 9,288 as compared with Rs. 7,275 in 1911.

Training of Teachers.

There are Government Training Schools for men and for women. There were 7 candidates from the Men's Training School for the second class teacher's certificate of whom 2 passed. There were 2 candidates from the Women's Training School for the second class certificate of whom one passed, and four candidates for the third class certificate, all of whom passed.

The following table shows the number of candidates for certificates and the number who passed during the year:

Class of Certificate.	Candidates.			Successful.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Second	34	9	43	14	4	18
Third	46	35	81	12	17	29
Monitors' ...	104	107	211	16	22	38
Total	184	151	335	42	43	85

There are 664 certificated Teachers employed in Government and Aided schools of whom 151 are Head Teachers, 156 Assistant Teachers and 357 Monitors.

Technical Education.

There are eight mechanical engineering apprenticeships for which there were 73 candidates as against 110 in 1911. There are two agricultural apprenticeships for which there were 29 candidates as against 22 in 1911 and two engineering studentships for which there were 2 candidates only one of whom was successful.

Needlework receives attention in Girls' schools and the work of the pupils continues to show improvement. 42 candidates entered for the needlework competition to four of whom apprenticeships were awarded.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

There are 13 Hospitals, including 5 in connection with the Prisons and Reformatory, and there is also a Hospital ward with 30 beds attached to the Lunatic Asylum. The eight public Hospitals have 1,009 beds. The total number of " cases " treated at all hospitals as indoor patients was 18,641 and as out patients 5,891 as compared with 18,074 and 6,783 in 1911. The number of " cases " treated at 27 dispensaries was 67,578.

Lunatic Asylum.

There is a Lunatic Asylum and a Lunatic Ward in connection with the Poorhouse of Barkly Asylum. There were 437 patients in the Asylum on the 31st. December 1912 as compared with 456 on the corresponding date of the previous year and the daily average rose from 430.9 in 1911 to 441.1. The total number of certified lunatics in the Colony on the 31st. of December 1912 including patients out on probation and patients in the Lunatic Ward of Barkly Asylum, was 668 : 412 males and 256 females, giving a proportion of one insane to 556 of population. There were 29 criminal lunatics of whom 24 were males and 5 females.

Poor Relief.

Barkly Asylum is the only institution under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioner at which paupers receive institutional relief.

The buildings of Barkly Asylum were originally acquired for the purpose of affording institutional relief to the poor. The hospital was later placed entirely under the control of the Medical Department and has come to be used as a general hospital for the district. Arrangements also exist at various religious institutions for the maintenance of aged and infirm paupers at fixed rates, and there is an asylum for pauper lepers in which patients are maintained at the public expense. The maintenance of paupers at these institutions forms the larger part of the expenditure of the Poor Law Department, which amounted to Rs. 227,600 in 1912 as compared with Rs. 224,000 in 1911.

The Immigration and Poor Law Departments were amalgamated on the 1st. July 1912, and the Protector of Immigrants and Poor Law Commissioner reports that " the introduction of the *Case* " *Paper* system in Port Louis which was effected in the last few " months of the year and the full enquiry which the compilation of " a case paper involves has resulted in a marked decrease in the " number of recipients of outdoor relief in Port Louis ". Distinguishing medical relief from other forms of relief the number of " cases " treated free in the Public Hospitals and General Lunatic Asylum was 14,734 as against 14,331 in 1911 ; 290 cases are shown to have been treated at the public expense at Canal Street Convent Hospital as against 250 in 1911, and 124 lepers to have been maintained at the public cost at St. Lazare Asylum as against 156 in 1911. There were 55,234 applications at the Public Dispensaries for free medicines as compared with 52,552 in 1911.

The recipients of institutional relief during the year are shown as numbering 1,579 as compared with 1,744 in 1911. In 1912 there were 1,299 aged and infirm, 110 feeble minded and 170 children.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief, permanent or temporary, is shown to be 3,151 of whom 690 were males and 2,461 females as compared with 3,353 in 1911 of whom 773 were males and 2,580 were females.

Savings Bank.

At the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th. June 1912 a sum of Rs. 3,261,252 to the credit of 28,318 depositors as compared with Rs. 3,254,195 to the credit of 28,032 depositors on the 30th. June 1911. The investment funds amounted to Rs. 3,494,171. Interest is allowed at the rate of 3 %.

The following table shows the number of depositors who belonged to the General and Indian populations and the amount standing to their credit on the 30th. June 1912 :

	Number	Rs.
General population	16,107	1,780,091
Indian population	12,211	1,481,161

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The authorised strength of the Police on the 31st. of December 1912 was 1 Inspector General, 1 Deputy Inspector General, 6 Inspectors, 12 Sub Inspectors, 1 Staff Sergeant Major, 2 Check Sergeants, 41 Sergeants, 3 Mounted Orderlies, 50 Corporals, 452 European and Creole Constables, and 205 Indian Constables: 131 men were enlisted in 1912 and the total number of dismissals was 37.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the Police in 1912 was 23,790 as against 23,725 in 1911.

They may be classified as follows :

Homicide	19
Other offences against the person	9,055
Prædial Larceny	389
Other offences against property	5,173
Other offences	9,154
	23,790

In connection with these offences 13,247 persons (including 588 persons arrested on suspicion) were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates. In 14,205 of the cases no person was charged.

The total number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts (District, Stipendiary and Bench of Magistrates) in 1912 was 23,104 ; of these the number prosecuted was 20,324 including persons tried before a Bench of Magistrates or committed to the Court of Assizes. The number discharged for want of prosecution by party complaining or for want of evidence was 2,780.

The cases prosecuted in the District Courts (including preliminary inquiries with a view to commitment to the Assizes and Bench cases) were distributed as follows :—

Offences.	Discharged for want of prosecution or evidence.	Dismissed on the merits.	Convictions.	Committed to the Assizes.
Against the person	155	413	1,053	20
Prædial Larceny	3	17	280	...
Other offences against property	944	377	1,643	2
Offences against Revenue, Municipal, Road and other laws relating to the social economy of the Colony	167	336	12,290	1
Other offences	33	229	1,296	...
Total... ...	1,302	1,372	16,562	23

The total number of persons prosecuted before the District Courts during the last five years was distributed as follows :—

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial Larceny.	Other offences against property.	Other offences (including Revenue cases &c).	Total.
1908	994	1,156	3,014	10,888	16,052
1909	1,192	432	2,699	12,086	16,409
1910	1,323	206	1,935	12,035	15,499
1911	1,398	174	2,368	12,273	16,213
1912	1,486	297	2,022	14,152	17,957

The convictions (including committal to the Assizes) before the District Courts for the same period were as follows :—

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Other offences.
1908	732	1,044	2,520	10,708
1909	849	370	2,223	11,235
1910	1,003	175	1,493	11,440
1911	954	159	1,876	11,697
1912	1,073	280	1,645	13,587

There were 11 cases in which 14 persons were brought before the Assizes in 1912. Of these 2 persons were acquitted. The number of convictions was 12.

The following table shows the number of persons convicted at the Assizes during the last five years and the offences for which they were convicted.

Year.	Murder, other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter and attempt at.	Attempt at murder.	Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Including attempts to commit the several offences.									
					Child murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injury to property.	Larceny with aggravating circumstances.	Other offences against property.	Miscellaneous.
1908	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	13	28	21	2	...
1909	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	30	3	12	1	...
1910	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	24	3	8	...	1
1911	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	49	2	...	...
1912	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	2	1	...

In 1912 9 persons were tried at the Assizes for offences against the person as compared with 5 in 1911, the number convicted being 7 in 1912 and 3 in 1911. The number of persons tried at the Assizes for offences against property was 5 in 1912 all of whom were convicted, as against 148 in 1911 of whom 51 were convicted.

Prisons and Reformatory.

There was an increase of 312 in the number of prisoners admitted to prison after conviction as compared with 1911, the figures being :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
	—	—	—
1911 ...	... 3,905	168	4,073
1912 ...	... 4,213	172	4,385

The number of prisoners under detention on the 31st. of December 1912 was 717 as compared with 774 on the corresponding date in the previous year. The daily average number under detention shows a decrease of 50.50 as compared with 1911, the daily average for that year being 859.30 as against 808.80 in 1912.

The deaths in the Prisons numbered 25 as compared with 23 in 1911. The daily average number under treatment in the Prison Hospitals was 36.54 in 1912 as compared with 38.55 in 1911: the prevailing diseases were malaria and dysentery.

There were 18 escapes during the year as against 16 in 1911. Fifteen of the prisoners who escaped were recaptured.

The number of offences against discipline by prisoners was 2,682 as compared with 2,595 in 1911. The numbers in both years are high but in a great measure due to the enforcement of a full task from prisoners undergoing sentences of hard labour.

The numbers admitted to the Reformatory in 1912 were 123 new boys, 59 ex-Reformatory boys and 36 untried, a total of 218 as against 171 in 1911. There was a decrease of 6.66 in the daily average as compared with 1911.

Of the 182 boys who were admitted on conviction, 143 entered the Institution with sentences of 6 months or less, of whom 101 were sentenced to a month or less, and 54 of these to sentences varying between three and seven days.

Two deaths occurred during the year, due to dysentery and adenitis from ulcer. The general state of health of the boys was good except for the temporary appearance of measles. The admissions to hospital decreased by 24 as compared with the previous year and one case of typhoid was removed to Barkly Asylum Hospital, where the patient died.

The discipline among the boys was satisfactory; there were 54 departmental offences as against 94 in 1911. The offences were committed by 32 boys, 20 of whom infringed the rules for the first time. None of the offences were of a serious nature.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

A Census of the population was taken on the night of Friday the 31st. March 1911. The returns show that the resident population of Mauritius and the adjacent islands, exclusive of the population of the Dependencies, of the Military in barracks and of foreign shipping, numbered 368,791 of whom 194,095 were males and 174,696 females.

The population in barracks was returned as 1,602 and 34 officers and men residing out of barracks were enumerated in the general population. The population of the Dependencies amounted to 6,690 bringing the total population of the Colony and its Dependencies, exclusive of foreign shipping, up to 377,083 persons of whom 199,138 were males and 177,945 females.

The total population of the Island on the 31st. December 1912 is estimated in the Registrar General's Annual Report at 371,746, exclusive of the Dependencies (6,681).

Births and deaths.

There were 11,824 births registered during the year. The law allows a delay of 45 days for free registration and the number of births which were not registered owing to death intervening before registration was 1,385. The total number of births was accordingly 13,209, of which 6,758 were males and 6,451 females, giving a proportion of 35.5 infants born to 1,000 persons living. The deaths registered numbered 14,429, giving a proportion of 38.7 deaths to 1,000 persons living, the highest since the year 1908.

The birth rate amongst the general population was 32.6 per thousand as compared with 35.6 per thousand in 1911, and amongst the Indian population 36.7 per thousand as compared with 41.1 per thousand in 1911. The death rate amongst the general and Indian populations was 39.6 and 38.4 per thousand respectively as against 31.4 and 33.5 per thousand respectively in the previous year.

Public Health.

The disease that caused most deaths was Malaria—4,498 deaths being attributed to this disease alone. Plague was more than usually virulent in 1912, 541 deaths being due to this disease. An epidemic of whooping-cough broke out, causing 1,064 deaths.

There was an increase in the cases of plague, the total numbering 656 as compared with 173 in 1911; 541 cases were fatal giving a death rate of 82.5 %. The worst month of the year was November when 174 cases were recorded.

Malaria.

Malaria fever accounted for 2,554 cases appearing on the hospital returns. The following are figures for the years 1908 to 1912:

Year ...	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
Cases ...	5,071	3,929	2,338	2,117	2,554

The case mortality was 1.17 %, an increase of .28 % as compared with the previous year. Of the total of 14,429 deaths in the Colony in 1912, 4,498 were ascribed to fever. Corresponding to the increase in the cases of malaria treated in the hospitals there is an increase in the number of cases of splenic hypertrophy, the figures for 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911 and 1912 being 1,193, 886, 561, 380 and 481 respectively.

The spleen census and treatment of school children with quinine has been continued and a number of minor anti-malarial works have been carried out under the supervision of the officers of the Sanitary Branch of the Medical and Health Department.

Vaccination.

The number of children presented for vaccination at the public vaccine stations was 10,931 as compared with 11,290 in 1911. Of this number the Public Vaccinators certified 10,704 to have been successfully vaccinated ; 93 vaccinations were unsuccessful. The percentage of successful vaccination was 97.9 °/₀.

Meteorological.

Meteorological observations are taken at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, and at eleven second order stations. The Observatory is about three miles from the West coast and is 179 feet above sea level. There are considerable variations both in temperature and humidity in the different parts of the island, the coast districts being hotter and drier than the higher altitudes in the interior. Hurricanes occur between December and April which is the hottest season.

The mean rain-fall from 69 stations was 96.34 inches as compared with 79.97 inches in 1911 (73 stations) and an average of 79.21 inches. Heavy rains, relatively to the normal, fell in February, May and October, those of the last mentioned month having greatly benefited the forthcoming crop. The rain-fall at the Observatory for the year was 72.92 inches as compared with an average of 47.95 inches for the period 1875–1910, and the number of "rainy days" recorded was 221 as compared with an average of 204, a "rainy day" being one in which .005 inches or more of rain was measured.

The mean temperature of the air at the Observatory was 73°.3 as compared with an average of 73°.4, the highest temperature recorded being 90°.2 on the 4th. of January and the lowest 53°.9 on the 27th. of June. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded at the Observatory between 1875 and 1912 were 94°.7 on the 23rd. of December 1900 and 49°.9 on the 8th. of August 1907.

The abnormality curve of air temperature showed a long negative wave from January to May. From May to December the curve fell, irregularly at first, from 1°.1 above normal to 1°.5 below normal.

During the year 1912 there were eight cyclonic disturbances in the South Indian Ocean as follows :—

January	19 to 24	February	26 to March 1
February	2 to 4	March	18 to 20
„	5 to 11	May	16 to 19
„	21 to 27	November	22 to 27

The exact tracks of these cyclones have not yet been determined.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The total number of Offices open in 1912 was 63 of which 57 were also Telegraph Offices. Forty-eight of the Post Offices are at Railway Stations and 15 are in districts at a distance from the Railway system.

The revenue for the year 1912 was Rs. 218,993 as compared with Rs. 182,622 in 1911. The expenditure was Rs. 160,751 in 1912 and Rs. 156,830 in 1911, leaving an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of Rs. 58,242 in 1912 and Rs. 25,792 in 1911.

The total estimated number of letters, post cards, newspapers and postal packets, exclusive of parcels, which passed through the Post Office in 1912 was approximately 3,703,756 as compared with 3,077,321 in 1911. Inland letters, post cards and newspapers showed increases, as did foreign newspapers, while there was a decrease in foreign letters and post cards. The number of reply coupons sold during the year was 165 and the number paid was 76. The number of inland parcels dealt with amounted to 308 as against 274 in 1911. The number of postal parcels received from and despatched abroad decreased by 194, the figures being 14,907 for 1912 and 15,101 for 1911. The number of parcels received from abroad decreased by 321 and the duty collected amounted to Rs. 35,491.

The number of Inland money orders issued and paid was 42,460 and their value Rs. 420,926, being a decrease of 898 in number and of Rs. 28,179 in value as compared with the previous year. The number of money orders issued on foreign countries was 8,229 and their value Rs. 228,339, being a decrease of 1,093 in number and of Rs. 44,127 in value as compared with the previous year.

There was again an increase in the postal order business : the orders issued and received increased in number from 6,435 to 7,243 and in value from Rs. 62,828 to Rs. 69,976. The increase in the orders issued was 209 in number and Rs. 182 in value and in orders received 599 in number and Rs. 6,966 in value.

There are 379¾ miles of Telegraph and 154½ miles of Telephone wires under the charge of the Department. The Railway has not a telegraphic system of its own and the ordinary messages for the working of the traffic and for the administration of the Department are transmitted over the Post Office wires. The number of Railway messages and signals transmitted in 1912 was 155,919. The number of messages sent by the public decreased in 1912 : out of a total number of 258,350 messages forwarded 44,453 were sent by the public as compared with 59,274 out of a total of 255,084 in 1911. The receipts for the messages sent by the public amount to Rs. 24,229 in which charges for porterage (Rs. 10,135) are included.

IX.—RAILWAYS.

There is a single line of Railway of 120 miles in length. The gauge is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The earnings from all sources for the year amounted to Rs. 2,619,714 as compared with Rs. 2,601,001 in 1911 being an increase of .72 °/₀. Excluding Government traffic the earnings amounted to Rs. 2,391,017 being Rs. 1,465 less than in 1911. The services performed for Government Departments for which no cash payments were made would at ordinary rates have cost Rs. 228,697 of which Rs. 189,393 for passenger traffic, Rs. 34,547 for goods traffic and Rs. 4,757 for parcels, representing 8.73 °/₀ of the total traffic as compared with 8.02 °/₀ in 1911.

The receipts for passenger traffic amounted to Rs. 1,190,253, being less than those of the preceding year by Rs. 29,461, but in excess of the mean of the last ten years by Rs. 59,308. The decrease is principally in the ordinary 3rd. class tickets which yielded Rs. 22,465 less than in the previous year.

The following table shows the tonnage of goods traffic, exclusive of Government traffic, carried in 1911 and 1912 :

	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	—	—	—	—
Sugar Canes	131,418	144,627	13,209	...
Sugar	138,164	143,229	5,065	...
General Merchandize ...	182,342	179,141	...	3,201
Total ...	451,924	466,997	18,274	3,201

The total tonnage carried was 15,073 tons or 3.33 °/₀ more in 1912 than in 1911. The aggregate earnings for goods traffic were Rs. 23,435 or 2.07 °/₀ above those of 1911. The earnings for sugar cane traffic were Rs. 107,352 or 74.23 cents of a rupee per ton carried as compared with 79.45 cents in 1911. The earnings for sugar traffic were Rs. 570,810 or Rs. 3.99 per ton carried as against Rs. 3.90 in 1911. The earnings for general merchandize were Rs. 472,044 or Rs. 2.63 per ton carried as against Rs. 2.65 in 1911. The total expenditure charged to capital account including all sums paid from general revenue, surplus balances or loans up to the 31st. of December 1912 was Rs. 31,628,672* in which is included Rs. 3,062,754 advanced on account of the re-equipment of the Railways and which is eventually to be met from loan funds. The working expenses for 1912 amounted to Rs. 1,693,358. The ratio which working expenses bore to total earnings showed an increase of 3.21 °/₀ as compared with 1911, the figures being 64.64 °/₀ and 61.43 °/₀ respectively. The net earnings amounted to Rs. 926,356 or 2.93 °/₀ on the capital. The actual payments made to the Treasury by the Railways in 1912 amounted to Rs. 2,364,778 and after deducting charges for working expenditure, interest and sinking fund of loans and pensions there remained a balance of Rs. 90,303 which sum does not include any credit for work done for Government Departments.

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* Figure subject to confirmation by the Treasury.

The following work in connection with the re-equipment of the Railways was undertaken in 1912. Ten new composite 1st. and 2nd. class, twenty-one 3rd. class carriages and eleven passenger luggage vans were erected, also fifteen open 20 ton wagons and sixty-eight covered 23 ton wagons. Thirteen covered and sixty-three high sided wagons were rebuilt with new underframes and sides and fitted with the vacuum brake. Eighty-five high sided open wagons were also fitted with the vacuum brake. 3½ miles of the permanent way were relaid with heavy rails. With the exception of about 8,000 cubic yards, the earth-work of the Plaine Lauzun—Richelieu deviation line was completed during the year. The St. Louis bridge, the Pailles road bridge, the Plaines Wilhems main road bridge and an accommodation bridge were all completed. The building of the piers of the Grand River North West bridge was unfortunately interfered with by delay in the arrival of the cableway ordered from England, but otherwise satisfactory progress was made with the work. All the bridges on the Midland line have now been renewed, as well as those on the Moka—Flacq and Savanne lines with the exception of four, the steel work for which was however received during the year and rivetted up ready for erection. The reconstruction of Rose Hill Station has almost been completed. The erection of ten cottages for the station staff at Port Louis, Rose-Hill, Curepipe and Rose-Belle was begun.

Bois Chéri.

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from Rivière du Poste Station on the Savanne Branch of the Midland Line to Mexico. The length of the line is 10 miles. The total goods traffic carried in 1912 amounted to 10,894 tons of which 6,792 tons were sugar cane as against a total traffic of 12,695 tons and 10,362 tons of sugar cane in 1911. The actual working expenses for 1912 were Rs. 12,544, the earnings Rs. 5,840 and the work done for Government Departments was valued at Rs. 2,821. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 14,756, Rs. 6,243 and Rs. 1,374.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The most important works undertaken by the Public Works Department during the year were in connection with the enlargement of the Royal College, the reconstruction of road bridges, the Mare-aux-Vacoas water works and the Port Louis drainage works.

Royal College enlargement.

The work of enlarging the Royal College was started early in the year. The walls and foundations of the old College building were found to be in so unsatisfactory a state that it had to be almost entirely pulled down and temporary buildings were put up to afford sufficient accommodation. The masonry work was begun on October 21st. 1912, the construction has been pushed on with all possible speed and it is anticipated the new College will be ready for occupation at the beginning of 1914.

Bridges.

The reconstruction in ferro-concrete of Colville bridge and of several other small bridges in the district of Savanne was completed early in 1912. Nouvelle France, Ruisseau Sec and Union Park bridges in the district of Grand Port were reconstructed; their spans were widened and the approaches to the road improved. The reconstruction of Molino bridge, Grand Port, 88 feet span, was also begun in the middle of the year. Two small bridges were also reconstructed in the district of Flacq.

Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.

The reservoir at Mare-aux-Vacoas, where the average annual rainfall is 137 inches, has a catchment area of about 5 square miles. The top water level is 1,840 feet above the mean sea-level and the reservoir has a maximum capacity of 570 millions of gallons. The water flows from the Reservoir for 4,900 feet in an open channel and for a further distance of 7,700 feet is taken in a 16″ cast iron pipe to the filtering establishment at La Marie, which is 1,645 feet above sea-level.

At the filtering establishment there is a depositing reservoir with a capacity of 1,300,000 gallons and a covered service reservoir with a capacity of 500,000 gallons. Owing to the water being at times heavily charged with organic matter the "Anderson Process" for the purification of water was installed and concrete partitions were erected in the depositing reservoir to improve the settlement of solids. Originally there were only 4 filter beds with a superficial area of 6,720 square feet, but five additional filter beds have since been constructed with a superficial area of 18,000 square feet, and extra aerating trays have been added. These additional works and the increased filtration area enable two filters to be always left exposed to sun and air and with a slower process of filtration. There are few complaints of the quality of the water.

The daily consumption of water exceeds 1,600,000 gallons and with the exception of the supply to the town of Curepipe the water flows by gravitation to the lower districts. The supply for Curepipe is pumped by means of hydraulic rams to two reservoirs standing 368 feet above the filtering establishment, the motor being driven by water power from the 16″ supply main. The increase in the population of Curepipe has necessitated additions to the pumping plant and the reconstruction of the reservoirs. A masonry building was erected at the filter beds for the pumping machinery and a second 16″ cast iron pipe has been laid to supply the motive power. An additional set of hydraulic motors and pumps have been erected and work satisfactorily. It is expected that the concrete covered channel which is to replace the open conduit from the reservoir to the filter beds will be completed early in 1914. An additional service reservoir is in course of construction at Curepipe.

Port Louis Drainage Works.

The Port Louis drainage works were begun in 1895, the sewers being designed on the separate system and the surface drainage being carried in the street gutters to the various streams which flow into the harbour. The town is divided for drainage purposes into four districts three of which drain by gravitation sewers into separate collecting wells which are connected by means of syphon pipes to the pumping station near Caudan Basin. From there, the sewage is pumped through cast iron pipes for 7,000 feet to the sea outfall at the mouth of Grand River North West and is discharged in 10 feet of water at low tide, a thousand feet from the shore. Sewers have been laid in districts Nos. 2 and 3, the laying of the sewers in district No. 4 is being proceeded with; the enlargement of the pumping station has been completed and the additional pumps have been installed. The total length of sewers laid is 21.46 miles and 980 properties have been connected. The amount expended on construction works in districts 2, 3 and 4 is Rs. 840,950 and on house services Rs. 525,790.

XI.—FORESTS AND GARDENS.

The area of forests, mountain and river reserves and Curatelle lands under the care of the Forest Department was 84,866 acres, of which about 68,504 acres were Crown Lands, 10,122 acres Mountain Reserves and 240 acres Vacant Estates.

Forest Utilization.

The improvement fellings in the Grand Bassin Forest were continued, yielding about 490 cubic feet of timber at Talbot and 5,300 cubic feet at Coutanceau; 145,000 shingles and 10,000 Railway keys were also manufactured from the off-fall of trees during the last 2 months of the year at the saw mill erected at Talbot. The yield was very poor indeed on account of the combined effects of wind, insects and fungi on timber. For the supply of fuel to public establishments about 3,000 cords of firewood were felled in Crown Lands, and eleven tons of charcoal were burnt. Thinnings in forest plantations (chiefly Pines and Eucalypts) yielded a revenue of Rs. 4,500 and clear-cuttings on Pas Géométriques (chiefly Casuarina) Rs. 10,250, the lessees replanting the areas cleared.

Forest Plantations.

About 232 acres were artificially restocked in Crown Lands, chiefly in the gathering grounds of important rivers. This should be added to about 2,327 acres replanted during the 10 previous years, the average expenditure per acre being about Rs. 63.85. The species propagated included Natte, Colophane, Olive, Benjoin, Fer, Juniper, Cryptomeria japonica, Eucalypts, Mahogany, Auraucarias and Terminalia.

Gardens.

At the Royal Botanic Gardens, Pamplemousses, the grafting of selected mangoes was continued. A large number of seedlings were raised in the nurseries and were either sold to the public or planted on Crown Lands and River Reserves. The regulations imposed on account of the Phytalus beetle on sugar cane again necessitated the disposal of all plants through the intermediate Depôt in Port Louis and this was the cause of restrictions in the raising of economics.

At the Nursery Gardens, Curepipe, the exotic conifers were produced on a large scale for the reforestation of the gathering grounds of rivers.

XII.—DEPENDENCIES.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small Islands situated between 5° and 19° 50′ South Latitude and 51° and 72° 30′ East Longitude of which the nearest is 230 miles and the most remote about 1,200 miles distant from Mauritius.

Rodrigues, the largest and most important, is administered by a resident Magistrate, has an area of 40 square miles and had at the Census of 1911 a population of 4,829 of whom 2,523 were males and 2,306 were females. The total population showed as compared with 1901 an increase of 1,667.

The increase was almost entirely in the general population which numbered 4,667 or 1,567 more than in 1901. The Indo-Mauritian population numbered 102, other Indians 36 and Chinese 24. The male agricultural population has increased considerably in the last 10 years and development is noticeable in the trade of the island. The Customs returns show that 40 cattle were sent to Mauritius in 1912 as against 69 in 1911. In 1912 1,246 pigs value Rs. 19,725 were sent to Mauritius as against 1,466 value Rs. 26,500 in 1911 and 3,682 goats and sheep value Rs. 13,789 as against 3,221 value Rs. 11,242 in 1911. There was a further large increase in the exports of salted fish, the figures being 341,690 kilos in 1912 and 269,900 in 1911. Tobacco showed an increase from 36,000 to 38,705 kilos.

At the Rodrigues branch of the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th. of June 1912 a sum of Rs. 22,198 to the credit of 55 depositors as compared with Rs. 22,322 and 46 depositors on the corresponding date of 1911.

Most of the Islands in the Lesser Dependencies have been conceded or sold with the exception of a few Islands in the St. Brandon Group and two islands in the Diego Garcia group, Tromelin Island, and one near the great Chagos Bank, which are leased. The islands are administered by two Magistrates who are resident in Mauritius and pay regular visits to the Dependencies. The chief exports from the Dependencies are coconut oil, coconuts, guano and fish (dried and salted).

J. MIDDLETON,

August, 1913. Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
758	Ceylon..	1911-1912
759	Sierra Leone	1912
760	Seychelles	"
761	Somaliland	1912-1913
762	Hong Kong	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
764	Falkland Islands	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
766	Bahamas	"
767	Gambia	"
768	Fiji	"
769	Basutoland	1912-1913
770	Gold Coast	1912
771	Ashanti	"
772	Nyasaland	1912-1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
774	British Solomon Islands	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1911-1913
777	Swaziland	1912-1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912-1913
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912-1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912-1913
787	Uganda	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey. 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 826.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 788.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

January 1915.

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REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1913.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year 1912–13 amounted to Rs. 11,035,641, being Rs. 634,941 above the estimate and Rs. 1,053,132 above the average for the five years immediately preceding.

The following is a comparative statement showing the actual revenue from normal sources collected during the financial years 1911–12 and 1912–13 :—

Head of Revenue.	1911–12.	1912–13.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Customs	3,841,092	4,024,768	183,676	...
2. Harbour	206,930	224,615	17,685	...
3. Licenses, Excise, &c, ...	2,545,369	2,753,694	208,325	...
4. Fees of Court, &c. ...	340,871	340,121	...	750
5. Post and Telegraphs ...	217,604	224,360	6,756	...
6. Railways	2,334,982	2,480,554	145,572	...
7. Rent	70,466	69,368	...	1,098
8. Interest	828,363	865,241	36,878	...
9. Miscellaneous	47,352	52,139	4,787	...
	10,433,029	11,034,860	603,679	1,848
10. Land Sales...	2,619	781	...	1,838
Total	10,435,648	11,035,641	603,679	3,686
Net increase of normal revenue	...	...	599,993	...

The revenue of 1912–13 was the highest yet recorded, that of the next best year, 1910–11 being Rs. 10,889,989. The heads of revenue under which the receipts in 1912–13 show the greatest disparity as compared with 1911–12 are Licenses, Excise, &c., Customs and Railways, the receipts being Rs. 208,325, Rs. 183,676 and Rs. 145,572 less respectively in 1911–12 than in 1912–13. Import duties in 1912–13 yielded Rs. 194,216 above the estimate, the increase being due to the large demands for goods resulting from the increased purchasing power of the population, while Export duties yielded Rs. 64,449 less than was anticipated owing partly to an overestimate of the sugar crop and partly to the additional duty of 2 cents per 100 kilos of sugar being credited to the Station Agronomique Funds. There were small increases as compared with 1911–12 under Harbour of Rs. 17,685, Post and Telegraphs Rs. 6,756, Interest of Rs. 36,878 due to the temporary investment of the surplus balances of the Colony by the Crown Agents, and Miscellaneous of Rs. 4,787.

There was on the 30th. of June 1912 a surplus balance of Rs. 2,893,907. The revenue for the year 1912–13 exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 800,037 bringing up the surplus at the 30th. of June 1913 to Rs. 3,693,944. From this sum there had been advanced on account of Railway re-equipment Rs. 3,343,646. The accounts for the first half of the current financial year show that the revenue amounted to Rs. 5,487,149 and the expenditure to Rs. 5,337,411. The expenditure was less than the revenue by Rs. 149,737 and at the 31st. of December 1913 the surplus balance had been increased to Rs. 3,843,681. From the 1st. of July to the 31st. of December 1913 advances amounting to Rs. 188,934 were made for Railway re-equipment and Irrigation Works. The total amount so advanced up to the 31st. of December 1913 was Rs. 3,532,580 and the actual surplus balance at that date was accordingly reduced to Rs. 311,101.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1912–13 amounted to Rs. 10,235,605, which is Rs. 311,150 above the original estimate, Rs. 391,625 above the expenditure for the previous year and Rs. 566,415 above the average of the preceding five years. The amounts originally estimated to be expended during the year were exceeded to an appreciable extent under the following Heads: Pensions Rs. 31,800, Port and Marine Rs. 19,200 chiefly due to the construction of a pontoon and the erection of a crane thereon; Medical and Health Rs. 81,200 owing to the measures taken to combat small-pox, Miscellaneous Rs. 45,900, Forests Rs. 14,000 to meet expenditure in connection with the destruction of the phytalus smithi, Railways Rs. 193,700 consequent on the enhanced cost of materials, on the rise in the price of coal and on its increased consumption on account of the heavier rolling stock introduced, Public Works Extraordinary, Rs. 118,000 chiefly in connection with the enlargement of the Royal College. The following are the principal Heads under which the actual expenditure was less than the original estimate for the year:—Education (Rs. 45,000), Law and Justice (Rs. 47,000), Immigration and Poor Relief (Rs. 42,000), Police (Rs. 26,000) and Agriculture (Rs. 25,000).

The following is a comparative statement of the Expenditure for the years 1911–12 and 1912–13:—

Head of Service.	1911–12.	1912–13.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	1,244,986	1,266,963	21,977	...
2. Pensions	671,534	693,293	21,759	...
3. Governor and Legislature...	79,048	69,065	...	9,983
4. Colonial Secretariat ...	88,964	90,595	1,631	...
5. Treasury	185,139	181,326	...	3,813
6. Audit	53,537	50,471	...	3,066
7. Customs	118,589	108,150	...	10,439
8. Port and Marine	126,914	133,656	6,742	...
9. Observatory	15,684	15,593	...	91
10. Public Library and Museum	8,136	8,086	...	50
11. Registrar General	32,657	19,726	...	12,931
12. Registration and Mortgage	42,529	44,906	2,377	...
13. Archives	5,862	7,381	1,519	...
14. Law and Justice	399,536	381,528	...	18,008
15. Ecclesiastical	152,718	152,636	...	82
16. Police	522,865	527,107	4,242	...
17. Prisons and Reformatory...	165,757	160,857	...	4,900
18. Medical and Health and Quarantine	829,091	966,174	137,083	...
19. Education	604,277	594,414	...	9,863
20. Immigration and Poor Relief	315,107	283,638	...	31,469
21. Dependencies ...	55,760	57,638	1,878	...
22. Military Expenditure ...	513,256	467,504	...	45,752
23. Miscellaneous	734,449	665,850	...	68,599
24. Post and Telegraphs ...	159,291	171,118	11,827	...
25. Forests and Gardens ...	217,996	178,229	...	39,767
26. Agriculture	...	35,012	35,012	...
27. Railways	1,677,237	1,889,347	212,110	...
28. Public Works Department	111,624	115,576	3,952	...
29. Public Works Recurrent...	547,477	498,003	...	49,474
30. Public Works Extraordinary	154,046	391,835	237,789	...
31. Loan Commission	9,914	9,928	14	...
Total ...	9,843,980	10,235,605	699,912	308,287
Net Increase	...	...	391,625	...

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on the 30th. of June 1913 were Rs. 2,571,846 and the liabilities Rs. 2,221,549, the assets thus exceeding the liabilities by Rs. 350,297.

The assets included :—	Rs.
Cash in the hands of the Receiver General and sub-accountants	399,715
Investments at cost	679,869
Temporary investments at Bank rate £ 62,000 at 1 s. 4 d.	930,000
Miscellaneous advances	542,634
Advances on account of loan authorized for mechanical transport (Ordinance No. 34 of 1902)	13,128
Drafts and Remittances	6,500

The liabilities were :—	
General Deposits	2,080,220
Government of India	112,514
Drafts and Remittances	26,791
Loan Funds, unexpended	2,024

There was brought to account during the year expenditure amounting to Rs. 3,343,646 on Railway re-equipment.

Public Debt.

The total indebtedness of the Colony on the 30th. of June 1913 was £ 1,285,390 and the Sinking Funds amounted to £ 327,949, leaving a net debt of £ 957,441 as against £ 966,132 on 30th. June 1912, as compared with a debt of £ 1,147,409 and a revenue of £ 471,172 in 1894.

Under Ordinances No. 10 of 1876, No. 10 of 1879 and No. 2 of 1887 outstanding debentures are redeemed by annual drawings. Provision is made for the repayment of other loans by means of a sinking fund.

The raising of a loan of £ 70,000 for the purpose of making advances to Planters to assist them in substituting mechanical for animal transport on their estates was authorized by Ordinance No. 34 of 1902. The loan was not raised but advances were made partly from temporary advances obtained from the Crown Agents and partly from Treasury balances. The amount lent had been settled in full in September 1913.

The Railway (Improvement) Loan Ordinance 1910 authorizes the raising of a loan of £ 270,000 for the improvement and re-equipment of the Railways. The loan has not yet been raised, the expenditure incurred to the 31st. December 1913, amounting to Rs. 3,521,565, having been met by payment from surplus cash balances.

Currency and Banking.

The Currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :
  (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents.
  (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.
(2) The silver rupee of India with its silver subdivisions.
(3) Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

On the 30th. June 1913, the value of Currency notes in circulation was Rs. 5,080,250. The specie held amounted to Rs. 2,542,000 and the Investment and Depreciation Funds to Rs. 2,538,250 and Rs. 356,244 respectively.

The Banks which do business in the Colony are the Bank of Mauritius Limited and the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Municipality of Port Louis for the five years 1909 to 1913 :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1909	484,841	476,448
1910	523,494	504,058
1911	510,285	498,614
1912	515,504	509,944
1913	529,332	535,447

The indebtedness of the Municipality up to the end of the year and the provision for payment are shown below :—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1913.
Conversion Loan	£ 106,700	£ 2,365
Electric Lighting Loan	7,334	333
Municipality Loan, 1908	3,286	142
Municipality Loan, 1909	4,286	178
	£ 121,606	£ 3,018
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892...	Rs. 34,853	Rs. 8,208
Manure Factory and Night Soil Service Loan	6,000	2,000
Municipality Loan, 1903	10,000	2,000
	Rs. 50,853	Rs. 12,208

LOCAL BOARDS.

There are Boards of Commissioners for the towns of Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes which are entrusted with the general improvement and conservancy of these towns. By Ordinance No. 4 of 1913, the Board of Curepipe has been entrusted with the powers and duties, sanitary control excepted, of the Health Department in respect of Slaughter Houses, Public Markets and Butchers' Shops.

The Board of Curepipe receives the amount of taxes on vehicles and animals collected in the town and of licenses paid by traders and others. The Board may also levy a tax not exceeding one per cent. on house property. The two other Boards receive the amount of the taxes paid on vehicles and animals in the towns and may also levy a similar tax on house property.

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure of the Boards for the past five financial years :—

CUREPIPE.

	1908–09.	1909–10.	1910–11.	1911–12.	1912–13.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	73,759	90,966	68,510	73,136	74,883
Expenditure ...	72,516	85,360	72,008	76,420	71,148

BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

	1908–09.	1909–10.	1910–11.	1911–12.	1912–13.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	33,541	35,804	36,996	34,811	37,959
Expenditure ...	33,476	34,639	36,651	36,507	37,921

QUATRE BORNES.

	1908–09.	1909–10.	1910–11.	1911–12.	1912–13.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	13,842	12,513	12,748	13,374	13,216
Expenditure ...	13,508	12,615	11,096	11,720	14,152

Below will be found a statement of the debts of the Boards :—

Curepipe	Net amount of Debt.	Rs. 42,500
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill	„	Rs. 2,600
Quatre Bornes	„	Nil

There is a District Board for each of the eight rural districts of the Island. To them is entrusted under Ordinance No. 9 of 1900 the maintenance of the branch roads.

They receive as revenue a contribution from Government equivalent to 10 °/₀ of the direct taxes collected in each district during the year and an addition of 10 °/₀ to the direct taxes to be levied in each year in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and the Townships. The additional 10 °/₀ to be levied on the direct taxes may be increased to 25 °/₀ subject to the approval of the Governor in Executive Council. The Government contribution amounted in 1912–13 to Rs. 11,816.

The powers of the District Boards were extended by Ordinance No. 35 of 1902 to include the construction, maintenance and management of water works. For this purpose they receive an annual contribution from Government, which in 1912–13 amounted to Rs. 76,000, and also the proceeds of water rates and of charges paid for water supplies.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.§

The Customs returns for the year 1913 show the aggregate value of Imports and Exports, exclusive of specie, to be **Rs.** 68,156,409, the value of Imports being Rs. 35,864,703 as compared with Rs. 32,002,440 in 1912. Import duties show an increase of Rs. 266,590 as compared with 1912.

Most of the material imported from the United Kingdom for the re-equipment of the Railways, valued at about Rs. 135,000 (as returned by the Railway Department) or Rs. 92,000 less than in 1912, has been classified under the head " Hardware and Cutlery ", which shows a decrease of Rs. 88,000 when compared with the value of last year's imports.

The aggregate value of Imports and Exports, excluding specie, for the years 1909 to 1913 was as follows :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1909 ...	Rs. 27,013,970 ...	Rs. 34,424,923 ...	Rs. 61,438,893
1910 ...	35,014,664 ...	36,528,536 ...	71,543,200
1911 ...	37,440,332*...	40,414,328 ...	77,854,660*
1912 ...	32,002,440*...	36,893,269 ...	68,895,709*
1913 ...	35,864,703*...	32,291,706 ...	68,156,409*

---

§ The value of cows and oxen imported from Madagascar is shown by a statistical error at Rs. 1,223,712 in the Blue Book. The actual value was Rs. 480,744. The corrected figures are given in this report.

* Including Railway re-equipment materials.

The value of Imports from, and Exports to, the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during the same years is shown below, (specie is not included) :—

Year.	Imports from (Unit Rs. 1,000.)			Exports to (Unit Rs. 1,000.)		
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
1909	7,437	12,288	7,287	4,315	29,667	441
1910	11,282	16,225	7,506	8,267	27,863	397
1911	11,995*	18,130	7,313	13,397	22,170	4,846
1912	11,504*	14,117	6,382	4,467	32,038	389
1913	12,149*	15,599	8,117	5,955	24,886	1,450

The following tables show the percentage of Imports from, and Exports to, the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during each of the last five years :—

Imports.

From	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
United Kingdom ...	27.5	32.2	32.1*	36.0*	33.9*
British Possessions...	45.5	46.4	48.4	44.1	43.5
Foreign Countries ...	27.0	21.4	19.5	19.9	22.6

Exports.

To	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
United Kingdom	12.5	22.6	33.1	12.2	18.4
British Possessions	86.2	76.3	54.9	86.8	77.1
Foreign Countries	1.3	1.1	12.0	1.0	4.5

An examination of the returns of imports and exports shows that—the United Kingdom and British Possessions supply most of the Colony's needs and purchase nearly all its produce ; the supplies from Foreign Countries are mainly in the groups (1) Food, Drink and Tobacco and (2) Manufactured Articles.

---

* Including Railway re-equipment materials.

The trade of the Colony is principally with the United Kingdom and India and in normal years the trade with India represents nearly one-half of the aggregate import and export trade.

In 1913 the value of the imports in the group Food, Drink and Tobacco was greater by about 3 million of rupees than in the previous year. There was also an increase of 1½ million of rupees in the group Manufactured Articles, while the imports of Raw Materials show a decrease of more than ½ a million of rupees.

The chief articles contributing to the customs revenue in 1913 were :

Tobacco and Cigars	Rs. 861,000
Grain (including rice, dholl, etc.)	607,000
Cotton Manufactures	155,000
Wines	154,000
Oil (manufactured)	148,000
Spirits	129,000
Matches	115,000
Haberdashery	101,000

The export duty on sugar yielded Rs. 563,316.

Imports.

The value of the imports in 1913 was greater by approximately 4 millions of rupees than in the previous year and less by 1½ million of rupees than in 1911.

The largest increases as compared with 1912 occur under the following heads :

Corn, Grain, &c.	Rs. 2,098,000
Machinery (Local Industries)	367,000
Manures and Fertilizers	626,000
Coals	318,000
Postal Parcels	206,000
Haberdashery	183,000
Oil	149,000

The largest decreases occur under the following heads :

Cement	Rs. 866,000
Gunny Bags	151,000

The meat supply of the Island is obtained from Madagascar from which country it is shown that there were imported in 1913 7,587 oxen against 7,397 in 1912. The imports of rice, which is the chief article of food of the majority of the population, was approximately 64,000 tons (metric) as compared with 50,000 tons in the previous year, the value of the importations being Rs. 8,514,000 in 1913, and Rs. 6,605,000 in 1912. India supplied practically all the rice imported ; the importations from Madagascar amounted to 2,386 tons, from Cochin China 1,871 tons, from China 176 tons, and 16 tons were imported from Singapore. The imports of dholl from India rose from 4,577 tons value Rs. 508,000 to 5,220 tons value Rs. 586,000.

The importations of coal increased from 56,984 tons to 61,090, the United Kingdom continuing to be the principal source of supply.

There was an increase of Rs. 367,000 in the value of imports of machinery for local industries and of Rs. 313,000 in machinery for mechanical transport. The following tables give the value and country of origin of importations under the heads Machinery and Mechanical Transport for the years 1909 to 1913.

Machinery.

Country.	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom...	329,155	1,028,122	1,125,953	667,535	1,078,799	4,229,564
France ...	18,616	29,716	428,267	121,746	58,799	657,144
Belgium ...	867	3,414	786	2,101	6,328	13,496
Germany ...	...	...	...	646	11,743	12,389
Other Countries....	810	463	4,281	...	3,406	8,960
Total ...	349,448	1,061,715	1,559,287	792,028	1,159,075	4,921,553

Mechanical Transport.

Country.	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Germany ...	210,402	398,845	150,587	89,965	135,898	985,697
Belgium ...	62,696	140,277	72,232	53,043	116,098	444,346
United Kingdom .	59,726	106,909	29,338	17,472	221,096	434,541
France ...	15,219	927	...	...	62	16,208
Italy ...	...	...	...	...	148	148
Total ...	348,043	646,958	252,157	160,480	473,302	1,880,940

The value of machinery for local industries imported in 1913 was Rs. 1,159,000 and the imports during the last five years amount to Rs. 4,922,000. Practically all the machinery comes from the United Kingdom, the rolling stock for the light tramways being of foreign manufacture.

The use of motor cars and motor cycles has developed rapidly in the last 6 years. In 1907 13 cars and 2 cycles were imported and in

1908 6 cars and 3 cycles, while during the last 5 years 294 cars valued at Rs. 1,418,000 and 75 cycles valued at Rs. 50,000 have been imported. The number of motor cars imported in 1913 was 75 valued at Rs. 360,000, and of cycles 22 valued at Rs. 17,000.

The following table shows the principal countries which export goods to Mauritius and the value of the goods exported, exclusive of specie, in the years 1912 and 1913 :—

Country.	Exports to Mauritius.	
—	1912	1913
British India	Rs. 12,186,000 ...	Rs. 13,463,000
United Kingdom ...	*11,504,000 ...	*12,149,000
France	2,906,000 ...	3,444,000
Madagascar	617,000 ...	996,358
Australia	396,000 ...	608,000
United States	847,000 ...	863,000
Germany	354,000 ...	431,000
Transvaal	311,000 ...	215,000
Cape Colony	564,000 ...	789,000
Natal	181,000 ...	159,000
Belgium	544,000 ...	593,000
Réunion	356,000 ...	373,000
Straits Settlements ...	371,000 ...	178,000
China	154,000 ...	145,000
Cochin China	300 ...	293,000

The United Kingdom, British India or British Possessions are the largest suppliers of wearing apparel, bacon, gunny bags, beer in casks and bottles, books, bran, chemicals for manures, cement, coal, confectionery, dholl, gram, oats, rice, flour, cotton, salt fish, ghee, hardware and cutlery, iron nails, wrought iron, boots and shoes, machinery for local industries, manure (bone), salt, soap, whisky, stationery, tea, tin, umbrellas (cotton), shooks, sleepers, timber, woollen goods.

Foreign countries are the main source of supply for apothecaries' wares, oxen, butter, clocks and watches, enamelled ware, glassware, haberdashery, jewellery, light tramway wagons, locomotives and materials, matches, motor cars, petroleum, cigarette paper, perfumery, potatoes, brandy, gin, wine, sulphur, tobacco (manufactured) and cigars, toys, candles, umbrellas (silk).

Exports.

The total value of the Exports, excluding specie but including charges, was in 1912 Rs. 36,893,269 and in 1913 Rs. 32,291,706.

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*Including Railway re-equipment materials.

The following table shows the value and the destination of the products of the Colony, other than sugar, which were exported in 1912 and 1913 :

Product.	Year.	Exported to			
		United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Molasses ...	1912	30	176,348	...	176,378
	1913	4	61,298	8	61,310
Rum	1912	4,591	13,911	...	18,502
	1913	4,416	17,914	...	22,330
Aloe Fibre ...	1912	640,663	584	40,731	681,978
	1913	703,654	49,365	100,549	853,568

The following table shows the principal countries to which sugar was exported during the calendar years 1912 and 1913 :

	1912.	1913.
Country.	Tons.*	Tons.*
British India	143,361	127,620
United Kingdom	20,869	31,170
Cape Colony	10,560	14,387
Australia	26,273	2,132
Hong-Kong	2,017	3,293
Portuguese East Africa	429	1,085
Natal	575	852
Seychelles	479	310
Aden	657	312
British East Africa	316	279
Zanzibar	275	97
France	177	5,378
Belgium	......	201
Ceylon	......	629

It will be observed that British India continues to be the largest purchaser of Mauritius sugar. The exports to Europe rose from 21,000 tons in 1912 to 37,000 in 1913. The exports to Australia, which were formerly about one-third of the total crop, fell from 26,000 tons in 1912 to 2,000 tons in 1913.

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* Metric Ton = 1,000 kilogrammes.

Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture which was established under Ordinance No. 30 of 1912 commenced its operations on the 10th. of May 1913. The Station Agronomique which had been in existence from 1893 and the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics of the Chamber of Agriculture dating from 1909 were absorbed into the new Department. To it was also transferred the control of the gardens of Pamplemousses and Curepipe and of the Réduit grounds which had hitherto been in the hands of the Director of Forests.

SUGAR.

The agricultural returns compiled by the statistical division of the Department of Agriculture show that on December 31st. 1913 a total of 153,416 arpents was under cultivation in sugar-cane. This area shows an extension of 5,519 arpents over the area recorded for 1912. A portion of this large increase may be accounted for by the fact that statistical data is becoming more and more accurate every year, but there has been without doubt during the year an extension of several thousand arpents under sugar-cane cultivation mainly in the districts of Pamplemousses, Rivière du Rempart and Grand Port. Certain properties which formerly had large areas under wild aloe fibre or waste have extended their cultivation or have leased these lands for cane cultivation to small planters. Of the total area of 153,416 arpents under sugar-cane, planters cultivated 60,902 arpents, of which 50,590 arpents were cultivated by small planters of Indian origin. The total area of land cultivated in sugar-cane by Indians in the colony was 54,887.54 arpents or 35.77 % of the total area under this product. Of this area, 42,599.39 arpents are held freehold or are in course of liberation and 12,288.15 are leased from estates.

The crop year for sugar begins on August 1st. and ends on July 31st. of the following year. The total output of the factories for 1913–14 amounted to 249,703 tons of sugar out of which 241,990 were exported. With the exception of the crop for 1909–10, this is the largest crop the island has produced. The conditions during crop-time were favourable and the juices were of high quality and easy of manipulation.

The average selling price as determined by the Department of Agriculture was approximately Rs. 6.95 per 50 kilos giving to the crop a monetary value of 34.7 millions of rupees and, on the assumption that the cost of producing 50 kilos of sugar is about Rs. 5.50, leaving a profit of over seven millions rupees. The average selling price was about Rs. 7.00 in 1912–13, the highest price recorded for the last nine years being Rs. 9.71 in 1904–05, and the lowest Rs. 6.60 in 1906–07.

The weight and monetary value of the crop for the last 5 years is shown below :—

Years.	Total Produce Tons.	Monetary value unit Rs. 1,000,000.
—	—	—
1909–10	252,000	42.5
1910–11	222,830	31.6
1911–12	169,550	32.9
1912–13	213,059	29.8
1913–14	249,703	34.7

Considerable activity took place during the year towards the further improvement of the machinery of the sugar factories.

Ten new boilers were installed in the furnaces of the factories, economizers were increased by two, and two " secheries " or bagasse driers were dispensed with. Defecators have been increased by 44 and settling tanks reduced by 31. In the crystallizing sections of the factories large improvements have been made.

Nine additional vacuum pans have been erected and 103 new crystallizers-in-motion installed. Thirty-five centrifugals of the Weston type were installed during the year and further economies in labour resulted thereby.

ALOES.

The fibre industry is, after sugar, the most important agricultural industry of the Colony. The fibre is obtained almost entirely from forms of *Furcraea Gigantea* which are now to be found growing in practically all the Districts of the Island. The area under aloes is estimated at 20,000 arpents (1 arpent = 1.043 acre).

In 1913 there were 42 factories in operation. They are small ones, their individual output ranging from 50 to 100 tons a year.

The following figures show the exports of aloe fibre and their value for the last 5 years :—

	Metric tons.	Rs.
1909	1878.6	530,700
1910	2021.2	627,495
1911	2129.3	600,495
1912	2249.0	681,975
1913	2912.7	853,575

TEA.

The area under tea cultivation is increasing slowly. Some new plantations were made during the year. The crop was a large one and a slight reduction in price has resulted. The locally grown tea is almost entirely disposed of on local markets and the demand is limited.

VANILLA.

The prices for vanilla were satisfactory during the year and some new plantations have been made. Vanilla disease is prevalent in some localities, but it appears to be probable that if this disease is kept in check some further plantings of vanilla may be expected.

LIVE STOCK.

Data relating to stock on sugar estates show that there has been an increase of 3,608 head of horned stock, the number of animals for 1913 and 1912 being 22,141 and 18,533 respectively. This increase is partly accounted for by the fact that surra has not recently been so prevalent as in some former years, partly because implemental tillage is increasing on sugar estates, and partly by reason of the fact that Indians resident on sugar-estates are encouraged to keep cows in order that the estate may readily obtain its supplies of farmyard manure. The number of goats was 8,925 compared with 5,571 in 1912.

PRICES OF ARTICLES OF CONSUMPTION.

The prices of many articles of consumption have generally increased during the year. A large increase took place in the prices of rice by reason of the shortage of the Indian crop, and the price of coffee was considerably above normal.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1913 which was promulgated on the 19th. of November of the same year, provides for the constitution and control of Co-operative Credit Societies with the object of encouraging thrift, self-help and co-operation among agriculturists, artisans and persons of limited means. At the end of 1913 eleven societies had been registered under the provisions of that Ordinance with a total membership of over 1,000 and a capital of about Rs. 20,000.

Shipping.

The following comparative tables show the number, tonnage and nationality of ships entered and cleared during the years 1912 and 1913.

Nationality.	1912.						1913.					
	Steam vessels.		Sailing vessels.		Total.		Steam vessels.		Sailing vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	113	289,637	32	8,897	145	298,534	121	302,240	25	7,380	146	309,620
French	32	79,931	4	168	36	80,099	41	98,422	...	...	41	98,422
Norwegian ...	...	...	2	1,733	2	1,733	4	238	...	...	4	238
German	2	1,969	...	...	2	1,969	4	7,204	...	...	4	7,204
Swedish	1	2,044	...	...	1	2,044	1	2,132	...	...	1	2,132
Portuguese ...	1	879	...	...	1	879	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	3
Total entered ...	149	374,460	38	10,798	187	385,258	172	410,239	25	7,380	197	417,619
British	112	285,576	30	8,083	142	293,659	119	298,744	27	8,380	146	307,124
French	32	87,342	4	208	36	87,550	41	98,707	...	...	41	98,707
Norwegian ...	...	...	2	1,733	2	1,733	4	238	...	...	4	238
German	2	1,969	...	...	2	1,969	4	7,204	...	...	4	7,204
Swedish	1	2,044	...	...	1	2,044	1	2,132	...	...	1	2,132
Portuguese ...	1	879	...	...	1	879	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	3
Total cleared ...	148	377,810	36	10,024	184	387,834	170	407,028	27	8,380	197	415,408

These tables show that 197 vessels with a tonnage of 417,619 reported during the year against 187 with a tonnage of 385,258 in the previous year, giving a total increase of 10 in the number of vessels and of 32,361 in tonnage. 197 vessels with a tonnage of 415,408 cleared as against 184 with a tonnage of 387,834 in the previous year, showing an increase of 13 vessels and of 27,574 in tonnage.

The increase in the number reported is divided between those reporting with cargo and those reporting in ballast as follows :

Reported with cargo	2	tonnage	30,499
„ „ ballast	8	„	1,862
	10		32,361

The clearances show an increase of 13 vessels and of 27,574 in tonnage. Divided between vessels cleared with cargo and vessels cleared in ballast, the figures are as follows :

Cleared with cargo	– 4	tonnage	9,801
„ „ ballast	+17	„	17,773
	+13		27,574

Distinguishing steam vessels from sailing vessels there has been a decrease of 23 in the number reporting and of 35,779 in tonnage as compared with the previous year and an increase of 22 in the number cleared and of 29,218 in tonnage. The number of steamers reporting with cargo is 13 more than in the previous year with an increase of 33,863 in tonnage, and the number of steamers reporting with ballast is 10 more than in the previous year with an increase of 1,916 in tonnage. Four more steamers cleared with cargo than in the previous year with a corresponding increase of 10,033 in tonnage ; the number of steamers clearing in ballast was greater by 18 with a corresponding increase of 19,185 in tonnage.

The number of sailing vessels reporting with cargo, was less by 11 with a corresponding decrease of 3,364 in tonnage, the number of those reporting in ballast was less by 2 with a corresponding decrease of 54 in tonnage. There was a decrease of 8 in the number of sailing vessels cleared with cargo with a corresponding decrease of 232 in tonnage ; the number of sailing vessels cleared with ballast was less by 1 with a corresponding decrease of 1,412 in tonnage.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the most important legislative measures of the year :—

The Co-operative Credit Societies Ordinance 1913, (No. 4) gives a legal status to the Co-operative Credit Societies which now exist in the Colony. It is borrowed from the Ceylon Co-operative Credit

Societies Ordinance No. 7 of 1911 and from the Indian Co-operative Societies Act No. 11 of 1912.

The Patents (Amendment) and Designs Ordinance 1913, (No. 7) amends the existing law relating to Patents and makes provision for the registration of Designs on the lines of the Patents and Designs Act 1905.

The Trade Marks (Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 8) amends the existing law relating to Trade Marks on the lines of the Trade Marks Act 1905.

The Opium Ordinance 1913, (No. 9) renders effective the measures decided upon in the International Convention signed at the Hague on the 23rd. January 1912 and regulates the importation into, exportation from, and the storage and disposal in, the Colony of Opium, Morphine, Cocaine and similar drugs.

Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 11) consolidates the laws on wireless telegraphy by providing for the framing and issue of special Regulations concerning the use of wireless telegraphy on board merchant ships while in the territorial waters of the Colony.

The Crown Prosecutors (Repeal) Ordinance 1913, (No. 12) does away with the posts of Crown Prosecutors while maintaining the police under the direction and control of the Ministère Public, i.e., of the Procureur General and of his two Substitutes.

The Mountain Reserves (Removal of Trees) Ordinance 1913, (No. 14) allows the removal from the mountain reserves by the owners thereof of certain dead, dying and fallen trees with a view to the improvement of the growing stock in such reserves.

The Sanitation Works Ordinance 1913, (No. 15) empowers the Governor in Executive Council to order the execution of certain specified anti-malarial works and provides for the incidence of the cost of execution of such works.

The Dangerous Substances Consolidating Ordinance 1913, (No. 17) consolidates the several laws on Dangerous Goods, Petroleum, Inflammable Substances and Explosives.

The Agricultural Loan (Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 18) enacts that privilege and mortgage creditors whose claims are inscribed, and chirograph creditors whose titles are subscribed, after the coming into force of the Ordinance shall be debarred of the right of objecting to the Agricultural loans provided for by Ordinance No. 4 of 1898 so long as in the contract with the lender provision is made for the payment of interest and of such part of the capital as may fall due during the continuance of the contract.

The District Courts (Jurisdiction of Magistrates Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 19) makes the posts of District Magistrate of Mauritius and of Magistrate of Rodrigues interchangeable and empowers the Governor to order any Magistrate to visit the Lesser Dependencies without extra allowance.

The Court of Rodrigues Jurisdiction (Extension) Ordinance 1913, (No. 20) extends to Rodrigues Ordinances Nos. 21, 22 and 23 of 1888 dealing with the constitution, powers and jurisdiction of District Courts in criminal as well as in Civil matters.

The Lepers Ordinance 1913, (No. 22) provides for the detention and treatment in asylums of convict, vagrant, pauper and other lepers in the Colony and for the notification of cases of leprosy and subjects to certain regulations the lepers who are unwilling to undergo treatment in an asylum.

The Quarantine Consolidation Ordinance 1913, (No. 26) consolidates and amends the existing legislation on Quarantine. It substitutes fumigation and disinfection for the former detention of ships, it provides for the segregation or "surveillance" according to circumstances, of the passengers and crew during certain fixed periods. It does away with the Quarantine Committee and entrusts the Port Health Officer under the supervision of the Director of the Health Department with the execution of the Ordinance and of the Regulations made under it.

The Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 31) makes the Public Health laws less rigid and complex and repeals all the provisions which are proper matter for regulations or for general or departmental orders. It also abolishes the Board of Health constituted under the Public Health Ordinance 1894-95.

The Public Officers' Guarantee Fund (Consolidation) Ordinance, (No. 33) consolidates and amends the laws providing for the establishment of the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund.

The Customs (Security Bonds and Forms of Entry Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 34) compels the owners or occupiers of bonded warehouses to enter into a general security bond and dispenses the importers using such warehouses with the obligation of entering into special security bonds.

The Education (Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 35) replaces the Committees of Primary and of Superior Instruction by the Committee of Public Instruction which ceases to be an administrative and executive body and becomes a purely consultative and deliberative one; it further does away with the "A" and "B" Codes which are replaced by the Education Code.

The Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance 1913 (No. 36) substitutes one of the Magistrates of Port Louis to be appointed by the Governor, for the Assessorial Committee which has hitherto been entrusted with the duty of revising the Electoral Roll and of conducting the Municipal elections. It also amends the provision dealing with the preparation of the list of 6 Councillors from which the Governor appoints the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor.

The Port Louis Sewerage (Extension) Ordinance 1913, (No. 42) provides against the waste of water in Port Louis by the introduction of meters for the supply of water. It entrusts the Public Works Department with the duty of fixing, examining and repairing the meters and of noting the consumption of water.

The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 43) provides against any interruption in the despatch of business of the Court, in view of the reduction of the number of Judges to three. It dispenses with the necessity of immediately appointing a provisional Judge in the case of the death or of the temporary absence from the Colony on vacation leave of the Chief Judge or of one of the Puisne Judges.

The Curepipe (Market and Slaughter Houses) Ordinance 1913, (No. 44) transfers to the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Curepipe the powers and duties of the Health Department in respect of Slaughter houses, Public markets and Butcher's shops and stalls in Curepipe, but retains the sanitary control of all such places by the Health Department.

The Police (Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 47) amends the Police Ordinance 1893 in respect of the enlistment and re-enlistment of, and the oath to be taken by, members of the Police Force, and gives to Inspectors of Police the right of issuing search warrants in cases of urgency.

The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 48) amend-Ordinance No. 8 of 1887 so as to subject the enlistment and re-enlistments of, and the oath to be taken by, Warders to the same rules as those of the Police Force. It also modifies the articles dealing with prison offences.

The Fisheries (Amendment) Ordinance 1913, (No. 49) prohibits the use of nets for fishing in certain parts of the sea to be designated by Proclamation.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

The Primary schools at the end of the year 1913 numbered 149 of which 60 were Government and 89 Aided schools. The number of Government schools has been reduced from 64 in 1909 principally by the amalgamation of separate schools for Boys and Girls in the same locality. Of the Aided schools there were 66 Roman Catholic, 18 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 2 Mahomedan and 1 Hindoo which is a newly opened school. One Roman Catholic school was closed.

The number of Primary schools, Government and Aided, and the number of pupils for the years 1909 to 1913 are shown in the following table :—

	Government Schools.			*Aided Schools.*		
Years.	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.
1909	64	8,634	5,433	88	10,651	7,234
1910	61	9,326	5,951	88	11,621	7,934
1911	60	9,421	6,030	88	11,589	7,972
1912	60	9,522	5,775	89	11,987	7,635
1913	60	9,223	5,693	89	11,735	7,717

The average attendance in Government and Aided schools for the year was 13,410 with a roll of 20,958 showing an average attendance of 63.98 o/o of the number of pupils on the roll. There is a slight decrease in the number of pupils on the roll but an increase in attendance as compared with 1912 when with a roll of 21,509 there was an average attendance of 13,410 or 62.34 o/o of the number of pupils on the roll.

The increase in the number of Indian children attending the Primary schools is maintained, the figures being as follows : 8,413 in 1913—8,316 in 1912—8,175 in 1911—7,462 in 1910 and 7,125 in 1909.

Of the total number of pupils on the roll in the six standard classes 61 o/o passed the examination tests as compared with 56 o/o in 1912 and 60 o/o in 1911, while of the number of pupils who were presented for examination 64 o/o passed in 1913 as compared with 59 o/o in 1912 and 63 o/o in 1911.

The total expenditure for the year on the salaries of, and grants to, Teachers in Primary schools amounted to Rs. 296,118 of which Rs. 134,681 was expended on Government schools and Rs. 161,437 on Aided schools. The figures for 1912 were Rs. 296,860, Rs. 133,438 and Rs. 163,422 respectively. The cost to Government of a pupil in a Government School was Rs. 19.70 and in an Aided School Rs. 15.39, as compared with Rs. 19.09 and Rs. 15.14 in 1912.

There are open annually to pupils of Primary schools six scholarships and six exhibitions at the Royal College for which there is keen competition. The exhibitioners receive free tuition and the scholars free tuition and an allowance of Rs. 100 a year. There were

148 candidates in 1913 against 145 in 1912. Twelve candidates failed in the test examination and 30 scored the minimum number of marks. The number of candidates from Government schools was 97 and from Aided schools 51, as compared with 105 from Government and 40 from Aided Schools in the previous year.

Secondary Education.

Secondary Education is provided by the Royal College, one school in connection with it, (the Port Louis School having been closed), and associated schools. 358 candidates from 14 associated schools were presented for examination of whom 156 passed. There were in December 1913, 208 pupils at the College, and 76 at Curepipe School. Of the 284 pupils at the College and its schools, 97 did not pay fees.

The attendance at the associated schools average 419.

There were 25 candidates for the London Matriculation Examinations in 1913. Eight out of the 21 candidates from the Royal College passed, 4 in the First Division, and 4 of the others passed in the Second Division.

There were 111 candidates for the Senior Cambridge Examination, 39 out of the 80 candidates from the Royal College and 5 of the 31 others passed. Out of 26 candidates from the Royal College for the Junior Cambridge Examination 10 passed.

There are scholarships and exhibitions in nearly all the classes of the Royal College and there are two valuable scholarships to enable pupils of the College to continue their studies in Europe.

There are 14 girls' schools which are affiliated to the Royal College in connection with the scheme for the Higher Education of Girls. The number of candidates who were presented for examination was 425 of whom 186 obtained Honours Certificates and 53 Pass Certificates. Twenty-three girls entered for the Senior Cambridge Local Examination of whom 10 passed. Ten entered for the Junior Division and 5 passed. The total sum expended in 1913 on the Higher Education of Girls was Rs. 9,320, as compared with Rs. 9,288 in 1912.

Training of Teachers.

There are Government Training Schools for men and for women. There were 8 candidates from the Men's Training School for the second class teachers' certificate, of whom 4 passed. There were 6 candidates from the Women's Training School for the second class certificate, of whom 3 passed. Neither of the Schools presented students for the third class examination.

The following table shows the number of candidates for certificates and the number who passed during the year :

Class of Certificate.	Candidates.			Successful.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Second	35	16	51	10	5	15
Third	42	22	64	7	5	12
Monitors' ...	117	111	228	22	25	47
Total	194	149	343	29	35	74

There are 656 certificated Teachers employed in Government and Aided Schools, of whom 151 are Head Teachers, 156 Assistant Teachers and 349 Monitors.

Technical Education.

There are 8 mechanical engineering apprenticeships for which there were 110 candidates as against 73 in 1912. There are 2 agricultural apprenticeships for which there were 27 candidates as against 29 in 1912 and 2 engineering studentships for which there was 1 candidate only, but he did not satisfy the Examiners.

Needlework receives attention in Girls' schools and the work of the pupils continues to show improvement. 46 candidates entered for the needlework competition, to 4 of whom apprenticeships were awarded.

There are carpentry classes in one Government and three Aided schools.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries

There are 11 Hospitals, including 3 in connection with the Prisons and Reformatory, and there is also a Hospital ward with 30 beds attached to the Lunatic Asylum. The number of Hospitals shows a reduction of 2 when compared with the previous year's figure owing to the closure of Flacq and Savanne Prisons. The eight public Hospitals have 1,026 beds. The total number of "cases" treated at all hospitals was 16,280, as compared with 18,641 in 1912. The number of "cases" treated at 27 dispensaries was 48,356.

Lunatic Asylum.

There is a Lunatic Asylum and a Lunatic Ward in connection with the Poorhouse of Barkly Asylum. There were 467 patients in the Asylum on the 31st. December 1913 as compared with 437 on the corresponding date of the previous year, and the daily average rose from 441.1 in 1912 to 455.74. The total number of certified lunatics in the Colony on the 31st. of December 1913, including patients out on probation and patients in the Lunatic Ward of Barkly Asylum, was 668, giving a proportion of one insane to 558 of population. There were 31 criminal lunatics of whom 25 were males and 6 females.

Poor Relief.

Barkly Asylum is the only institution under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioner at which paupers receive institutional relief.

The buildings of Barkly Asylum were originally acquired for the purpose of affording institutional relief to the poor. The hospital was later placed entirely under the control of the Medical Department and has come to be used as a general hospital for the district. Arrangements also exist at various religious institutions for the maintenance of aged and infirm paupers at fixed rates, and there is an asylum for pauper lepers in which patients are maintained at the public expense.

Exclusive of the number of patients treated free at the Public Hospitals and Dispensaries of the Colony, 1,462 paupers, as compared with 1,579 in 1912, received institutional relief during 1913, of whom 125 were maintained at public expense at the St. Lazare Leper Asylum, 257 at the Canal Street Convent Hospital and the remainder at the Barkly and the Lunatic Asylums and different religious Institutions.

2,929 paupers, 741 males and 2,188 females, received outdoor relief (pecuniary) permanently or temporarily during 1913 against 3,151 in 1912.

Savings Bank.

At the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th. June 1913 a sum of Rs. 3,291,656 to the credit of 28,841 depositors as compared with Rs. 3,261,252 to the credit of 28,318 depositors on the 30th. June 1912. The investment funds amounted to Rs. 3,494,171. Interest is allowed at the rate of 3 o/o.

The following table shows the number of depositors who belonged to the General and Indian populations and the amount standing to their credit on the 30th. June 1913 :

	Number	Rs.
General Population	17,915	2,037,085
Indian population	10,926	1,254,571

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The authorised strength of the Police on the 31st. of December 1913 was 1 Inspector General, 1 Deputy Inspector General, 6

Inspectors, 12 Sub-Inspectors, 1 Staff Sergeant Major, 43 Sergeants, 3 Mounted Orderlies, 50 Corporals, 402 European and Creole Constables, and 205 Indian Constables. 87 men were enlisted in 1913 and the total number of dismissals was 34.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the Police in 1913 was 24,350 as against 23,790 in 1912.

They may be classified as follows :

Homicide	24
Other offences against the person	8,729
Prædial Larceny	316
Other offences against property	5,167
Other offences	10,114
	24,350

In connection with these offences 13,999 persons (including 524 persons arrested on suspicion) were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates. In 13,891 of the cases no person was charged.

The total number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts (District, Stipendiary and Bench of Magistrates) in 1913 was 22,530; of these the number prosecuted was 19,790 including persons tried before a Bench of Magistrates or committed to the Court of Assizes. The number discharged for want of prosecution by party complaining or for want of evidence was 2,741.

The cases prosecuted in the District Courts (including preliminary inquiries with a view to commitment to the Assizes and Bench cases) were distributed as follows :—

Offences.	Discharged for want of prosecution or evidence.	Dismissed on the merits.	Convictions.	Committed to the Assizes.
Against the person	150	483	962	23
Prædial Larceny	3	32	166	...
Other offences against property	624	343	1,333	5
Offences against Revenue, Municipal, Road and other laws relating to the social economy of the Colony	339	503	11,733	...
Other offences	92	241	1,797	...
Total... ...	1,208	1,602	15,991	28

The total number of persons prosecuted before the District Courts during the last five years was distributed as follows :

Year.	Offences, against the person.	Prædial Larceny.	Other offences against property.	Other offences (including Revenue cases &c.)	Total.
1909	1,192	432	2,699	12,086	16,409
1910	1,323	206	1,935	12,035	15,499
1911	1,398	174	2,368	12,273	16,213
1912	1,486	397	2,022	14,152	17,957
1913	1,468	198	1,681	14,274	17,621

The convictions (including committal to the Assizes) before the District Courts for the same period were as follows :—

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Other offences.
1909	849	370	2,223	11,235
1910	1,003	175	1,493	11,449
1911	954	159	1,876	11,697
1912	1,073	280	1,645	13,587
1913	985	166	1,338	13,530

There were 19 cases in which 23 persons were brought before the Assizes in 1913. Of these 5 persons were acquitted and 1 found insane. The number of convictions was 16. No verdict was arrived at in one case.

The following table shows the number of persons convicted at the Assizes during the last five years and the offences for which they were convicted.

Year.	Murder, other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter and attempt at.	Attempt at murder.	Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Including attempts to commit the several offences.									
					Child Murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injury to property.	Larceny with aggravating circumstances.	Other offences against property.	Miscellaneous.
1909	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	30	3	12	1	...
1910	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	24	3	8	...	1
1911	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	49	2	...	...
1912	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	2	1	...
1913	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	7	...	6	...	...

In 1913 fifteen persons were tried at the Assizes for offences against the person as compared with 9 in 1912, the number convicted being 10 in 1913 and 7 in 1912. The number of persons tried at the Assizes for offences against property was 7 in 1913 of whom 6 were convicted, as against 5 in 1912 all of whom were convicted.

PRISONS AND REFORMATORY.

There was a decrease of 611 in the number of prisoners admitted to prison after conviction as compared with 1912, the figures being :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1912	4,213	172	4,385
1913	3,580	194	3,774

The number of prisoners under detention on the 31st. of December 1913 was 778 as compared with 717 on the corresponding date in the previous year. The daily average number under detention shows a decrease of 85.49 as compared with 1912, the daily average for that year being 808.80 as against 723.41 in 1913.

The deaths in the Prisons numbered 15 as compared with 25 in 1912. The daily average number under treatment in the Prison Hospitals was 26.91 in 1913 as compared with 36.54 in 1912 : the prevailing diseases were malaria and dysentery.

There were 12 escapes during the year as against 18 in 1912. Nine of the prisoners who escaped were recaptured.

The numbers admitted to the Reformatory in 1913 were 104 new boys, 49 ex-Reformatory boys and 29 untried, a total of 182 as against 218 in 1912. There was a decrease of 5.14 in the daily average as compared with 1912.

Of the 153 boys who were admitted on conviction, 122 entered the Institution with sentences of 6 months or less, of whom 68 were sentenced to a month or less, and 33 of these to sentences varying between 2 and 7 days.

No deaths occurred during the year. The general state of health of the boys was good. The admissions to hospital decreased by 39 as compared with the previous year.

The discipline among the boys was satisfactory ; there were 34 departmental offences as against 54 in 1912, the offences being committed by 26 boys. None of the offences were of a serious nature.

There were 5 escapes during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Island on the 31st. December 1913 is estimated in the Registrar General's Annual Report at 373,185, exclusive of the Dependencies (6,668).

Births and deaths.

There were 13,827 births registered during the year. The law allows a delay of 45 days for free registration and the number of births which were not registered owing to death intervening before registration was 1,326. The total number of births was accordingly 15,153, of which 7,700 were males and 7,453 females, giving a proportion of 40.8 infants born to 1,000 persons living. The deaths registered numbered 13,201, giving a proportion of 35.5 deaths to 1,000 persons living.

The birth rate amongst the general population was 38.2 per thousand as compared with 32.6 per thousand in 1912, and amongst the Indian population 41.9 per thousand as compared with 36.7 per thousand in 1912. The death rate amongst the general and Indian populations was 36.3 and 36.6 per thousand respectively, as against 39.6 and 38.4 per thousand respectively in the previous year.

Public Health.

Malaria though still causing more deaths than any other disease showed a decrease of 618, the number of deaths ascribed to fever being 4,001 in 1913 as against 4,619 in 1912.

Malarial fever accounted for 2,546 of the cases appearing on the hospital returns. The following are figures for the years 1909 to 1913:—

Year ...	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Cases ...	3,929	2,338	2,117	2,554	2,546

The case mortality was 1.84 o/o, against 1.4 o/o for 1912. There was a decrease in the number of cases of splenic hypertrophy, the figures for 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1913 being 886, 561, 380, 481 and 444 respectively.

The spleen census and treatment of school children with quinine has been continued and a number of anti-malarial works have been carried out under the supervision of the officers of the Sanitary Branch of the Medical and Health Department, notably on the Citron River and Rivière Sèche in Flacq and at Tamarin in Black River District.

Plague also was not so active as in 1912, the number of cases recorded during 1913 being 313 of which 261 ended fatally. The death rate, 83.4 o/o, for that disease, however, exceeded that of any previous year. In 1912 there were 656 cases with 541 deaths giving a death rate of 82.5 o/o.

The Colony was visited by a severe outbreak of small-pox during 1913. The exact date of the occurrence of the first case and the manner it was introduced were not discovered. There is every reason to believe from cured cases seen during the epidemic that the disease existed in Port Louis before the end of 1912. None were reported and no deaths were recorded as having been due to small-pox until March 14th., when several cases were discovered. Immediate steps were taken for the isolation and treatment of the sick, segregation and vaccination of contacts and disinfection of infected premises. The disease had gained such a start that it was impossible to prevent it from spreading to the country districts. Port Louis was practically free by the end of July but the disease did not finally disappear until the end of the year. It attacked 1,914 persons and caused 196 deaths.

General revaccination of the population was attempted and 232,353 persons were vaccinated, mainly with lymph prepared at the Laboratory at Réduit.

The epidemic of whooping cough which broke out in 1912 continued during the first three months of 1913 and then became endemic. The number of deaths ascribed to that disease in 1913 was 793.

Vaccination.

The number of children presented for vaccination at the public vaccine stations was 8,925 as compared with 10,931 in 1912. Of this number the Public Vaccinators certified 8,769 to have been successfully vaccinated ; 26 vaccinations were unsuccessful. The percentage of successful vaccination was 98.2%.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Meteorological observations are taken at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, and at nine second-order stations. The Observatory is about three miles from the West coast and is 179 feet above sea level. There are considerable variations both in temperature and humidity in the different parts of the island, the coast districts being hotter and drier than the higher altitudes in the interior. Hurricanes occur between December and April, which is the hottest season.

The mean rain-fall from 49 stations was 75.83 inches as compared with 96.34 inches in 1912 (69 stations) and an average of 79.55 inches. Heavy rains, relatively to the normal, fell in January and June. The rain-fall for the remaining months was below normal as compared with an average of 47.95 inches for the period 1875–1910, and the number of " rainy days " recorded was 197 as compared with an average of 204, a " rainy day " being one in which .005 inch or more of rain is measured.

The mean temperature of the air at the Observatory was 72°.4 as compared with an average of 73°.4, the highest temperature recorded being 92°.1 on the 6th. of December, and the lowest 52°.4 on the 26th. of July and 1st. August. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded at the Observatory between 1875 and 1913 were 94°.7 on the 23rd. of December 1900 and 49°.9 on the 8th. of August 1907.

Temperature was above normal in only one month (June, +.01 F.) the low temperatures which set in in October of 1912 continuing throughout the year. In December the curve showed no sign of recovery.

During the year 1913 there were thirteen cyclonic disturbances in the South Indian Ocean as follows :—

January 7 to 12
„ 16 to 19
„ 28 to 29
February 22 to 24
„ 25 to 28
„ 26 to March 1
February 28 to March 2
March 3 to 5
„ 4 to 8
April 1
„ 2
December 7
December 21

The exact tracks of these cyclones have not yet been determined.

IX.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The total number of Post Offices open in 1913 was 63 of which 57 were also Telegraph Offices. Forty-eight of the Post Offices are at Railway Stations and 15 are in districts at a certain distance from the Railway system.

The revenue for the year 1913 was Rs. 191,854 as compared with Rs. 218,993 in 1912. The expenditure was Rs. 178,992 in 1913 and Rs. 160,751 in 1912, leaving an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of Rs. 12,862 in 1913 and Rs. 58,242 in 1912.

The total estimated number of letters, post cards, newspapers and postal packets, exclusive of parcels, which passed through the Post Office in 1913 was approximately 3,872,292 as compared with 3,703,756 in 1912. Inland letters, post cards and newspapers showed increases, as did foreign letters and post cards, while there was a decrease in foreign newspapers. The number of reply coupons sold during the year was 355 and the number paid was 45. The number of inland parcels dealt with amounted to 290 as against 308 in 1912. The number of postal parcels received from and despatched abroad decreased by 612, the figures being 15,519 for 1913 and 14,907 for 1912. The number of parcels received from abroad increased by 90 and the duty collected amounted to Rs. 49,450.

The number of Inland money orders issued and paid was 48,056 and their value Rs. 487,424, being an increase of 5,596 in number and of Rs.66,498 in value as compared with the previous year. The number of money orders issued in Foreign countries was 8,457 and their value Rs. 261,011, being a increase of 228 in number and of Rs. 32,762 in value as compared with the previous year.

There was a decrease in the number of postal orders sold (18) and paid (53) but an increase in value *i.e.* Rs. 1,049.88 and paid Rs. 1,253.96.

There are 402 miles of Telegraph and 119 miles of Telephone wires under the charge of the Department. The Railway has not a telegraphic system of its own and the ordinary messages for the working of the traffic and for the administration of the Department are transmitted over the Post Office wires. The number of Railway messages and signals transmitted in 1913 was 182,105. The number of messages sent by the public increased by 222 in 1913 : out of a total number of 284,020 messages forwarded 44,675 were sent by the public as compared with 44,453 out of a total of 255,084 in 1912. The receipts for the messages sent by the public amount to Rs. 24,708 in which charges for porterage (Rs. 10,400) are included.

X.—RAILWAYS.

There is a single line of Railway of about 120 miles in length, exclusive of the Bois Chéri light Railway. The gauge is 4 feet inches.

The earnings from all sources for the year amounted to Rs. 2,914,020 as compared with Rs. 2,619,714 in 1912 being an increase of 11.24 o/o. Excluding Government traffic, the earnings amounted to Rs. 2,658,767 being Rs. 267,750 more than in 1912. The services performed for Government Departments for which no cash payments were made would at ordinary rates have cost Rs. 255,253, of which Rs. 203,787 for passenger traffic, Rs. 44,533 for goods traffic and Rs. 6,933 for parcels, representing 8.75 o/o of the total traffic as compared with 8.73 o/o in 1912.

The receipts for passenger traffic amounted to Rs. 1,248,701, being more than those of the preceding year by Rs. 58,448, and in excess of the mean of the last five years by Rs. 143,220.

The following table shows the tonnage of goods traffic, exclusive of Government traffic, carried in 1912 and 1913 :

	1912.	1913.	Increase.	Decrease.
	—	—	—	—
Sugar Canes ...	...144,627	154,737	10,110	...
Sugar	...143,229	189,692	46,463	...
General Merchandize	...179,141	188,383	9,242	...
Total	...466,997	532,812	65,815	...

The total tonnage carried was 65,815 tons or 14.09 o/o more in 1913 than in 1912. The aggregate earnings for goods traffic were Rs. 1,866,340 or 18.78 o/o above those of 1912. The earnings for sugar cane traffic were Rs. 115,158 or 74.42 cents of a rupee per ton carried, as compared with 74.23 cents in 1912. The earnings for sugar traffic were Rs. 731,369 or Rs. 3.85 per ton carried, as against Rs. 3.99 in 1912. The earnings for general merchandize were Rs. 519,813 or Rs. 3.03 per ton carried as against Rs. 2.63 in 1912. The total expenditure charged to capital account including all sums paid from general revenue, surplus balances or loans up to 31st. of December 1913 was Rs. 32,087,483 in which is included Rs. 3,521,565 advanced on account of the re-equipment of the Railways and which is eventually to be met from loan funds. The working expenses for 1913 amounted to Rs. 2,023,054. The ratio which working expenses bore to total earnings showed an increase of 4.78 o/o as compared with 1912, the figures being 69.42 o/o and 64.64 o/o respectively. The net earnings amounted to Rs. 890,966 or 2.77 o/o on the capital.

The Plaine Lauzun Deviation Line was all but finished at the end of the year. Rose Hill new station was completed. A new platform and passenger shed and an overbridge at Curepipe were begun and almost completed. A water tank was put up at Montagne Blanche. Cart weighbridges were supplied and erected at Rose Belle, Beau Bassin and Sebastopol Stations. The construction of new Goods Sheds at Tamarin and Medine Stations was begun.

All the bridges on the Moka-Flacq and Savanne lines were completed with the exception of the Deep River Bridge on the Moka-Flacq Line, which was begun but not finished before the end of the year.

Bois Chéri.

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from Rivière du Poste Station on the Savanne Branch of the Midland Line to Mexico. The length of the line is 10 miles. The total goods traffic carried in 1913 amounted to 18,726 tons, of which 15,507 tons were sugar cane as against a total traffic of 10,894 tons and 6,792 tons of sugar cane in 1912. The actual working expenses for 1913 were Rs. 15,578, the earnings Rs. 10,834 and the work done for Government Departments was valued at Rs. 2,755. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 12,544, Rs. 5,840 and Rs. 2,821.

XI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The more important works undertaken by the Public Works Department during the year were in connection with the enlargement of the Royal College, which was completed, and of the Station Agronomique buildings for the accommodation of the Department of Agriculture, the reconstruction of road bridges, the Mare-aux-Vacoas water and the Port Louis drainage works.

Bridges.

The Molino bridge—three spans of 32 feet, 30 feet above river bed, requiring two high abutments and two piers in substantial masonry—begun the year before, was completed. The erection of a new bridge was started at Rivière des Anguilles, a foot bridge 90 foot span has been erected over Black River in the district of the same name, for the benefit of pedestrians and cyclists who are unable to cross the river in times of flood. Seven other bridges of less importance have been completed—one in Plaines Wilhems and the remainder in Grand Port.

Roads.

Considerable improvement has been effected with the Steam Roller received, the whole of the Main Road through the town of Curepipe has been remetalled and rolled and good work of this description will be extended gradually.

Prisons.

The Port Louis Prisons have been largely improved by removing a block of buildings (which intercepted air and light) and modifying the existing arrangement for sick prisoners, officers, &c. At Beau Bassin, large additions have been effected in the shape of new workshops, well lighted and ventilated, a bakery, quarters for the two warders in charge, and two more stores.

Department of Agriculture.

The buildings of the Station Agronomique have been extended the available accommodation having been practically duplicated, the quarters formerly occupied by the Superintendent of the Bacteriological Laboratory and allotted to the Director of Agriculture have been enlarged, the main house by one room, the servants' quarters also by one room, and a garage has been built ; the quarters of the other Officers of the Station Agronomique have been overhauled, repaired and painted throughout. Additional buildings such as an insectary are being completed, furniture required by the Director of Agriculture has been supplied, and two nursery sheds for the Pamplemousses Gardens are in course of completion.

Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.

The reservoir at Mare-aux-Vacoas, where the average annual rainfall is 137 inches, has a catchment area of about 5 square miles. The top water level is 1,840 feet above the mean sea level and the reservoir has a maximum capacity of 570 millions of gallons. The water flows from the Reservoir for 4,900 feet in an open channel and for a further distance of 7,700 feet is taken in a 16″ cast iron pipe to the filtering establishment at " La Marie, " which is 1,645 feet above sea-level.

At the filtering establishment there is a depositing reservoir with a capacity of 1,500,000 gallons and a covered service reservoir with a capacity of 500,000 gallons. Owing to the water being at times heavily charged with organic matter the " Anderson process " for the purification of water was installed and concrete partitions were erected in the depositing reservoir to improve the settlement of solids. Originally there were only 4 filter beds with a superficial area of 6,720 square feet, but 5 additional filter beds have since been constructed with a superficial area of 18,000 square feet and extra aerating trays have been added. These additional works and the increased filtration enable two filters to be always left exposed to sun and air and with a slower process of filtration.

The daily consumption of water exceeds 1,600,000 gallons and with the exception of the supply to the town of Curepipe, the water flows by gravitation to the lower districts. The supply for Curepipe is pumped by means of hydraulic rams to two reservoirs standing 368 feet above the filtering establishment, the motor being driven by water power from the 16″ supply main. The increase in the population of Curepipe has necessitated additions to the pumping plant and the reconstruction of the reservoirs. A masonry building was erected at the filter beds for the pumping machinery and a second 16″ cast-iron pipe has been laid to supply the motive power. An additional set of hydraulic motors and pumps have been erected and work satisfactorily. It is expected that the concrete covered channel which is to replace the open conduit from the reservoir to the filter beds will be completed in 1915. An additional service reservoir is in course of construction at Curepipe.

Port Louis Drainage Works.

The Port Louis Drainage Works were begun in 1895, the sewers being designed on the separate system and the surface drainage being carried in the street gutters to the various streams which flow into the harbour. The town is divided for drainage purposes into four districts, three of which drain by gravitation sewers into separate collecting wells which are connected by means of syphon pipes to the pumping station near Caudan Basin. From there, the sewage is pumped through cast iron pipes for 7,000 feet to the sea outfall at the mouth of Grand River North West and is discharged in 10 feet of water at low tide, a thousand feet from the shore. The total length of sewers laid is 23.70 miles and 1090 properties have been connected. The amount expended on construction works in districts 2, 3 and 4 is Rs. 890,746 and on house services Rs. 562,567.

XII.—FORESTS.

The area of forests, mountain and river reserves and Curatelle lands under the care of the Forest Department was 84,964 acres, of which about 68,602 acres were Crown Lands, 10,122 acres Mountain Reserves, 6,000 acres River Reserves and 240 acres Vacant Estates.

Forest Utilization.

The improvement fellings in the Grand Bassin Forest were continued, yielding about 2,069 cubic feet of timber at Coutanceau; 469,000 shingles and 27,000 railway keys were also manufactured from the off-fall of trees. For the supply of fuel to public establishments 3,997 cords of firewood were felled in Crown Lands. Thinnings in forest plantations (chiefly Pines and Eucalyptus) yielded a revenue of Rs. 4,657, and clear-cuttings on Pas Géométriques (chiefly Casuarina) Rs. 11,158. The lessees replanted the areas cleared.

Forests Plantations.

About 224 acres were artificially restocked with 318,850 plants in Crown Lands, chiefly in the gathering grounds of important rivers. This should be added to about 2,559 acres replanted during the eleven previous years. The species propagated included Natte, Colophane, Olive, Benjoin, For, Juniper, Cryptomeria japonica, Eucalypts, Mahogany, Auraucarias and Terminalia.

Nurseries.

The Botanical Gardens at Pamplemousses and Curepipe and the Réduit grounds having been handed over to the Department of Agriculture, nurseries were started by the Forests Department for the raising of plants for sale to the public or for restocking the Crown Forests. The most important of the new nurseries is at Bras d'Eau, Flacq.

XIII.—DEPENDENCIES.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small Islands situated between 5° and 19° 50′ South Latitude and 51° and 72° 30 East Longitude, of which the nearest is 230 miles, and the most remote about 1,200 miles distant from Mauritius.

Rodrigues, the largest and most important, is administered by a resident Magistrate, has an area of 40 square miles and had at the Census of 1911 a population of 4,829 of whom 2,523 were males and 2,306 females. The total population showed as compared with 1901 an increase of 1,667.

The increase was almost entirely in the general population which numbered 4,667, or 1,567 more than in 1901. The Indo-Mauritian population numbered 102, other Indians 36 and Chinese 24. The male agricultural population has increased considerably in the last 10 years and development is noticeable in the trade of the island. The Customs return show that 92 cattle were sent to Mauritius in 1913 as against 40 in 1912. In 1913, 932 pigs value Rs. 14,542 were sent to Mauritius as against 1,246 value Rs. 19,725 in 1912, and 4,216 goats and sheep value Rs. 24,518 as against 3,682 value Rs. 13,789 in 1912. 389 kilos of salted fish were exported during 1913. The exports of tobacco shewed a decrease of 19,748 kilos when compared with those of the previous year, when 24,748 kilos were exported.

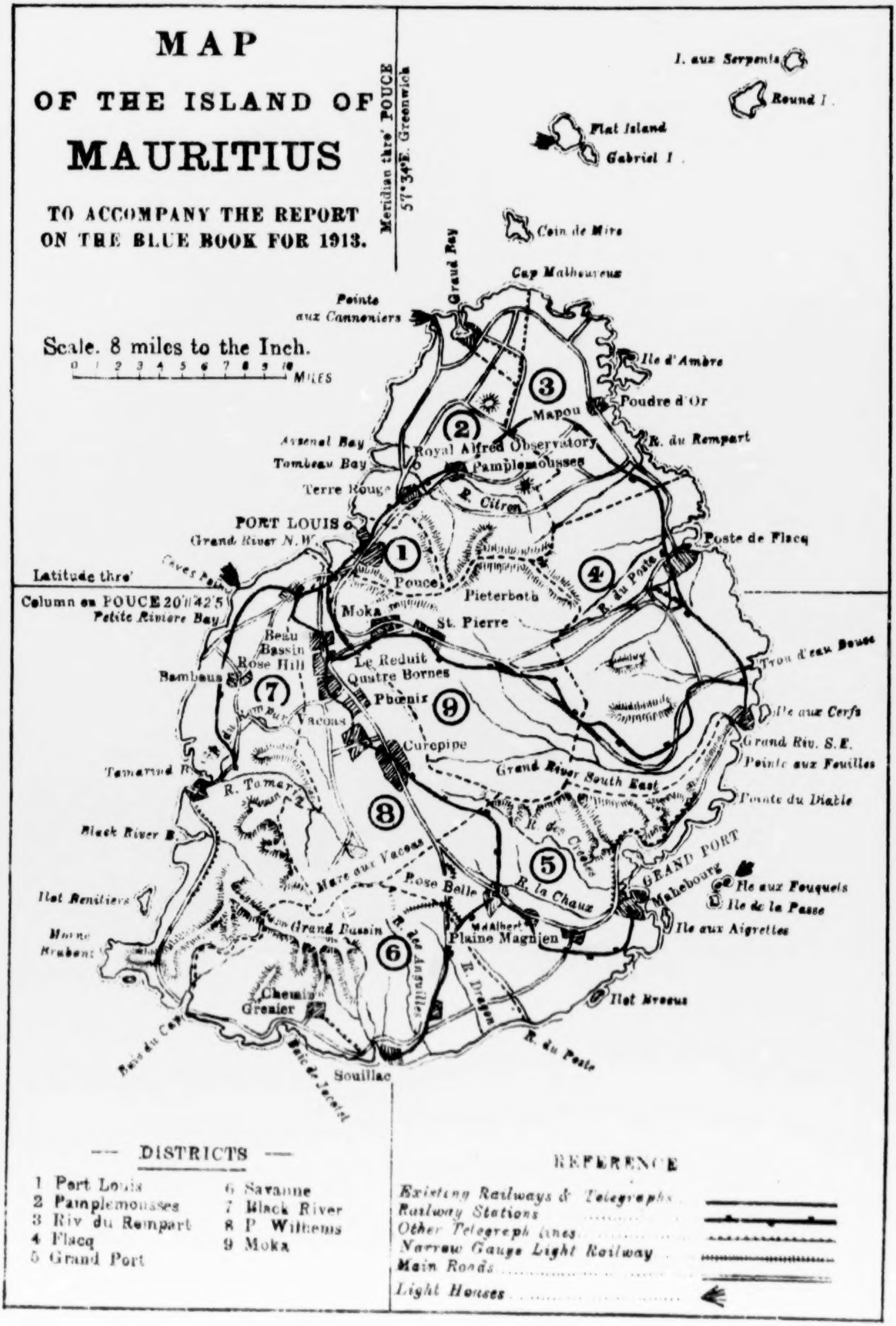
At the Rodrigues branch of the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th. of June 1913 a sum of Rs. 16,710 to the credit of 63 depositors,as compared with Rs. 22,198 and 55 depositors on the corresponding date of 1912.

Most of the Islands in the Lesser Dependencies have been conceded or sold with the exception of a few Islands in the St. Brandon Group and two islands in the Diego Garcia Group, Tromelin Island, and one near the great Chagos Bank, which are leased. The islands are administered by two Magistrates who are resident in Mauritius and pay regular visits to the Dependencies. The chief exports from the Dependencies are coconut oil, coconuts, guano and fish (dried and salted).

H. HENNIKER HEATON,

September, 1914.

Acting Colonial Secretary.



MAP
OF THE ISLAND OF
MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT
ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1913.

Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°34'E. Greenwich
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42.5"
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Canonniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Poste de Flacq
R. du Poste
Pouce
Pieterboth
Moka
St. Pierre
Petite Riviere Bay
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Bambous
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Phœnix
Vacoas
Curepipe
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Grand River South East
Pointe du Diable
Tamarind B.
R. Tamarin
Black River B.
R. des Creoles
Mare aux Vacoas
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
GRAND PORT
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ile aux Aigrettes
Ilot Benitiers
Morne Brabant
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
Mt Albert
Plaine Magnien
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
R. du Poste
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 875.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 826.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

February, 1916.

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REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1914.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year 1913–14 amounted to Rs. 11,142,611, being Rs. 872,161 above the estimate and Rs. 697,518 above the average for the five years immediately preceding.

The following is a comparative statement showing the actual revenue from normal sources collected during the financial years 1912–13 and 1913–14 :

Head of Revenue.	1912–13.	1913–14.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Customs	4,024,768	4,202,476	177,708	...
2. Harbour	224,615	208,883	...	15,732
3. Licenses, Excise, &c. ...	2,753,694	2,789,440	35,746	...
4. Fees of Court, &c.... ...	340,121	369,873	29,752	...
5. Post and Telegraphs ...	224,360	228,765	4,405	...
6. Railways	2,480,554	2,691,430	210,876	...
7. Rent	69,368	74,170	4,802	...
8. Interest	865,241	536,900	...	328,341
9. Miscellaneous	52,139	40,071	...	12,068
	11,034,860	11,142,008	463,289	356,141
10. Land Sales...	781	603	...	178
Total	11,035,641	11,142,611	463,289	356,319
Net increase of normal revenue	...	...	106,970	...

The revenue of 1912–13 amounted to Rs. 11,035,641 and exceeded that of any previous year. The revenue of 1913–14 showed a still further increase of Rs. 106,970 notwithstanding a decrease of Rs. 328,341 in the collections under "Interest" due to the repayment of the mechanical transport loan having been completed.

The sources which principally contributed to the total increase in revenue over the previous year were: Customs, Rs. 177,708; Licenses, Excise, Rs. 35,746; Fees of Court, Rs. 29,752; Railways, Rs. 210,876. Import and Export duties yielded Rs. 81,023 and Rs. 96,686 more respectively than in the previous year. The receipts from the main lines of Railway showed increases of

Rs. 53,631 in passenger traffic and Rs. 186,154 in goods traffic. The total receipts of the Railways reached Rs. 2,691,430, which is the highest amount encashed in any one year.

As has already been stated, the decrease in revenue under the head of "Interest" was due to the completion, previous to the 30th. of June, 1913, of the repayment of the Mechanical Transport Loan (1903), with the exception of the sum of Rs. 13,811, which is shown as collected in the financial year under review.

There was on the 30th. of June 1913 a surplus balance of Rs. 3,693,944. The revenue for the year 1913–14 exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 926,141 bringing up the surplus balance at the 30th. of June 1914 to Rs. 4,620,085. This surplus after deducting Rs. 3,689,173 advanced for the re-equipment of the Railway and Rs. 90,719 for Irrigation Works was reduced to Rs. 840,193. The accounts for the first half of the current financial year show that the revenue amounted to Rs. 6,244,962 and the expenditure to Rs. 7,002,896. It should however be observed that there was credited to Revenue the sum of approximately Rs. 500,000 in respect of the unallocated stores of the Railway Department at the opening of the financial year and that there is included in the total expenditure the sum of Rs. 1,500,000 which had been expended on the re-equipment of the Railway and which has been finally charged to surplus balances. The amount which has been advanced for Railway Re-equipment and which is eventually to be met from Loan Funds has been correspondingly reduced and stood at Rs. 2,306,807 on 31st. December 1914. At the same date the advances made for Irrigation Works amounted to Rs. 417,204 leaving a surplus balance of Rs. 1,138,140.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1913–14 amounted to Rs. 10,216,470 or Rs. 223,116 above the estimate and Rs. 470,761 above the average for the preceding 5 years. The following are the principal heads under which the expenditure exceeded the original estimate: Public Works Extraordinary, Rs. 182,148; Medical and Health, Rs. 156,917; Miscellaneous, Rs. 43,213; Pensions, Rs. 24,920; Military Expenditure, Rs. 24,278; Agriculture, Rs. 23,671. The items which chiefly contributed to the excess under Public Works Extraordinary were the acquisition of a Rum Warehouse and alterations to the building, the purchase of a site for and the construction of part of the buildings of the Victoria Hospital at Candos, and the carrying out, more rapidly than had originally been intended, of the improvement of the shed accommodation at the Customs Department. The heavy expenditure of the Medical Department was due chiefly to an epidemic of small pox. The expenditure was less than the estimate by appreciable amounts under Immigration, Rs. 63,700 ; Police, Rs. 61,846 ; Law and Justice, Rs. 35,033 ; Prisons, Rs. 27,166.

The following is a comparative statement of the Expenditure for the years 1912–13 and 1913–14 :—

HEAD OF SERVICE.	1912-13.	1913-14.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	1,266,963	950,166	......	316,797
2. Pensions	693,293	735,756	42,463	......
3. Governor and Legislature.	69,065	67,079	......	1,986
4. Colonial Secretariat ...	90,595	89,312	......	1,283
5. Treasury	181,326	171,686	......	9,640
6. Audit	50,471	44,270	......	6,201
7. Customs	108,150	116,097	7,947	......
8. Port and Marine	133,656	138,370	......	286
9. Observatory	15,593	15,741	148	......
10 Public Library and Museum	8,086	9,874	1,788	......
11. Registrar General... ...	64,632	59,015	......	,17
12. Archives	7,381	12,120	4,739	......
13. Law and Justice	381,528	369,455	......	12,073
14. Ecclesiastical	152,636	152,636	......	......
15. Police	527,107	492,938	......	34,169
16. Prisons and Reformatory...	160,857	146,388	......	14,469
17. Medical and Health and Quarantine	966,174	1,075,883	109,709	......
18. Education	594,414	625,419	31,005	......
19. Immigration and Poor Relief	283,638	259,102	......	24,536
20. Dependencies	57,638	57,538	......	100
21. Military Expenditure ...	467,504	492,060	24,556	......
22. Miscellaneous	665,850	612,559	......	53,291
23. Post and Telegraphs ...	171,118	167,374	......	3,744
24 Forests	178,229	177,382	......	847
25. Agriculture	35,012	103,539	68,527	......
26. Railways	1,889,347	1,778,515	......	110,832
27. Public Works Department.	115,576	110,508	......	5,068
28. Public Works Recurrent...	498,003	517,970	19,967	......
29. Public Works Extraordinary	391,835	662,843	271,008	......
30. Loan Commission... ...	9,928	9,875	......	53
Total	10,235,605	10,216,470	581,857	600,992
Net Decrease	......	......	......	19,135

The total expenditure for the year 1913–14 was less than the expenditure for the year 1912–13 by Rs. 19,135. The principal heads under which the expenditure in 1913–14 was greater were : Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary, Rs. 290,975 ; Medical and Health, Rs. 109,706 ; Agriculture, Rs. 68,527 ; Pensions, Rs. 42,463 ; Education, Rs. 31,005 ; Military Contribution, Rs. 24,556. The extraordinary works on which the largest expenditure was incurred were : Anti-Malarial Works of a permanent character, Rs. 148,239 ; Royal College, Rs. 83,177 ; Reconstruction of Bridges, Rs. 68,815 ; Rum Warehouse, Rs. 63,887 ; Drainage of Port Louis, Rs. 59,324 ; Victoria Hospital, Rs. 54,910 ; Improvement of Customs Shed accommodation and quays, Rs. 47,962 ; Renewal and relaying of moorings in Port Louis Harbour, Rs. 27,665.

The principal heads under which the expenditure in 1913–14 was less than in 1912–13 were : Public Debt, Rs. 316,797 ; Railways, Rs. 110,832 ; Miscellaneous, Rs. 53,291 ; Police, Rs. 34,169 ; Immigration and Poor Relief, 24,536.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on 30th. of June 1914 were Rs. 2,989,641 and the liabilities Rs. 2,149,448, the assets thus exceeding the liabilities by Rs. 840,193.

The assets included :	Rs.
Cash in hands of the Receiver General and sub-accountants	454,600
Investments at cost	688,200
Temporary investments at Bank rate—£78,000 at 1s. 4d.	1,170,000
Miscellaneous advances	544,677
Co-operative Credit Societies	37,550
Unallocated Stores Mauritius Railways ...	94,615

The liabilities were :—	
General Deposits	2,028,282
Government of India	88,378
Drafts and Remittances...	32,741
Loan Funds, unexpended	47

There was brought to account up to the 30th June 1914 expenditure amounting to Rs. 3,689,173 on Railway re-equipment, and Rs. 90,719 on Irrigation Works.

Public Debt.

The total indebtedness of the Colony on the 30th. of June 1914 was £1,279,990 and the Sinking Funds amounted to £354,334, leaving a net debt of £925,656 as against £957,441 on 30th. June 1913, as compared with a debt of £1,147,409 and a revenue of £471,172 in 1894.

Under Ordinances No. 10 of 1876, No. 1 of 1879 and No. 2 of 1887, outstanding debentures are redeemed by annual drawings. Provision is made for the repayment of other loans by means of a sinking fund.

The Railway (Improvement) Loan Ordinance, 1910, authorizes the raising of a loan of £270,000 for the improvement and re-equipment of the Railways and the Irrigation Works Loan Ordinance, 1914, authorizes the raising of a loan of £100,000 to meet the cost of certain Irrigation Works. These loans have not yet been raised, and it is proposed to reduce the amount of the Railway Loan to £ 170,000, £100,000 of the expenditure already incurred on Railway re-equipment having been finally charged to the General Revenue and Surplus Balances of the Colony.

Currency and Banking.

The Currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :
  (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents.
  (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.
(2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver subdivisions.
(3) Mauritius Government notes of Rs 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

The average value of Currency notes in circulation during the year 1913–14 was Rs. 4,613,583 as compared with Rs. 5,030,250 in 1912–13. The average amount of specie held amounted to Rs. 2,075,333 as compared with Rs. 2,651,000 in 1912–13. The Investment and Depreciation Funds on 30th. June 1914 amounted to Rs. 2,538,250 and Rs. 386,602 respectively.

The Banks which do business in the Colony are the Bank of Mauritius Limited and the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Municipality of Port Louis for the five years 1910 to 1914 :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
—	—	—
	Rs.	Rs.
1910	523,494	504,058
1911	510,285	498,614
1912	515,504	509,944
1913	529,332	535,447
1914	501,790	468,769

The indebtedness of the Municipality up to the end of the year and the provision for payment are shown below :—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1915.
Conversion Loan... ...	£ 104,400	£ 2,500
Electric Lighting Loan ...	7,000	333
Municipality Loan, 1908	3,143	143
Municipality Loan, 1909	4,107	179
	£118,650	£ 3,155
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892...	Rs. 26,645	Rs. 8,536
Manure Factory and Night Soil Service Loan	4,000	2,000
Municipality Loan, 1903	8,000	2,000
	Rs. 38,645	Rs. 12,536

LOCAL BOARDS.

There are Boards of Commissioners for the towns of Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes, which are entrusted with the general improvement and conservancy of these towns. By Ordinance No. 4 of 1913, the Board of Curepipe has been entrusted with the powers and duties, sanitary control excepted, of the Health Department in respect of Slaughter Houses, Public Markets and Butchers' Shops.

The Board of Curepipe receives the amount of taxes on vehicles and animals collected in the town and of licenses paid by traders and others. The Board may also levy a tax not exceeding one per cent. on house property and a tax on every tenant of any house, building or property. The two other Boards receive the amount of the taxes paid on vehicles and animals in the towns and may also levy a similar tax on house property.

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure of the Boards for the past five financial years :—

Curepipe.

	1909–10.	1910–11.	1911–12.	1912–13.	1913–14.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	90,966	68,510	73,136	74,883	86,718
Expenditure ...	85,360	72,008	76,420	71,148	85,198

Bean Bassi[illegible]d Rose Hill.

	1909–10.	1910–11.	1911–12.	1912–13.	1913–14.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	35,804	36,996	34,811	37,959	36,732
Expenditure ...	34,639	36,651	36,507	37,921	36,708

Quatre Bornes

—	1909–10.	1910–11.	1911–12.	1912–13.	1913–14.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	12,513	12,748	13,374	13,216	12,659
Expenditure ...	12,615	11,096	11,720	14,152	12,519

Below will be found a statement of the debts of the Boards :—

Curepipe	Net amount of Debt	Rs. 37,500
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill ...	„	Rs. 1,100
Quatre Bornes	„	Nil

There is a District Board for each of the eight rural districts of the Island. To them is entrusted under Ordinance No. 9 of 1900 the maintenance of the branch roads.

They receive as revenue a contribution from Government equivalent to 10 % of the direct taxes collected in each district during the year and an addition of 10 % to the direct taxes to be levied in each year in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and the Townships. The additional 10 % to be levied on the direct taxes may be increased to 25% subject to the approval of the Governor in Executive Council. The Government contribution amounted in 1913–14 to Rs. 12,085.

The powers of the District Boards were extended by Ordinance No. 35 of 1902 to include the construction, maintenance and management of water works. For this purpose they receive an annual contribution from Government, which in 1913–14 amounted to Rs. 76,000, and also the proceeds of water rates and of charges paid for water supplies.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

The Customs returns for the year shew the aggregate value of of Imports and Exports, excluding specie, for the year 1914 to be Rs. 95,199,269 or Rs. 27,042,860 above the figure for the previous year. This increase appears under Exports and is due to the rise in the value of sugar exported during the last half of the year 1914 as compared with the year 1913 and to the larger quantity available for export.

The aggregate value of Imports and Exports, excluding specie, for the years 1910 to 1914, was as follows :—

Year	Imports.	Exports.	Total
1910	Rs. 35,014,664	Rs. 36,528,536	Rs. 71,543,200
1911	37,440,332	40,414,328	77,854,660
1912	32,002,440	36,893,269	68,895,709
1913	35,864,703	32,291,706	68,156,409
1914	35,674,864	59,524,405	95,199,269

The value of Imports from, and Exports to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during the same years is shown below (specie is not included) :—

Year.	Imports from (Unit Rs. 1,000)			Exports to (Unit Rs. 1,000)		
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
1910	11,282	16,225	7,506	8,267	27,863	397
1911	11,995	18,130	7,313	13,397	22,170	4,846
1912	11,504	14,117	6,382	4,467	32,038	389
1913	12,149	15,599	8,117	5,955	24,886	1,450
1914	11,818	16,716	7,140	32,116	26,270	1,138

The following tables show the percentage of Imports from, and Exports to, the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during each of the last five years :—

Imports.

From	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
United Kingdom	32.2	32.1	36.0	33.9	33.1
British Possessions	46.4	48.4	44.1	43.5	46.9
Foreign Countries	21.4	19.5	19.9	22.6	20.0

Exports.

To	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
United Kingdom	22.6	33.1	12.2	18.4	54.0
British Possessions	76.3	54.9	86.8	77.1	44.1
Foreign Countries	1.1	12.0	1.0	4.5	1.9

There is a marked increase in the export trade with the United Kingdom, due to the purchase by His Majesty's Government of 161,000 tons of crystal sugar, of which 123,000 tons had been cleared up to the 31st December.

Owing to the war there is a falling off in the trade with Foreign Countries, there being reductions both under Imports and Exports. The value of the trade with India shows a rise as compared with the previous year, and the trade of the Colony with India and the United Kingdom represents more than 85 per cent. of the aggregate Export and Import trade of the Colony.

The Customs Revenue shows an increase of Rs. 84,000 as compared with 1913. The chief articles contributing to the Revenue from Imports in 1914 were :—

Tobacco and Cigars	Rs. 850,000
Grain (including rice, dholl, etc) ...	565,000
Cotton Manufactures	150,000
Wines	150,000
Oils	166,000
Spirits	130,000
Matches...	129,000

The export duty on sugar yielded Rs. 865,000.

Imports.

Specie to the value of Rs. 2,285,075 was imported in 1914 as compared with Rs. 395,538 in 1913. The value of the imports, exclusive of specie, in 1914 was practically the same as in the previous year.

The largest increases as compared with 1913 occur under the following heads :—

Corn, Grain &c., ...	Rs. 1,580,000
Bags and Pockets	785,000
Soap	125,000
Edible Oils......	100,000

The largest decreases occur under the following heads :—

Coal	Rs. 1,355,000
Manures and Fertilizers	675,000
Machinery for Local Industries ...	380,000
Haberdashery...	330,000
Hardware and Cutlery	200,000

The imports of rice, which is the chief article of food of the majority of the population, was 62,700 tons (metric), as compared with 63,600 tons in the previous year, the value of the importations being Rs. 10,013,000 in 1914 and Rs. 8,514,000 in 1913. India supplied most of the rice imported but the importations from Cochin China rose from 1,871 tons in 1913 to 6,442 tons in 1914; Madagascar supplied 1,658 tons and Hong-Kong 1,169 tons. 7,375 tons of wheat flour valued at Rs. 1,178,000 were imported as against 7,789 tons valued at Rs. 1,002,000 in 1913; Australia supplied 3,858 tons and India 3,516 tons. India supplied all the dholl imported, the importations being 4,087 tons valued at Rs. 627,000 in 1914 as against 5,219 tons valued at Rs 585,000 in 1913.

The importations of coal decreased from 61,090 to 58,933 tons, the United Kingdom continuing to be the principal source of supply. Natal supplied 10,590 tons.

There was a decrease of Rs. 380,000 in the value of imports of machinery for local industries and of Rs. 182,000 in machinery for mechanical transport.

The following tables give the value and country of origin of importations under the heads Machinery and Mechanical Transport for the years 1910 to 1914 :—

Machinery.

Country.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ..	1,028,122	1,125,953	667,535	1,078,799	735,029	4,635,438
France	29,716	428,267	121,746	58,799	33,135	671,663
Belgium	3,414	786	2,101	6,328	6,336	18,965
Germany	...	...	646	11,743	3,074	15,463
Other Countries ...	463	4,281	...	3,406	1,804	9,954
Total ...	1, 61,715	1,559,287	792,028	1,159,075	779,378	5,351,483

Mechanical Transport.

Country.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Germany	398,845	150,587	89,965	135,898	107,144	882,439
Belgium	140,277	72,232	53,043	116,098	149,236	530,886
United Kingdom..	106,909	29,338	17,472	221,096	34,829	409,644
France	927	...	...	62	...	989
Italy	...	...	...	148	...	148
Total ...	646,958	252,157	160,480	473,302	291,209	1,824,106

The value of machinery for local industries imported in 1914 was Rs. 779,878 and the imports during the last five years amounted to Rs. 5,351,483. Practically all the machinery comes from the

United Kingdom, the rolling stock for the light tramways being of foreign manufacture.

The use of motor cars and motor cycles has developed rapidly in the last few years. In 1907, 13 cars and 2 cycles were imported and in 1908, 6 cars and 3 cycles, while during the last 6 years 350 cars valued at Rs. 1,597,000 and 105 cycles valued at Rs. 77,000 have been imported. The number of motor cars imported in 1914 was 56 valued at Rs. 179,000, and of cycles 30 valued at Rs. 27,000.

The following table shows the principal countries which export goods to Mauritius and the value of the goods exported, exclusive of specie, in the years 1913 and 1914 :—

Country.	Exports to Mauritius.	
	1913.	1914.
British India	Rs. 13,463,000	Rs. 14,510,000
United Kingdom	12,149,000	11,818,000
France	3,444,000	2,230,000
Cochin China	293,000	987,000
Australia	608,000	956,000
Madagascar	996,358	892,000
United States	863,000	686,000
Belgium	593,000	500,000
Reunion	373,000	404,000
Sumatra	322,000	359,000
Cape Colony	789,000	335,000
Germany	431,000	309,000
Straits Settlements	178,000	289,000
Natal	159,000	242,000

The United Kingdom, British India or British Possessions are the largest suppliers of wearing apparel, bacon, gunny bags, beer, books, bran, chemicals for manures, cement, coal, confectionery, dholl, gram, oats, rice, flour, cotton, salt fish, ghee, hardware and cutlery, iron nails, wrought iron, boots and shoes, machinery for local industries, manure (bone), salt, soap, whisky, stationery, tea, tin, umbrellas (cotton), shooks, sleepers, timber, woollen goods.

Foreign countries are the main source of supply for oxen, butter, lard, clocks and watches, enamelled ware, glassware, haberdashery, jewellery, machinery for mechanical transport, matches, motor cars, petroleum, cigarette paper, perfumery, potatoes, brandy, wine, sulphur, tobacco (manufactured) and cigars, toys.

Exports.

The total value of the Exports, excluding specie but including charges, was in 1913 Rs. 32,291,706 and in 1914 Rs. 59,524,405.

The following table shows the value and the destination of the principal products of the Colony, other than sugar, which were exported in 1913 and 1914 :—

Product.	Year.	Exported to			Total.
		United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Aloe Fibre ...	1913	703,654	49,365	100,549	853,568
„ ..	1914	452,010	6,240	125,976	584,226
Copra ...	1913	12,900	...	16,200	29,100
„ ...	1914	141,390	...	...	141,390
Molasses ...	1913	4	61,298	8	61,310
„ ...	1914	...	112,665	...	112,665
Rum ...	1913	4,416	17,914	...	22,330
„ ...	1914	5,783	11,531	...	17,314

The following table shows the principal countries to which sugar was exported during the calendar years 1913 and 1914 :—

Country.	1913. Tons*.	1914. Tons*.
United Kingdom	31,170 ...	... 155,912
British India	127,620 ...	... 115,563
Cape Colony	14,387 ...	... 7,190
France	5,378 ...	... 3,107
Ceylon	629 ...	... 2,620
Australia	2,132 ...	... 1,525
Hong-Kong	3,293 ...	... 1,096

Out of 289,372 tons of sugar exported in 1914, the United Kingdom and British India purchased 271,475 tons.

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* Metric ton = 1,000 kilogrammes.

AGRICULTURE.

Sugar.

A total of 159,172 arpents was under cultivation in sugar-cane on December 31st. 1914, or an extension of 5,756 arpents over the area recorded for 1913. This increase is made up as follows :—

On Estates			+ 74 arpents.
By Planters	As " metayers " on Estates	+7,754 arpents	+5,682 arpents.
	Off Estates	−2,072 ,,	

The area under cultivation by estates has not varied to any extent, relatively large increases in some districts being set off by the " morcellement " of estates in others. The increase in area under sugar-cane is due to " planters " cultivations. Of the total area of 159,172 arpents under sugar-cane, planters cultivated 66,584 arpents of which 53,127 arpents were cultivated by small planters of Indian origin. The principal extensions in sugar-cane cultivation have taken place, as during the year 1913, in the districts of Pamplemousses, Grand Port and Rivière du Rempart.

The total output of the factories for the 1914–15 crop—year was 277,180 metric tons, of which 252,302 were exported up to the 31st. of May 1915. This is the largest crop the island has ever produced and with the high prices realised has placed the industry in a very sound financial condition.

The information in respect of the average selling price, gathered by the Statistical Division of the Department of Agriculture, shows that it will approximate Rs. 11.20 per 50 kilograms, giving to the crop a monetary value of Rs. 62,088,000.

The weight and monetary value of the crop for the last 5 years is shown below.

Years.	Total Produce Tons *	Monetary Value. (unit : Rs. 1,000,000)
—	—	—
1910–11	222,830	31.6
1911–12	169,550	32.9
1912–13	213,059	29.8
1913–14	249,703	34.7
1914–15	277,180	62.1 (estimated).

The high price realised for the 1914–15 crop was due to the war in Europe. Of this crop, over 161,000 tons were sold to His Majesty's Government, and the planters of the colony presented for the use of His Majesty's Army and Navy a free gift of 1,000 tons of high-grade vesou sugar.

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* Metric ton = 1,000 kilogrammes.

During 1914 some improvements were made in the machinery of factories. Two mills were added during the year, and the number of boilers added was five. "Secheries" or megass driers were decreased by three and economisers increased by seven. The number of decanters was increased by 164 and defecators reduced by 29. The number of crystallisers-in-motion was increased by 80, and 5 Weston-type centrifugals were installed.

Aloes.

The area returned as being under cultivation with " aloes " shows a considerable increase, particularly in the district of Flacq. The total area of cultivated and wild aloes however remains stationery. The fibre industry flourished up to the outbreak of war, when sales stopped and most factories closed down. At the end of 1914 enquiries for fibre began to be made, and gradually with a hardening of prices, the factories began operations again.

Vanilla.

The vanilla crop was about 1,500–1,600 kilos, but the war closed the markets and except for a few local sales no business was done.

Other Cultivations.

There has been a reduction in the cultivation of manioc, particularly in the district of Pamplemousses, while there has been an increase in the area under maize notably upon estates in Grand Port.

Live Stock.

The number of horned Stock upon estates was returned at 21,305, a reduction of 836 on the returns for 1913. Milch cows held by people residing upon estates numbered 3,282 against 4,096 in 1913, and it is presumed that, owing to the increased cost of living brought about by the war and to the increases in the prices of imported foodstuffs, the Indian residents on estates have been compelled to dispose of some of their animals. The numbers of pigs and goats held by residents upon estates were 4,856 and 7,718 respectively, against 6,981 and 8,220 for the year 1913.

Co-Operative Credit Societies

At the 30th. June 1914, fifteen societies, with unlimited liability, had been registered under the provisions of the Co-operative Credit Societies Ordinance (1913). The aggregate working capital of these Societies amounted to Rs. 125,676, of which a sum of Rs. 37,550 or less than 30 % was lent by the Government.

SHIPPING.

The following comparative tables show the number, tonnage and nationality of ships entered and cleared during the years 1913 and 1914.

Nationality.	1913.						1914.					
	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.		Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	121	302,240	25	7,380	146	309,620	125	309,744	32	12,505	157	322,249
French ...	41	98,422	...	...	41	98,422	34	83,649	...	...	34	83,649
Norwegian ...	4	238	...	...	4	238	5	7,958	...	...	5	7,958
Swedish ...	1	2,132	...	...	1	2,132	3	6,827	...	...	3	6,827
German ...	4	7,204	...	...	4	7,204	3	5,697	...	...	3	5,697
Danish ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5,629	...	...	2	5,629
Russian ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3,616	...	...	2	3,616
Spanish ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2,404	...	...	1	2,404
Dutch ...	1	3	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total entered ...	172	410,239	25	7,380	197	417,619	175	425,524	32	12,505	207	438,029
British ...	119	298,744	27	8,380	146	307,124	123	310,152	30	11,368	153	321,520
French ...	41	98,707	...	...	41	98,707	34	83,851	...	...	34	83,851
Norwegian ...	4	238	...	...	4	238	5	7,958	...	...	5	7,958
Swedish ...	1	2,132	...	...	1	2,132	3	6,265	...	...	3	6,265
German ...	4	7,204	...	...	4	7,204	3	5,697	...	...	3	5,697
Danish ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5,629	...	...	2	5,629
Russian ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	3,616	...	...	2	3,616
Spanish ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2,404	...	...	1	2,404
Dutch ...	1	3	...	...	1	3	...	...	..	...	..	...
Total cleared ...	170	407,028	27	8,380	197	415,408	173	425,572	30	11,368	203	436,940

These tables show that 207 vessels with a tonnage of 438,029 reported during the year against 197 with a tonnage of 417,619 in the previous year, giving a total increase of 10 in the number of vessels and of 20,410 in tonnage. Two hundred and three vessels with a tonnage of 436,940 cleared as against 197 with a tonnage of 415,408 in the previous year, showing an increase of 6 vessels and of 21,532 in tonnage.

The increase in the number reported is divided between those reporting with cargo and those reporting in ballast as follows :

Reported with cargo	+ 4	tonnage	−20,635
„ „ ballast	+ 6	„	+41,045
	10		20,410

The clearances show an increase of 6 vessels and of 21,532 in tonnage. Divided between vessels cleared with cargo and vessels cleared in ballast, the figures are as follows :

Cleared with cargo	+19	tonnage	+45,847
„ „ ballast...	−13	„	−24,315
	6		21,532

Distinguishing steam vessels from sailing vessels there has been an increase of 3 in the number reporting and of 15,285 in tonnage as compared with the previous year and an increase of 3 in the number cleared and of 18,544 in tonnage. The number of steamers reporting with cargo is 4 less than in the previous year with a decrease of 25,832 in tonnage and the number of steamers reporting with ballast is 7 more than in the previous year with an increase of 41,117 in tonnage. Twenty-one more steamers cleared with cargo than in the previous year with a corresponding increase of 46,165 in tonnage ; the number of steamers clearing in ballast was less by 18 with a corresponding decrease of 27,621 in tonnage.

The number of sailing vessels reporting with cargo was greater by 8 with a corresponding increase of 5,197 in tonnage. No sailing vessel reported with ballast during the year as against 1 with a tonnage of 72 in 1913. There was a decrease of 2 in the number of sailing vessels cleared with cargo with a corresponding decrease of 318 in tonnage ; the number of sailing vessels cleared in ballast was greater by 5 with a corresponding increase of 3,306 in tonnage.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Among the more important legislative measures of the year are the following :—

The Exportation of Plumage Birds Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 3), as amended by The Exportation of Plumage Birds (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914, (No. 34), prohibits the exportation of the plumage or skins of certain birds.

The Irrigation Works Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 4), as amended by The Irrigation Works (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914 (No. 33), provides for the execution of certain Irrigation works and traces out the procedure for the acquisition of the required lands and rights of aqueduct.

The Aerial Navigation Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 9), provides for the protection of the Public and the Colony against dangers arising from the navigation of aircraft. It is borrowed from the Aerial Navigation Acts, 1911, and 1913.

The Electric Lighting and Power (Amendment) Ordinance 1914 (*No.* 11), enacts the procedure for enabling the undertaker to fix poles, stays or struts on private property, in the event of the owner of the property refusing the required permission.

The Prevention of Injury to Telegraph Poles and Wires (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 12), gives similar powers to the Colonial Postmaster.

The Copyright Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 13), provides for the importation of copies under the Copyright Act, 1911, and for the penalties for dealing with infringing copies. It is borrowed from Section 14 of the aforesaid Act and from Section 11 of the Commonwealth of Australia Act No. 20 of 1912.

The Boards (Road Improvement) Amendment Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 14), simplifies the procedure traced out by Ordinance No. 16 of 1907 for the purchase of land required by the Boards of Townships, or by the District Boards.

The Customs (Naval and Military) Rebate Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 19), provides for the refund of Customs duty on goods purchased by the Naval or Military Authorities, or supplied by Contractors, for the public use of His Majesty's Sea or Land Forces in the Colony.

The Game Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 20), prohibits the taking or destroying of the eggs and nests of all birds except those of the bul-bul and of the sparrow ; and empowers the Governor to proclaim certain reserved areas in which the killing and taking of any bird will be prohibited at all times.

The Pilotage Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 23), which is borrowed from

Section 15 of the Pilotage Act, 1913, extends the liability of the owner or master of a vessel to cases of compulsory pilotage.

The Woods and Forests (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 24), abolishes the Woods and Forests Board as constituted by Ordinance No. 5 of 1901.

The Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 28), which is borrowed from the Trading with the Enemy Act, 1914, prohibits trading with the enemy ; it also provides for the issue of warrants of inspection and for the appointment of controllers to certain firms and companies.

The Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 32), reproduces the Bills of Exchange Act, 1882, with a few modifications necessitated by local circumstances.

The Civil Status (Christian Marriages) Amendment Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 35), validates the marriage celebrated by the Ministers of the several Christian churches in the Colony, and provides for the requisite formalities and for the registration of the Acts of Marriage.

The Council of the Bar Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 36), provides for the establishment and organisation of a Council of the Bar in the Colony.

The Curepipe (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 38), extends the powers and duties and increases the revenue of the Board of Curepipe.

The Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 41), exempts money order and postal order receipts from the stamp duty of 4 cents levied on all receipts under article 2 of Ordinance No. 41 of 1888.

The Forest Produce Protection Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 43), provides for the control of dealers in forest produce and for the repression of larceny of timber.

The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914 (*No.* 45), substitutes the finger print system as a means of identification for Immigrants in place of the photograph.

The Filiation Ordinance, 1914 (No. 46), allows the proof of paternal descent in certain specified cases. It is borrowed from the French law of the 16th. November 1912.

The Succession Duties (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914 (No. 47), increases the succession duties and provides for the better recovery thereof.

The Reformatory (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914 (No. 52), amends the law relative to Reformatory schools and to Juvenile offenders and abolishes short periods of detention in the Reformatory.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Schools.

The Primary Schools at the end of the year 1914 numbered 151 of which 60 were Government and 91 Aided Schools. Of the Aided Schools there were 67 Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 2 Mahomedan and 1 Hindoo. Two schools, one Roman Catholic and one Church of England, which had been working for some time in accordance with the Code, were placed on the list of Aided Schools during the year.

The number of Primary Schools, Government and Aided, and the number of pupils for the years 1910 to 1914 are shown in the following table :—

Year.	Government Schools.			Aided Schools.		
	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.	Number of of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.
1910	61	9,326	5,951	88	11,621	7,934
1911	60	9,421	6,030	88	11,589	7,972
1912	60	9,522	5,775	89	11,987	7,635
1913	60	9,223	5,693	89	11,735	7,717
1914	60	9,906	6,435	91	12,762	8,684

The average attendance in Government and Aided schools for the year was 15,119 with a roll of 22,668, showing an average attendance of 66.7 % of the number of pupils on the roll. There is a considerable increase in the number enrolled and the percentage of attendance as compared with the number on the roll has also risen. The numbers for 1913 were: On roll, 20,958; average attendance, 13,410; percentage attendance, 63.98. The average number in attendance for the year exceeded that for 1911, the highest recorded, by 8 %.

The increase in the number of Indian children attending the Primary schools is maintained, the figures being as follows :— 9,369 in 1914, 8,413 in 1913, 8,316 in 1912, 8,175 in 1911 and 7,462 in 1910.

Of the total number of pupils on the roll in the six standard classes 62 % passed the examination tests as compared with 64 % in 1913 and 56 % in 1912, while of the number of pupils who were presented for examination 64 % passed in 1914 as compared with 64 % in 1913 and 59 % in 1912.

The total expenditure for the year on the salaries of, and grants to, Teachers in Primary schools amounted to Rs. 319,245, of which Rs. 142,439 was expended on Government schools and Rs. 176,806 on Aided schools. The figures for 1913 were Rs. 296,118, Rs. 134,681 and Rs. 161,437, respectively. The cost to Government of a pupil in a Government school was Rs. 19.26 and in an Aided school Rs. 15.66, as compared with Rs. 19.70 and Rs. 15.39 in 1913.

There are open annually to pupils of Primary schools 6 scholarships and 6 exhibitions at the Royal College for which there is keen competition. The exhibitioners receive free tuition and the scholars free tuition and an allowance of Rs. 100 a year. There were 165 candidates in 1914 and 148 in 1913. Six candidates failed in the test examination and 31 scored the minimum number of marks. The number of candidates from Government schools was 100 and from Aided schools 65, as compared with 97 from Government and 51 from Aided schools in the previous year.

Elementary instruction in Hygiene and Malaria prevention has been given to the children in the Primary Schools. Hygiene was taken as a special subject of examination for grants in 14 Government and 4 Aided Schools. In these 631 children were presented for examination and 472 obtained certificates.

A course in Elementary Agricultural Science for Teachers was given at the Royal College and was attended by 35 Head Teachers of Government and Aided schools.

Secondary Education.

Secondary Education is provided by the Royal College, and associated schools. 409 candidates from 14 associated schools were presented for examination of whom 201 passed. There were in December 1914, 252 pupils at the Royal College, the average number for the year being 268. Of 252 pupils at the College in December, 96 did not pay fees.

The attendance at the associated schools was 505.

There were 34 candidates for the London Matriculation Examinations in 1914. Six out of the 31 candidates from the Royal College passed in the Second Division, one of the 3 others passed in the First Division.

There were 101 candidates for the Senior Cambridge Examination : 33 out of the 71 candidates from the Royal College and 3 of the 30 others passed. Out of 25 candidates from the Royal College for the Junior Cambridge Examination, 15 passed.

There are scholarships and exhibitions in nearly all the classes of the Royal College and there are two valuable scholarships to enable pupils of the College to continue their studies in Europe.

There are 10 girls' schools which are affiliated to the Royal College in connection with the scheme for the Higher Education of Girls. The number of candidates who were presented for examination was 400 of whom 202 obtained Honours Certificates and 33 Pass Certificates. Twenty-eight girls entered for the Senior Local Examination of whom 15 passed. Five entered for the Junior Division but none passed. The associated schools for Boys and the schools for the Higher Education of Girls have been placed under a common set of regulations and will be called Aided Secondary Schools.

Training of Teachers.

There are Government Training Schools for men and for women. There were 9 candidates from the Men's Training School for the second class teacher's certificate, of whom 3 passed. There were 4 candidates from the Women's Training School for the second class certificate and 2 for the third class; they all passed.

The following table shows the number of candidates for certificates and the number who passed during the year :—

Class of Certificate.	Candidates.			Successful.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Second ...	26	11	37	4	6	10
Third	45	24	69	6	5	11
Monitor's ...	112	114	226	8	8	16
Total ...	183	149	332	18	19	37

There are 672 certificated Teachers employed in Government and Aided schools, of whom 153 are Head Teachers, 162 Assistant Teachers and 357 Monitors.

Technical Education

There are 8 mechanical engineering apprenticeships for which there were 84 candidates in 1914 as against 110 in 1913. There are 2 horticultural apprenticeships for which there were 23 candidates as against 27 in 1913, and 2 engineering studentships for which there were 4 candidates as against 1 in 1913.

Needlework receives attention in girls' schools and the work of the pupils continues to show improvement. Thirty-three candidates entered for the needlework competition, to 4 of whom apprenticeships were awarded.

Manual work is taught in 1 Government and 5 Aided schools.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

There are 11 Hospitals, including 3 in connection with the Prisons and Reformatory, and there is also a Hospital Ward with 30 beds attached to the Lunatic Asylum. The total number of "cases" treated at all hospitals was 18,563 as compared with 16,280 in 1913. The number of "cases" treated at the dispensaries was 62,944.

Lunatic Asylum.

There is a Lunatic Asylum and a Lunatic Ward in connection with the Poorhouse of Barkly Asylum. There were 488 patients in the Asylum on the 31st. December 1914 as compared with 467 on the corresponding date of the previous year, and the daily average rose from 455.74 in 1913 to 470.45. The total number of certified lunatics in the Colony on the 31st. of December 1914, including patients out on probation and patients in the Lunatic Ward of Barkly Asylum, was 706, giving a proportion of 1 insane to 532 of population. There were 22 criminal lunatics of whom 19 were males and 3 females.

Poor Relief.

Barkly Asylum is the only institution under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioner at which paupers receive institutional relief.

The buildings of Barkly Asylum were originally acquired for the purpose of affording institutional relief to the poor. The hospital was later placed entirely under the control of the Medical Department and has come to be used as a general hospital for the district. Arrangements also exist at various religious institutions for the maintenance of aged and infirm paupers at fixed rates, and there is an asylum for pauper lepers in which patients are maintained at the public expense.

Exclusive of the number of patients treated free at the Public Hospitals and Dispensaries of the Colony, and at St. Lazare Leper

Asylum 1,252 paupers, as compared with 1,337 in 1913, received institutional relief during 1914 at the Barkly and Lunatic Asylums and different religious institutions.

2,343 paupers (561 males and 1,682 females) received outdoor relief (pecuniary), permanently or temporarily, during 1914, against 2,929 in 1913.

Savings Bank.

At the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th. June 1914 a sum of Rs. 3,237,874 to the credit of 29,409 depositors, as compared with Rs. 3,291,656 to the credit of 28,841 depositors on the 30th. June 1913. The investment funds amounted to Rs. 3,494,171. Interest is allowed at the rate of 3 %.

The following table shows the number of depositors who belonged to the General and Indian populations and the amount standing to their credit on the 30th. June 1914 :

	Number	Rs.
General Population	17,848	1,917,566
Indian Population	11,561	1,320,308

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The authorised strength of the Police on the 31st. of December 1914 was 1 Inspector General, 1 Deputy Inspector General, 5 Inspectors, 6 Sub Inspectors, 1 Staff Sergeant Major, 36 Sergeants, 49 Corporals, 496 Constables. Fifty-four men were enlisted in 1914 and the total number discharged was 122.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the Police in 1914 was 21,262 as against 24,350 in 1913.

They may be classified as follows :

Homicide	15
Other offences against the person	7,920
Prædial Larceny	210
Other offences against property	4,798
Other offences	8,319
	21,262

In connection with these offences 11,784 persons (including 409 persons arrested on suspicion) were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates. In 12,443 of the cases no person was charged.

The total number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts (District, Stipendiary and Bench of Magistrates) in 1914 was 22,136; of these the number prosecuted was 19,903 including persons tried before a Bench of Magistrates or committed to the Court of Assizes. The number discharged for want of prosecution by party complaining or for want of evidence was 2,233.

The cases prosecuted in the District Courts (including preliminary inquiries with a view to commitment to the Assizes and Bench cases) were distributed as follows :—

Offences	Discharged for want of prosecution or evidence.	Dismissed on the merits.	Convictions.	Committed to the Assizes.
Against the person	167	400	917	23
Prædial Larceny	5	24	127	...
Other offences against property	436	343	1,457	6
Offences against Revenue, Municipal, Road and other laws relating to the social economy of the Colony.	134	431	12,141	...
Other offences	39	80	1,405	...
Total	781	1,278	16,047	29

The total number of persons prosecuted before the District Courts during the last five years was distributed as follows :—

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial Larceny.	Other offences against property.	Other offences (including Revenue cases, &c.)	Total.
1910	1,323	206	1,935	12,035	15,499
1911	1,398	174	2,368	12,273	16,213
1912	1,486	297	2,022	14,152	17,957
1913	1,468	198	1,681	14,274	17,621
1914	1,340	151	1,806	14,057	17,354

The convictions (including committal to the Assizes) before the District Courts for the same period were as follows :—

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences against property.	Other Offences.
1910 ...	1,003	175	1,493	11,449
1911 ...	954	159	1,876	11,697
1912 ...	1,073	280	1,645	13,587
1913 ...	985	166	1,338	13,530
1914 ...	940	127	1,463	13,546

There were 24 cases in which 26 persons were charged at the Assizes in 1914. Of these 12 persons were acquitted and 13 were convicted. In one case a nolle prosequi was entered.

The following table shows the number of persons convicted at the Assizes during the last five years and the offences for which they were convicted.

Year.	Murder, other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter and attempt at.	Attempt at murder.	Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Including attempts to commit the several offences.									
					Child-Murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injury to property.	Larceny with aggravating circumstances.	Other offences against property.	Miscellaneous.
1910	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	24	3	8	...	1
1911	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	49	2	...	...
1912	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	2	1	...
1913	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	7	...	6	...	...
1914	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	..	1	...	...

In 1914 twenty-three persons were tried at the Assizes for offences against the person as compared with 15 in 1913, the number convicted being 12 in 1914 and 10 in 1913. The number of persons tried at the Assizes for offences against property was 3 in 1914 of whom 1 was convicted, as against 7 in 1913 of whom 6 were convicted.

Prisons and Reformatory.

There was a decrease of 198 in the number of prisoners admitted to prison after conviction as compared with 1913, the figures being:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1913	3,580	194	3,774
1914	3,454	122	3,576

The number of prisoners under detention on the 31st of December 1914 was 562 as compared with 778 on the corresponding date of the previous year. The daily average number under detention shows a decrease of 132.68 as compared with 1913, the daily average for the year being 590.73 as against 723.41 in 1913.

The deaths in the Prisons numbered 8 as compared with 15 in 1913. The daily average number under treatment in the Prison Hospitals was 22.21 in 1914 as compared with 26.91 in 1913: the prevailing diseases were malaria and dysentery.

There were 18 escapes during the year as against 12 in 1913. Fifteen of the prisoners who escaped were recaptured, and in addition to these 3 prisoners who had escaped previous to the 1st. of January 1914 were recaptured.

The numbers admitted to the Reformatory in 1914 were 74 new boys, 49 ex-Reformatory boys and 32 untried, a total of 155 as against 182 in 1913. There was an increase of 2.17 in the daily average as compared with 1913.

Of the 123 boys who were admitted on conviction, 74 entered the Institution with sentences of 6 months or less, of whom 36 were sentenced to a month or less, and 21 of these to sentences of 7 days or less.

No deaths occurred during the year. The general state of health of the boys was good. The admissions to hospital decreased by 66 as compared with the previous year.

The discipline among the boys was satisfactory; there were 24 departmental offences as against 34 in 1913, the offences being committed by 17 boys. None of the offences were of a serious nature.

There were 2 escapes during the year; both boys were recaptured on the day of their escape.

Short periods of sentence have been abolished by the Reformatory (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Island on the 31st. December 1914 is estimated in the Registrar General's Annual Report at 376,233, exclusive of the Dependencies (7,024).

Births and Deaths.

There were 14,024 births registered during the year. The law allows a delay of 45 days for free registration and the number of births which were not registered owing to death intervening before registration was 1,205. The total number of births was accordingly 15,229, of which 7,520 were males and 7,709 females, giving a proportion of 40.8 infants born to 1,000 persons living. The deaths registered numbered 12,134, giving a proportion of 32.5 deaths to 1,000 persons living.

The birth rate amongst the general population was 38 per thousand as compared with 38.2 per thousand in 1913, and amongst the Indian population 42 per thousand as compared with 41.9 per thousand in 1913. The death rate amongst the general and Indian populations was 30.4 and 33.4 per thousand respectively, as against 36.3 and 36.6 per thousand respectively in the previous year.

Public Health.

The general health conditions were not favourable during the year 1914. The number of patients treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries shows an increase over that recorded in 1913. From the returns of the Civil Status Officers the diseases that caused the largest number of deaths in 1914 were Malaria (3,914), Pneumonia (919), Tuberculosis (974) and Influenza (268), but it should be observed that a medical certificate is not required in all cases. The statistics from the public hospitals and dispensaries also shew that the rise in admissions was principally due to malaria and influenza, the admissions for those diseases being more numerous between March and August.

There were 125 cases of plague registered during 1914. This is the lowest number in any year since the outbreak of the disease; 111 cases were fatal giving a death rate of 88.8%. In 1913 there were 313 cases with 261 deaths, giving a death rate of 83.4%.

The number of cases of enteric fever increased from 172 in 1913 to 234 in 1914. The cases occurred principally in the districts of Plaines Wilhems, Port Louis and Moka.

Malaria.

Malaria still causes more deaths than any other disease.

The number of deaths ascribed to fever was 3,914, showing a decrease of 87 on that recorded in 1913; 2,925 cases were treated in the hospitals. The following are the figures for the years 1910 to 1914.

Year ...	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
Cases ...	2,338	2,117	2,554	2,546	2,925

The case mortality was 1.77 % as against 1.84 % in 1913. The death rate for the whole Colony per thousand of the population was 10.4.

The spleen census and the treatment of school-children with quinine, as well as the free house to house distribution of quinine, have been continued under the supervision of the Sanitary Wardens. The Sanitary Branch of the Department has carried out major anti-malarial works, at Rivière Sèche and Rivière Françoise in Flacq district and at Rivière Citron, Ville Bague Canal, Ruisseau Sec, Rivière Terre Rouge, Le Hochet, Tombeau River and the Cocoterie Marshes in Pamplemousses district.

Vaccination.

The number of children presented for vaccination at the public vaccine stations was 12,537 as compared with 8,925 in 1913. Of this number 12,460 were certified by the Public Vaccinators to have been successfully vaccinated; 54 vaccinations were unsuccessful and in the remaining 23 cases the result of the operation could not be ascertained. The percentage of successful vaccinations was 99.3 %.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Meteorological observations are taken at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, and at nine second-order stations. The Observatory is about three miles from the West coast and is 179 feet above sea level. There are considerable variations both in temperature and humidity in the different parts of the island, the coast districts being hotter and drier than the higher altitudes in the interior. Hurricanes occur between December and April, which is the hottest season.

The mean rain-fall from 49 stations was 59.10 inches as compared with 75.83 inches in 1913 and an average of 74.94 inches. Heavy rains, relatively to the normal, fell in February and June. The rain-fall at the Observatory was below normal, being 43.12 inches as compared with a normal of 47.95 inches, and the number of "rainy days" recorded was 215 as compared with an average of 204, a "rainy day" being one in which .005 inch or more of rain was measured.

62507

The mean temperature of the air at the Observatory was 73.°7 as compared with an average of 73°.4, the highest temperature recorded being 89.°9 on the 10th of March, and the lowest 54° on the 23rd of July. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded at the Observatory between 1875 and 1914 were 94°.7 on the 23rd of December 1900, and 49°.9 on the 8th of August 1907.

From February to September the temperature remained generally above normal, falling to below normal in the last quarter of the year.

During the year 1914, there were, so far as is yet known, nine cyclonic disturbances in the South Indian Ocean, as follows:—

January	14	to	16	March	1	to	3
„	21	to	26	„	16	to	24
„	24	to	26	April	1	to	6
„	27	to	30	May	12	to	26
February	20	to	29				

IX.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The total number of Post Offices open in 1914 was 63 of which 56 were also Telegraph Offices. In the course of the year 2 Post Offices were closed leaving at the end of the year 61 Offices of which 46 are at Railway stations and 15 are in districts at a certain distance from the Railway system.

The revenue for the year 1914 was Rs. 216,510 as compared with Rs. 233,154* in 1913. The expenditure was Rs 164,302 in 1914 and Rs. 171,331* in 1913, leaving an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 52,208 in 1914 and Rs. 61,824 in 1913.

The total number of letters, post cards, newspapers and postal packets, exclusive of parcels, which passed through the Post Office in 1914 was approximately 3,764,086 as compared with 3,645,281* in 1913. There is an increase of 168,419 in newspapers, commercial papers and samples and a decrease of 49,614 in the number of letters, postcards, &c., as compared with the previous year. The number of reply coupons sold during the year was 493 and the number paid was 61. The number of postal parcels received and despatched decreased from 15,319 in 1913 to 10,900 in 1914. The number received from abroad decreased by 3,478 and the duty collected amounted to Rs. 33,136.

The number of Inland money orders issued was 52,962 and their value Rs 569.595, being an increase of 4,906 in number and of Rs. 82,170 in value as compared with the previous year. The number issued on other countries was 6,753 and their value was

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*The figures given in the Report for 1913 have since been revised. The correct figures are now given.

Rs. 273,193 being a decrease of 1,704 in number and an increase of Rs. 26,460 in value as compared with the previous year.

There were decreases of 549 in the number of postal orders sold and of 613 in the number paid. The decreases in value being Rs. 5,503 and Rs. 5,364 respectively.

There are 405 miles of Telegraph and 109 miles of Telephone wires under the charge of the Department. The Railway has not a telegraphic system of its own and the ordinary messages for the working of the traffic and for the administration of the Department are transmitted over the Post Office wires. The number of Railway messages and signals transmitted in 1914 was 295,721. The number of messages sent by the public increased by 9,462 in 1914. Out of a total number of 415,423 messages forwarded, 54,137 were sent by the public as compared with 44,675 out of a total of 284,020 in 1913. The receipts for the messages sent by the public amounted to Rs. 24,024, in which charges for porterage (Rs. 10,187) are included.

X.—RAILWAYS.

There is a single line of Railway of about 120 miles in length exclusive of the Bois Cheri Light Railway. The gauge is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The earnings from all sources for the year amounted to Rs. 3,169,960 as compared with Rs. 2,914,020 in 1913 being an increase of 7.32 %. Excluding Government traffic the earnings amounted to Rs. 2,888,918 being Rs. 230,151 more than in 1913. The services performed for Government Departments for which no cash payments were made would at ordinary rates have cost Rs. 281,042 of which Rs. 237,306 for passenger traffic, Rs. 35,786 for goods traffic and Rs. 7,950 for parcels, representing 8.99 % of the total traffic as compared with 8.75 % in 1913.

The receipts for passenger traffic amounted to Rs. 1,273,350 being higher than those of the preceding year by Rs. 24,649 and in excess of the mean for the last five years by Rs. 109,919.

The following table shows the tonnage of goods traffic, exclusive of Government traffic, carried in 1913 and 1914 :

	1913 —	1914 —	Increase —
Sugar Canes...	154,737	176,682	21,945
Sugar	189,692	200,233	10,541
General Merchandize	171,068	183,112	12,044
Total... ...	515,497	560,027	44,530

The total tonnage carried was 575,112 tons or 7.94 °/₀ more in 1914 than in 1913. The aggregate earnings for goods traffic were Rs. 1,514,398 or 10.70 °/₀ above those of 1913. The earnings for sugar cane traffic were Rs. 164,227 or 92.30 cents of a rupee per ton carried, as compared with 74.42 cents in 1913. The earnings for sugar traffic were Rs. 807,746 or Rs. 4.03 per ton carried, as against Rs. 3.85 in 1913. The earnings for general merchandize were Rs. 539,599 or Rs. 2.72 per ton carried as against Rs. 2.76 in 1913. The total expenditure charged to capital account including all sums paid from general revenue, surplus balances or loans up to the 31st. of December 1914 was Rs. 32,374,697* in which is included Rs. 2,308,777 advanced on account of the re-equipment of the Railways and which is eventually to be met from loan funds. The working expenses for 1914 amounted to Rs. 1,898,819. The ratio which working expenses bore to total earnings showed a decrease of 9.52 °/₀ as compared with 1913, the figures being 69.42 °/₀ and 59.90 °/₀ respectively. This large decrease in the working expenses is due to the establishment of a Materials and Stores Account to which is charged in the first instance the cost of all purchases of stores. As the stores are issued to works the items of the Estimates, under which provision is made for the works, are debited with the cost of the stores. The net earnings amounted to Rs. 1,271,141 or 3.92 °/₀ on the capital.

A covered platform and an overbridge at Curepipe Station were completed. The passenger platform at Montagne Blanche was lengthened. A new station was built midway between Midlands and Fressanges to replace these two stations. A carriage shed was put up at Port Louis and the reconstruction of the Trou Fanfaron viaduct was commenced.

Bois Chéri

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from Rivière du Poste Station on the Savanne Branch of the Midland Line to Mexico. The length of the line is 10 miles. The total goods traffic carried in 1914 amounted to 19,593 tons of which 17,518 tons were sugar cane as against a total traffic of 18,726 tons and 15,507 tons of sugar cane in 1913. The actual working expenses for 1914 were Rs. 16,196, the earnings Rs. 12,664 and the work done for the Government Departments was valued at Rs. 818. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 15,578, Rs. 10,834 and Rs. 2,775.

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* Figure subject to revision by the Treasury.

XI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The more important works undertaken by the Public Works Department during the year were in connection with the construction of the Victoria Hospital, Irrigation works at La Ferme, improvement of the shed accommodation at the Customs, Port Louis drainage, the reconstruction of Road bridges and the Mare aux Vacoas water works.

Buildings.

The Victoria Hospital with accommodation for 242 beds is being constructed near Quatre Bornes; the buildings form a long rectangle with an inner court, the wards being placed at right angles to the long side of the inner court. An administration block, operating room, maternity ward and wards for private patients are also provided.

The Port Office coal shed has been converted into an export shed for sugar and another shed which will be used for the same purpose is being erected. A coal shed will be erected on another site.

Bridges and Roads.

The rebuilding of timber bridges in ferro-concrete has been continued during the year. The Rivière-des-Anguilles bridge has been completed and 12 other smaller bridges have been rebuilt. Progress has been made in the improvement of roads by the use of the steam roller.

Irrigation.

The sites for reservoirs at La Ferme and La Nicolière have been acquired. The dam for the La Ferme reservoir is in course of construction and the reservoir will be completed to its full capacity of 417 million cubic feet. Progress has been made with the diversion weirs on the rivers Sèche, Papayes and du Rempart, the feeder channels from the above weirs to La Ferme reservoir and the northern distribution channel from La Ferme reservoir.

Mare aux Vacoas Water Works.

The reservoir at Mare aux Vacoas, where the average annual rainfall is 137 inches, has a catchment area of about 5 square miles. The top water level is 1,832 feet above the mean sea level and the reservoir has a maximum capacity of 570 millions of gallons. The water flows from the reservoir for 4,900 feet in an open conduit, which is being replaced by a covered concrete channel, and for a further distance of 7,700 feet is taken in a 16″ cast iron pipe to the filtering establishment at "La Marie", which is 1,645 feet above sea level.

At the filtering establishment there is a depositing reservoir with a capacity of 1,500,000 gallons and a covered service reservoir with a capacity of 500,000 gallons. Owing to the water being at times heavily charged with organic matter the "Anderson process" for the purification of water was installed and concrete partitions were erected in the depositing reservoir to improve the settlement of solids. Originally there were only 4 filter beds with a superficial area of 6,720 square feet, but 5 additional filter beds have since been constructed with a superficial area of 18,000 square feet and extra aerating trays have been added.

The daily consumption of water exceeds 1,600,000 gallons and with the exception of the supply to the town of Curepipe, the water flows by gravitation to the lower districts. The supply for Curepipe is pumped by means of hydraulic rams to two reservoirs standing 368 feet above the filtering establishment, the motor being driven by water power from the 16" supply main. The increase in the population of Curepipe has necessitated additions to the pumping plant and to the service reservoirs. The concrete covered channel which is to replace the open conduit from the reservoir to the filter beds is nearing completion. An additional service reservoir at Curepipe has been constructed.

Port Louis Drainage Works.

The Port Louis Drainage Works were begun in 1895, the sewers being designed on the separate system and the surface drainage being carried in the street gutters to the various streams which flow into the harbour. The town is divided for drainage purposes into four districts, three of which drain by gravitation sewers into separate collecting wells which are connected by means of syphon pipes to the pumping station near Caudan Bassin. From there, the sewage is pumped through cast iron pipes for 7,000 feet to the sea outfall at the mouth of Grand River North West and is discharged in 10 feet of water at low tide, a thousand feet from the shore. The total length of sewers laid is 25.75 miles and 1,231 properties have been connected. The amount expended on construction works in districts 2, 3 and 4 is Rs. 974,467 and on house services Rs. 615,519.

XII.—FORESTS.

The area of forests, mountain and river reserves and Curatelle lands under the care of the Forest Department was about 84,964 arpents of which about 68,602 arpents were Crown Lands, 10,122 arpents Mountain Reserves, 6,000 arpents River Reserves and 240 arpents Vacant Estates.

Forest Utilization.

The improvement fellings in the Grand Bassin Forest were continued, yielding about 3,370 cubic feet of timber; 21,200 railway keys and 213,150 shingles were also manufactured from the off-fall of trees. Improvement fellings were also begun during the year in Crown Land Gouly fils and yielded 732 cubic feet of timber.

For the supply of fuel to public establishments 1,800 cords of firewood were felled in Crown lands.

Thinnings in forest plantations (chiefly Pines and Eucalyptus) yielded 1,760 cubic feet of timber, which was used for the construction of quarters for the Forestry staff and wood to the value of Rs. 1,708 which was sold.

The cuttings of casuarina on the Pas Geometriques yielded fuel valued at Rs. 21,960 which was sold to the lessees who replanted the areas cleared.

In Mountain Reserves three owners were allowed, subject to an obligation to replant, to remove the dead and dying trees.

Nurseries and Plantations.

About 433 arpents of Crown Lands were artificially restocked with 485,410 plants at a total cost of Rs. 27,096, as compared with an area of 224 arpents restocked with 318,850 plants in 1913. About Rs. 2,200 were realized from the sale of plants raised in nurseries.

XIII.—DEPENDENCIES.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands situated between 5° and 19° 50′ South Latitude and 51° and 72° 30′ East Longitude, of which the nearest is 230 miles, and the most remote about 1,200 miles distant from Mauritius.

Rodrigues, the largest and most important, is administered by a resident Magistrate, has an area of 40 square miles, and had at the census of 1911 a population of 4,829 of whom 2,523 were males and 2,306 females. The total population showed as compared with 1901 an increase of 1,667.

The increase was almost entirely in the general population which numbered 4,667, or 1,567 more than in 1901. The Indo-Mauritian population numbered 102, other Indians 36, and Chinese 24. The male agricultural population has increased considerably in the last 10 years and development is noticeable in the trade of the island. The Customs returns show that 72 cattle were sent to Mauritius in 1914 as against 92 in 1913. In 1914, 1,290 pigs, value Rs. 18,275, were sent to Mauritius as against 932, value Rs. 14,542, in 1913, and 3,249 goats and sheep, value Rs. 19,341 as against 4,216, value Rs. 24,518, in 1913. 238,505 kilos of salted fish were exported during 1914. The exports of tobacco shewed an increase of 21,420 kilos as compared with those of the previous year when 13,957 kilos were exported.

At the Rodrigues branch of the Government Savings Bank, there was on the 30th of June 1914 a sum of Rs. 25,775 to the credit of 70 depositors, as compared with Rs. 16,710 and 63 depositors on the corresponding date of 1913.

Most of the islands in the lesser Dependencies have been conceded or sold with the exception of a few Islands in the St. Brandon Group, and one near the great Chagos Bank, which are leased. The islands are administered by two Magistrates who are resident in Mauritius and pay regular visits to the Dependencies. The chief exports from the Dependencies are coconut oil, coconuts, copra, guano and fish (dried and salted).

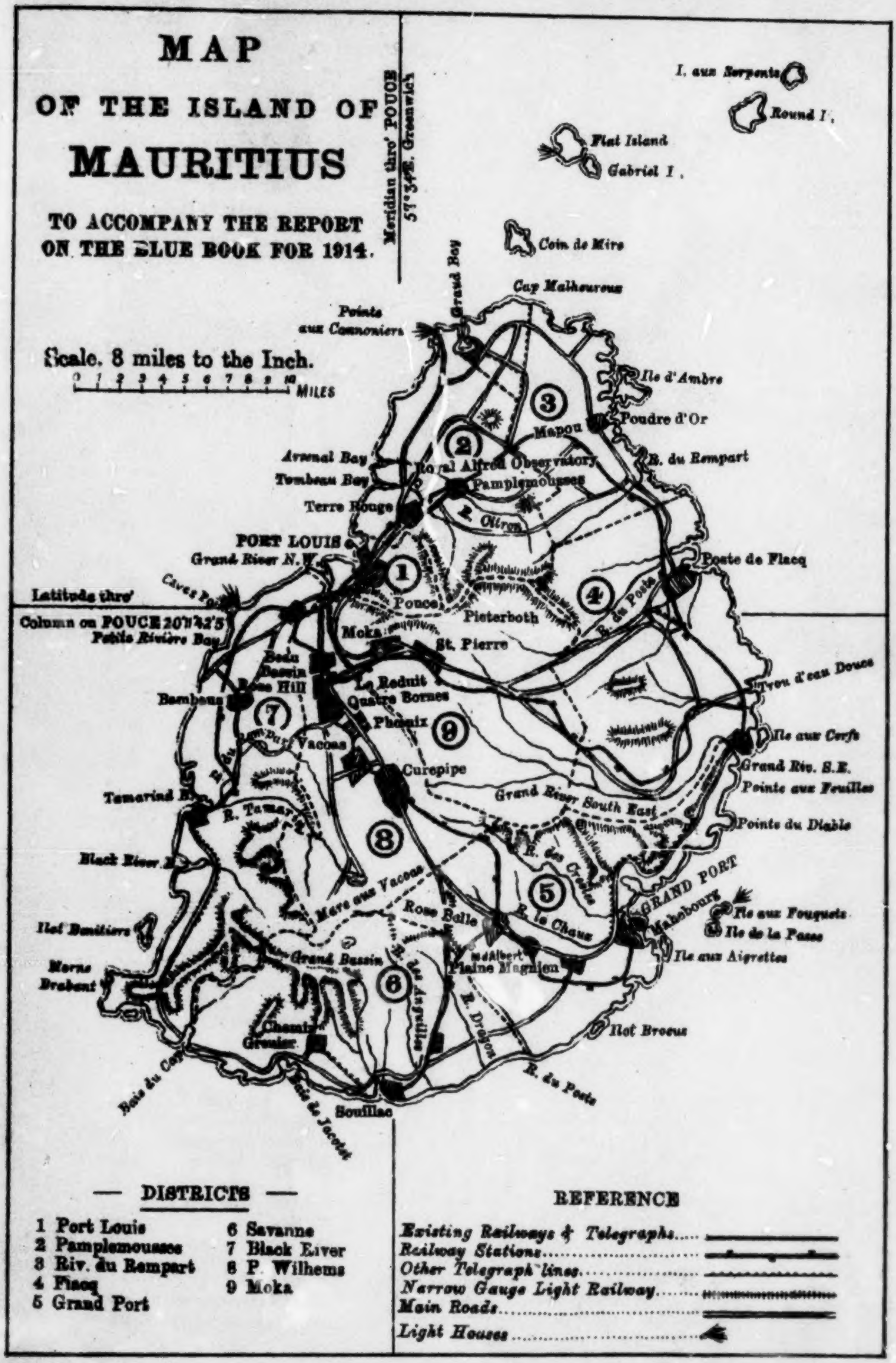
J. MIDDLETON,

June, 1915.

Colonial Secretary.

MAP
OF THE ISLAND OF
MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT
ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1914.


Meridian thro' POUCE
57°34'E. Greenwich
Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
L. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42"S
Petite Rivière Bay
Pouce
Pieterboth
Moka
St. Pierre
R. du Poste
Poste de Flacq
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Bambous
Phoenix
Vacoas
Curepipe
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Grand River South East
Pointe du Diable
Tamarind Bay
R. Tamarin
Black River B.
R. du Rempart
Mare aux Vacoas
Rose Belle
R. des Creoles
R. la Chaux
GRAND PORT
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ile aux Aigrettes
Ilot Benitiers
Grand Bassin
Mt. Albert
Plaine Magnien
Morne Brabant
R. des Anguilles
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chamarel
Grenier
R. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
— DISTRICTS —
1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka
REFERENCE
Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 916.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 875.)

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REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK
FOR 1915.

I.—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year 1914–15 amounted to Rs. 12,113,810, being Rs. 1,576,060 above the estimate and Rs. 1,205,087 above the average for the five years immediately preceding.

The following is a comparative statement showing the actual revenue from normal sources collected during the financial years 1913–14 and 1914–15 :

Head of Revenue.	1913–14.	1914–15.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Customs	4,202,476	4,183,290	...	19,186
2. Harbour	208,883	213,257	4,374	...
3. Licences, Excise, &c. ...	2,789,440	3,032,984	243,544	...
4. Fees of Court, &c. ...	369,873	378,660	8,787	...
5. Post and Telegraphs ...	228,765	215,337	...	13,428
6. Railways	2,691,430	3,457,395	765,965	...
7. Rent	74,170	86,474	12,304	...
8. Interest	536,900	512,747	...	24,153
9. Miscellaneous	40,071	32,048	...	8,023
	11,142,008	12,112,192	1,034,974	64,790
10. Land Sales...	603	1,618	1,015	...
Total	11,142,611	12,113,810	1,035,989	64,790
Net increase of normal revenue	...	...	971,199	...

The revenue of 1913-14 amounted to Rs. 11,142,611 and exceeded that of any previous year. The revenue of 1914-15 showed a still further increase of Rs. 971,199, notwithstanding decreases under various Heads, including "Customs", aggregating Rs. 64,790: Import Duties showed a decrease of Rs. 94,864, and Export Duties an increase of Rs. 75,678 as compared with the previous year.

The sources which principally contributed to the total increase in revenue over the previous year were: Licences, Excise &c., Rs. 243,544; and Railways, Rs. 765,965. The items which contributed to the increase under Licences, Excise &c., are: Excise Duties, Taxes, Fines and Registration and Mortgage Fees. The receipts from the main lines of Railways showed increases of Rs. 49,684 in passenger traffic and Rs. 202,237 in goods traffic. The total receipts of the Railways reached Rs. 3,457,395,—the highest amount encashed in any one year.

It should however be observed that there was credited to Revenue at the opening of the financial year, a sum of Rs. 530,187 in respect of the unallocated stores of the Railway Department.

There was on the 30th of June 1914 a surplus balance of Rs. 4,620,085. The revenue for the year 1914–15 fell short of the expenditure by Rs. 22,613, reducing the surplus balance on the 30th of June 1915 to Rs. 4,597,472. This surplus, after deducting Rs. 2,383,063 advanced for the re-equipment of the Railway and Rs. 801,975 for Irrigation Works, was reduced to Rs. 1,412,434. The accounts for the first half of the current financial year show that the revenue amounted to Rs. 6,302,672 and the expenditure to Rs. 5,750,324. The amount advanced for Railway re-equipment and to be eventually met from Loan Funds stood at Rs. 2,411,276 on 31st December 1915; At the same date the advances made for Irrigation Works amounted to Rs. 1,076,588, leaving a surplus balance of Rs. 1,661,956.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1914–15 amounted to Rs. 12,136,423 or Rs. 1,899,839 above the estimate and Rs. 2,271,712 above the average for the preceding 5 years. The following are the principal heads under which the expenditure exceeded the original estimate: Railways, Rs. 1,676,475; Military Expenditure, Rs. 198,940; Port and Marine, Rs. 75,211; Medical, Health and Quarantine, Rs. 43,127; and Miscellaneous, Rs. 47,265. The Items which chiefly contributed to the excess under Railways are: Re-equipment,—Rs. 1,500,000 in respect of which were finally charged to surplus balances,—rise in price of coal, and repairs to carriages and waggons. The increase under Military Expenditure is due to a Special Vote of Rs. 150,000 and to an increase of revenue on which Military contribution is payable. The expenditure was less than the estimate by appreciable amounts under Police, Rs. 68,081, and Immigration and Poor Relief, Rs. 34,668.

The following is a comparative statement of expenditure for the years 1913–14 and 1914–15 :—

Head of Service.	1913–14.	1914–15.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	950,166	938,064	......	12,102
2. Pensions	735,756	782,026	46,270	......
3. Governor and Legislature.	67,079	70,491	3,412	......
4. Colonial Secretariat ...	89,312	100,111	10,799	......
5. Treasury	171,686	156,340	......	15,346
6. Audit	44,270	43,966	......	304
7. Customs	116,097	107,255	...	8,842
8. Port and Marine	133,370	229,083	95,713	......
9. Observatory	15,741	16,554	813	......
10. Public Library and Museum	9,874	9,440	......	434
11. Registrar General... ...	71,135	66.577	......	4,558
12. Law and Justice	369,455	364,915	......	4,540
13. Ecclesiastical	152,636	152,636	......	......
14. Police	492,938	461,363	......	31.575
15. Prisons and Reformatory...	146,388	151,922	5,534	......
16. Medical and Health and Quarantine	1,075,883	977,640	......	98,243
17. Education	625,419	617,591	......	7,828
18. Immigration and Poor Relief	259,102	232,076	......	27,026
19. Dependencies	57,538	64,588	7,050	......
20. Military Expenditure ...	492,060	680,223	188,163	......
21. Miscellaneous	612,559	610,942	......	1.617
22. Post and Telegraphs ..	167,374	161.173	......	6,201
23. Forests	177,382	197,845	20,463	......
24. Agriculture	103,539	120,759	17,220	....
25. Railways	1,778,515	3,510,606	1,732,091	......
26. Public Works Department.	110,508	111,555	1,047	......
27. Public Works Recurrent...	517,970	592,508	74,538	......
28. Public Works Extraordinary	662,843	598,290	......	64,553
29. Loan Commission... ...	9,875	9,884	9	......
Total...	10,216,470	12,136,423	2,203,122	283,169
Net Increase	......	......	1,919,953	.....

The total expenditure for the year 1914–15 exceeded the expenditure for the year 1913–14 by Rs. 1,919,953.

The principal heads under which the expenditure in 1914–15 was greater were : Railways, Rs. 1,732,091 ; Military Expenditure, Rs. 188,163 ; Port and Marine, Rs. 95,713 ; Public Works Recurrent, Rs. 74,538 ; Pensions, Rs. 46,270 ; and Forests, Rs. 20,463. The expenditure of Rs. 76,074 on a twin-screw steam tug, which had not been provided for, is the main cause of increase under " Port and Marine ". The extraordinary works on which the largest expenditure was incurred were : anti-malarial works of a permanent character, Rs. 177,297 ; Victoria Hospital, Rs. 123,569 ; Reconstruction of bridges in ferro-concrete Rs. 161,156 ; Drainage of Port Louis, Rs. 60,009 ; and fitting of a block of Curepipe barracks for quarters for European Constables, Rs. 23,456.

The principal heads under which the expenditure in 1914–15 was less than in 1913–14 were : Medical, Health and Quarantine, Rs. 98,243 ; Public Works Extraordinary, Rs. 64,553 ; Police Rs. 31,575 ; Immigration and Poor Relief, Rs. 27,026.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on 30th. of June 1915 were Rs. 4,536,529 and the liabilities Rs. 3,124,096,—the assets thus exceeding the liabilities by Rs. 1,412,433.

The assets included :

	Rs.
Cash in hands of the Receiver General and sub-accountants	952,064
Investments at cost	696,860
Temporary investments at Bank rate—£14,000 at 1s. 4d.	210,000
Value of Land and Buildings taken from War Department	28,565
Miscellaneous advances	804,720
Co-operative Credit Societies	45,550
Unallocated Stores Mauritius Railways ...	757,140
Rice, Ghee, Sugar	1,041,631

The liabilities were :—

General Deposits	2,570,844
Government of India	196,144
Colonial Military Lands Fund	28,565
Drafts and Remittances...	328,496
Loan Funds : unexpended	47

There was brought to account, to the 30th June 1915, expenditure amounting to Rs. 2,383,063 on Railway re-equipment, and Rs. 801,975 on Irrigation Works.

Public Debt.

The total indebtedness of the Colony on the 30th of June 1915 was £1,274,390 and the Sinking Funds amounted to £366,073 leaving a net debt of £908,317 as against £925,656 on 30th. June 1914.

Under Ordinances No. 10 of 1876, and No. 10 of 1879 outstanding debentures are redeemed by annual drawings. Provision is the repayment of other loans by means of a sinking fund.

The Railway Improvements and Irrigation Works Loan Ordinance, 1915, authorizes the raising of a loan of £270,000 to meet the cost of improvements to the Railways and of certain Irrigation Works. Pending the raising of the loan, these works are being financed from surplus balances.

Currency and Banking.

The Currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :

(a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents.

(b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.

(2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.

(3) Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

The average value of Currency notes in circulation during the year 1914–15 was Rs. 5,280,250 as compared with Rs. 4,613,583 in 1913–14. The average amount of specie held was Rs. 2,742,000 as compared with Rs. 2,075,333 in 1913–14. The Investment and Depreciation Funds on 30th June 1915 amounted to Rs. 2,538,250 and Rs. 417,021 respectively.

The Banks which do business in the Colony are the Bank of Mauritius Limited and the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Municipality of Port Louis for the five years 1911 to 1915 :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1911	510,285	498,614
1912	515,504	509,944
1913	529,332	535,447
1914	501,790	468,769
1915	547,746	543,144

The indebtedness of the Municipality up to the end of the year and the provision for payment are shown below :—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1916.
Conversion Loan	£101,900	£2,500
Electric Lighting Loan ...	6,667	333
Municipality Loan, 1908	3,000	143
Municipality Loan, 1909	3,928	179
	£115,495	£3,155
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892...	Rs. 18,110	Rs. 8,536
Manure Factory and Night Soil Service Loan	2,000	2,000
Municipality Loan, 1903	6,000	2,000
	Rs. 26,110	Rs. 12,536

LOCAL BOARDS.

Boards of Commissioners exist for the towns of Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes, which are entrusted with the general improvement and conservancy or these towns.

The duties and powers of the Board of Curepipe in regard to sanitation, anti-malarial works and other local services have recently been extended. Similar extensions applying to Beau Bassin and Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes have not yet been made operative.

The Board of Curepipe is also entrusted with the powers and duties,—sanitary control excepted,—of the Health Department in respect of slaughter houses, public markets and butchers shops. The other township Boards will be given similar powers and duties on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

The Board of Curepipe receives the value of the taxes collected on vehicles and animals in the town, and of licences paid by traders and others. The Board may also levy a tax not exceeding one per cent on house property and a tax of not more than six per cent on every tenant of any house, building or property ; and is entitled to all fines resulting from contraventions prosecuted by the Board, together with such contributions from the Treasury as may be annually voted by the Council of Government.

The Board is also authorised to levy a tax of five per cent on the premiums of all fire insurance policies in respect of property in Curepipe, the proceeds of which shall be applied in aid of the Fire Engine Establishment of the Board.

The two other Boards receive the amount of the taxes paid on vehicles and animals in the towns and such contributions from the Treasury as may be annually voted by the Council of Government. They may also levy a tax on house property of not less than one per cent ; and, when the enactments extending their powers and duties are brought into operation, the Boards will be empowered to levy a tanants tax similar to that levied in Curepipe, and will also be entitled to fines resulting from contraventions prosecuted by those bodies, and to a tax on fire insurance policies similar to that levied in Curepipe, with the same object.

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure of the Boards for the past five financial years :—

Curepipe.

	1910–11.	1911–12.	1912–13.	1913–14.	1914–15.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	68,510	73,136	74,883	86,718	80,707
Expenditure ...	72,008	76,420	71,148	85,198	83,665

Beau Bassin and Rose Hill.

	1910–11.	1911–12.	1912–13.	1913–14.	1914–15.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	36,996	34,811	37,959	36,732	39,663
Expenditure ...	36,651	36,507	37,921	36,708	38,320

Quatre Bornes.

	1910–11.	1911–12.	1912–13.	1913–14.	1914–15.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue ...	12,748	13,374	13,216	12,659	16,156
Expenditure ...	11,096	11,720	14,152	12,519	15,767

The following is a statement of the debt of the Boards :—

Curepipe	Net amount of Debt	Rs. 65,000
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill ...	,,	Nil.
Quatre Bornes	,,	Nil.

There is a District Board for each of the eight rural districts of the Island to which is entrusted the maintenance of the branch roads under Ordinance No. 9 of 1900.

These Boards receive as revenue a contribution from Government equivalent to 10% of the direct taxes collected in each district during the year and an addition of 10% to the direct taxes to be levied in each year in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and the Townships. The additional 10% to be levied on the direct taxes may be increased to 25 % subject to the approval of the Governor in Executive Council. The Government contribution amounted in 1914–15 to Rs. 12,276.

The powers of the District Boards were extended by Ordinance No. 35 of 1902 to include the construction, maintenance and management of water works. For this purpose they receive an annual contribution from Government, which in 1914–15 amounted to Rs. 79,000, and also the proceeds of water rates and of charges paid for water supplies.

The District and Township Boards are empowered to acquire any lands as well as any building erected thereon for the public benefit, subject to a right of appeal before the Executive Council.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

The Customs returns for the year shew the aggregate value of Imports and Exports, excluding specie, for the year 1915 to be Rs. 97,697,762 or Rs. 2,495,493 above the figure for the previous year. This increase appears under "Imports" and is due to the rise in the value of articles imported as compared with the year 1914.

The aggregate value of Imports and Exports, excluding specie, for the years 1911 to 1915, was as follows :—

Year	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
—	—	—	—
1911 ...	Rs. 37,440,332 ...	Rs. 40,414,328 ...	Rs. 77,854,660
1912 ...	32,002,440 ...	36,893,269	68,895,709
1913 ...	35,864,703 ...	32,291,706	68,156,409
1914 ...	35,674,864 ...	59,524,405	95,199,269
1915 ...	41,682,251 ...	56,015,511	97,697,762

The value of Imports from, and Exports to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during the same year is shown below (specie is not included) : —

Year.	Imports from (Unit Rs. 1,000)			Export to (Unit Rs 1,000)		
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
1911	11,995	18,130	7,313	13,397	22,170	4,846
1912	11,504	14,117	6,382	4,467	32,038	389
1913	12,149	15,599	8,117	5,955	24,886	1,450
1914	11,819	16,716	7,140	32,116	26,270	1,138
1915	13,851	19,131	8,700	35,636	16,449	3,931

The following tables show the percentage of Imports from, and Exports to, the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during each of the last five years :—

Imports.

From	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
United Kingdom	32.1	35.9	33.0	31.5	29.4
British Possessions	48.4	43.8	42.4	49.8	52.5
Foreign Countries	19.5	20.4	24.6	19.2	18.1

Exports.

To	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
United Kingdom	33.1	12.0	17.7	53.6	63.4
British Possessions	54.9	86.2	76.9	44.3	29.3
Foreign Countries	12.0	1.8	5.4	2.2	7.3

The Imports from India, including specie, show a considerable rise as compared with the previous year, whilst the Exports to that country show a marked decrease when similarly compared. The aggregate value of the trade with India, shows a decrease when compared with 1914. The trade of the Colony with India and the United Kingdom represents nearly 80 per cent. of the aggregate Export and Import trade of the Colony.

The Customs Revenue shows an increase of Rs. 235,000 as compared with 1914. The chief articles contributing to the Revenue from Imports in 1915 were :—

Tobacco and Cigars	Rs. 886,000
Grain (including rice, dholl, etc) ...	563,000
Cotton Manufactures	236,000
Oils	209,000
Wines	167,000
Matches	113,000

The export duty on sugar yielded Rs. 676,000.

Imports.

Specie of the value of Rs. 6,381,374 was imported in 1915 as compared with Rs. 2,285,075 in 1914. The value of the imports, exclusive of specie, in 1915 shows a considerable increase over the previous year.

The largest increases as compared with 1914 occur under the following heads :—

Yarns and Textile Fabrics	Rs. 2,012,000
Machinery	1,802,000
Food and Drink (exclusive of Meat)	1,248,000
Chemicals, Drugs, Dyes and Colours	833,000
Iron, Steel and Manufactures thereof.	556,009
Tobacco (including Gandia and Opium)	547,000
Coals, Coke and Patent Fuel ...	367,000
Oils, Fat and Gums...	303,000

The principal decrease occurs under Hardware and Cutlery Rs.187,000.

The imports of rice, which is the chief article of food of the majority of the population, was 58,500 tons (metric), as compared with 62,700 tons in the previous year, the value of the importations being Rs. 9,590,000 in 1915 and Rs. 10,013,000 in 1914. India supplied most of the rice imported but less than in 1914. The importations from Madagascar rose from 1,658 tons to 7,308 tons and those from China and Singapore showed a marked increase over the previous year. 8,250 tons of wheat flour valued at Rs. 1,388,000 were imported as against 7,376 tons valued at Rs. 1,179,000 in 1914. India supplied 8,224 tons, and the United States 25 tons. India supplied all the dholl imported, the importations being 4,460 tons valued at Rs. 747,300 in 1915 as against 4,088 tons valued at Rs. 627,000 in 1914.

The importations of coal increased from 58,934 to 60,709 tons; the United Kingdom continued to be the principal source of supply. The importations from South Africa increased by over 9,000 tons.

There was an increase of Rs. 1,405,000 in the value of imports of machinery for local industries and of Rs. 226,000 in machinery for mechanical transport.

The following tables give the value and country of origin of importations under the heads Machinery and Mechanical Transport for the years 1911 to 1915:—

Machinery.

Country.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom.	1,125,953	667,535	1,078,799	735,029	2,174,309	5,781.625
France	428,267	121,746	58,799	33,135	6,562	648.509
Belgium	786	2,101	6,328	6,336	...	15.551
Germany ...	...	646	11,743	3,074	...	15,463
Other Countries...	4,281	...	3,406	1,804	3,416	12.907
Total ...	1.559,287	792,028	1,159,075	779,378	2,184,287	6,474.055

Mechanical Transport.

Country.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom.	29,338	17,472	221,096	34,829	140.691	443.426
Germany... ...	150,587	89,965	135,898	107,144	...	483,594
Belgium	72,232	53,043	116,098	149,236	...	390.609
France	...	...	62	...	...	62
Italy	...	...	148	...	...	148
United States of America ...	...	...	...	...	376,484	376,484
Total ...	252,157	160,480	473,302	291,209	517,175	1,694,323

The value of machinery for local industries imported in 1915 was Rs. 2,184,287 and the imports during the last five years amounted to Rs. 6,474,055. Practically all the machinery comes from the United Kingdom, except that for mechanical transport.

The use of motor cars and motor cycles has developed rapidly in the last few years. In 1907, 13 cars and 2 cycles were imported while the number of cars imported in 1915 was 214 valued at Rs. 601,540 and of cycles 15 valued at Rs. 10,700. The importation of cars from the United States of America increased more than six fold in 1915.

The following table shows the principal countries from which goods have been imported into Mauritius and the value of the goods so imported, exclusive of specie, in the years 1914 and 1915 :—

From	Imported into Mauritius : 1914.	1915.
British India	Rs. 14,510,000	Rs, 16,808,000
United Kingdom	11,819,000	13,851,000
France	2,230,000	2,431,000
Cochin China	987,000	...
Australia	957,000	388,000
Madagascar	892,000	1,913,000
United States	687,000	2,172,000
Belgium	500,000	28,000
Reunion	404,000	712,000
Sumatra	360,000	163.000
Cape Colony	335,000	517,000
Germany	310,000	37,000
Natal	243,000	623,000
Transvaal	66,000	187,000

The United Kingdom, British India and the British Possessions are the largest suppliers of wearing apparel, bacon, gunny bags, beer, books, bran, chemicals for manures, cement, coal, confectionery, dholl, gram, oats, rice, flour, cotton, salt fish, ghee, hardware and cutlery, iron nails, wrought, iron, enamelled ware, boots and shoes, machinery for local industries, manure (bone), salt, soap, whisky, stationery, tea, tin, umbrellas (cotton), shooks, sleepers, timber, woollen goods.

Foreign countries are the main source of supply for oxen, butter, lard, clocks and watches, glassware, haberdashery, jewellery, machinery for mechanical transport, matches, motor cars, petroleum, cigarette paper, perfumery, potatoes, brandy, wine, sulphur, tobacco (manufactured) and cigars, and toys.

Exports.

The total value of the Exports, excluding specie but including charges, was in 1914 Rs. 59,524,405, and in 1915, Rs. 56,015,511.

The following table shows the value and the destination of the principal products of the Colony, other than sugar, which were exported in 1914 and 1915 :—

Product.	Year.	Exported to			Total.
		United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Aloe Fibre ...	1914	452,010	6,240	125,976	584,226
„ ...	1915	411,361	90	64,675	476,126
Copra ...	1914	141,390	...	...	141,390
„ ...	1915	124,382	...	...	124,382
Molasses ...	1914	...	112,665	...	112,665
„ ...	1915	...	181	...	181
Rum ...	1914	5,783	11,531	...	17,314
„ ...	1915	21,735	13,153	40	34,928

The principal countries to which sugar was exported during the calendar years 1914 and 1915 are :—

	1914. Tons (metric).	1915. Tons (metric).
	—	—
United Kingdom	155,912	145,680
British India	115,564	65,575
Egypt	... ...	11,834

Of 225,439 tons of sugar exported in 1915, the United Kingdom and British India purchased 211,255 tons. The exportations of sugar to Cape Colony, Australia, Ceylon, Hong Kong and France decreased considerably.

AGRICULTURE.

Sugar.

A total of 163,409 arpents was under cultivation in sugar cane on December 31st 1915, or an extension of 4,237 arpents over the area recorded for 1914. This increase is made up as follows :—

On Estates			− 683 arpents
By Planters	As " metayers " on Estates	− 3,447 arpents	+ 4,920 ,,
	off Estates	+ 8,367 ,,	
			+ 4,237 arpents.

The area under cultivation by estates decreased somewhat. Of the total area of 163,409 arpents under sugar cane, small planters cultivated 71,504 arpents of which 57,223 arpents were cultivated by small planters of Indian origin. The principal extensions in sugar cane cultivation took place in the districts of Flacq, Moka and Plaines Wilhems.

The total output of the factories for the 1915–16 crop-year was 214,520 metric tons, of which 209,254 tons were exported up to the 30th June 1916.

The information in respect of the average selling price, gathered by the Statistical Division of the Department of Agriculture, shows that it will approximate Rs. 11.75 per 50 kilograms, giving to the crop a monetary value of Rs. 50,412,000.

The weight and monetary value of the crop for the last 5 years is shown below.

Years.	Total Produce Tons (metric)	Monetary Value. (unit : Rs. 1,000,000)	
1911–12	169,550	32.9	
1912–13	213,059	29.8	
1913–14	249,703	34.5	
1914–15	277,360	62.8	
1915–16	214,520	50.4	(estimated)

The high price realised for the 1915–16 crop is due to the war in Europe. Of this crop, over 143,000 tons were sold to His Majesty's Government, and the planters of the colony presented for the use of His Majesty's Army and Navy a free gift of about 225 tons of high-grade vesou sugar.

Attention was given during the year to improvements in machinery of factories. Some new mills were imported and considerable changes were effected in the " furnace " department with a view to reducing fuel consumption, and in the " evaporating " department. Crystallisers-in-motion were again increased in number, and a large number of Weston type centrifugals installed. Labour saving was effected by some factories in the " sugar-bagging " department. A trial with the Hoist system of mechanical unloader, having given satisfactory results, further orders have been placed for the coming crop.

The science of the sugar industry was organised during the year and provision made for the registration, on qualification at examinations, of agricultural chemists.

Implemental tillage made some progress during the year, but there is still room for considerable improvement in the direction of labour saving in the fields.

Aloes.

The fibre industry suffered considerably during 1915 owing to want of transport facilities. The prices, however ruled high ; and, in spite of reduced output and excessive cost of freight, profits were normal.

A new Corona decorticating machine was installed during the year, which produced fibre of apparently better quality than that produced hitherto.

Vanilla.

Vanilla yielded an average crop, but difficulty was experienced in disposing of the produce, on account of the closing of European markets as a result of the war.

Tea.

The tea crops were satisfactory and found a ready sale at good prices on the local market. Experiments with improved methods of cultivation resulted in very satisfactory increases of yields.

Other Cultivations.

" Pistache " showed an increased area under cultivation and the crop was readily sold at remunerative prices.

The maize cultivation was slightly extended, and the crop found a ready market.

Live Stock.

The number of horned stock upon estates was returned at 19,863, a reduction of 1,442 on the returns for 1914. Milch cows held by people residing upon estates numbered 2,708 against 3,282 in 1914. The numbers of pigs and goats held by residents upon estates were 3,761 and 6,053 respectively, against 4,856 and 7,718 for the year 1914.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

The Director of Agriculture was appointed Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies in 1915. The number of Societies with unlimited liability, registered under the provisions of the Co-operative Credit Societies Ordinance (1913) was, at the end of June 1915, 21.

The aggregate working capital of these Societies amounted to Rs. 198,468, of which a sum of Rs. 45,550 was lent by the Government.

SHIPPING.

The following comparative tables show the number, tonnage and nationality of ships entered and cleared during the years 1914 and 1915.

Nationality.	1914. Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.		1915. Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	125	309,744	32	12,505	157	322,249	109	260,765	39	15,007	148	275,772
French	34	83,649	...	...	34	83,649	31	88,135	...	...	31	88,135
Norwegian	5	7,958	...	...	5	7,958	8	4,662	1	1,515	9	6,177
Swedish	3	6,827	...	...	3	6,827	...	...	...	...	...	...
German	3	5,697	...	...	3	5,697	...	...	...	...	...	...
Danish	2	5,629	...	...	2	5,629	...	...	...	...	...	...
Russian	2	3,616	...	...	2	3,616	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish	1	2,404	...	...	1	2,404	...	...	...	...	...	...
American	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2,052	1	2,052
Japanese	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2,674	...	...	1	2,674
Total entered ...	175	425,524	32	12,505	207	438,029	149	356,236	41	18,574	190	374,810
British	123	310,152	30	11,368	153	321,520	115	275,911	35	12,846	150	288,757
French	34	83,851	...	...	34	83,851	31	88,118	...	...	31	88,118
Norwegian	5	7,958	...	...	5	7,958	7	4,133	2	2,630	9	6,763
Swedish	3	6,265	...	...	3	6,265	...	...	...	...	...	...
German	3	5,697	...	...	3	5,697	...	...	...	...	...	...
Danish	2	5,629	...	...	2	5,629	...	...	...	...	...	...
Russian	2	3,616	...	...	2	3,616	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish	1	2,404	...	...	1	2,404	...	...	...	...	...	...
American	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2,052	1	2,052
Japanese	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2,674	...	...	1	2,674
Total cleared ...	173	425,572	30	11,368	203	436,940	154	370,836	38	17,528	192	388,364

These tables show that 190 vessels with a tonnage of 374,810 reported during the year against 207 with a tonnage of 438,029 in the previous year, giving a total decrease of 17 in the number of vessels and of 63,219 in tonnage; 192 vessels with a tonnage of 388,364 cleared as against 203 with a tonnage of 436,940 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 11 vessels and of 48,576 in tonnage.

The decrease in the number reported is divided between those reporting with cargo and those reporting in ballast as follows:

Reported with cargo	− 9	tonnage	− 35,365
„ „ ballast	− 8	„	− 27,854
	− 17		− 63,219

The decrease in clearances is divided between vessels cleared with cargo and vessels cleared in ballast, as follows:

Cleared with cargo	− 8	tonnage	− 36,863
„ „ ballast	− 3	„	− 11,713
	− 11		− 48,576

Distinguishing steam vessels from sailing vessels there was a decrease of 26 in the number reporting and of 69,288 in tonnage as compared with the previous year and a decrease of 19 in the number cleared and of 54,736 in tonnage. The number of steamers reporting with cargo was 16 less than in the previous year with a corresponding decrease of 41,236 in tonnage; the number of steamers reporting with ballast was 10 less than in the previous year with a decrease of 28,052 in tonnage. The steamers cleared with cargo decreased by 14, in number and 37,747 in tonnage; the number of steamers clearing in ballast was less by 5 with a corresponding decrease of 16,989 in tonnage.

The number of sailing vessels reporting with cargo was less by 2 with an increase of 5,871 in tonnage. Two sailing vessels of a tonnage of 198 reported with ballast during the year as against none in 1914. There was an increase of 6 in the number of sailing vessels cleared with cargo with a corresponding increase of 884 in tonnage; the number of sailing vessels cleared in ballast was greater by 2, with a corresponding increase of 5,276 in tonnage.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Among the more important legislative measures of the year are the following:—

The Boards (Roads Improvement) Amendment Ordinance, 1915 (No. 3) empowers the Township Boards to acquire any lands as well as buildings erected thereon for the public benefit and gives a right of appeal before the Executive Council to the owner against any such proposed acquisition.

The District Court (*Criminal Jurisdiction*) *Amendment Ordinance* 1915 (No. 5) relieves accused parties of the necessity of paying two or more bail bonds in allowing the District Clerks in the absence of the Magistrate, to receive bail for the appearance of the parties charged before the Magistrate, not merely at the next sitting as required by article 133 of Ordinance No. 23 of 1888, but also at any subsequent sitting to which the case may be adjourned.

The Penal Code (*Amendment*) *Ordinance,* 1915 (No. 6) brings the counterfeiting of notes issued by the Government of any British Possession or of any Foreign Country, and the introduction, uttering or possession of such counterfeit notes within the scope of the Penal laws.

The Evidence (*Amendment*) *Ordinance,* 1915 (No. 7) dispenses with the sworn testimony of the Government Analyst and of the Government Veterinary Surgeon in cases where a certificate is sufficient.

The Rivers (*Amendment*) *Ordinance,* 1915 (No. 8) provides for the adoption of a uniform procedure in respect of the division of the waters of a river among the riparian owners.

The Trading with the Enemy (*Amendment*) *Ordinance,* 1915, (No. 9) and *The Trading with the Enemy* (*Amendment* : No. 2) *Ordinance* 1915 (No. 40) reproduce the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act (5 Geo. V Cap. 12) and the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act 1915 (5 & 6 Geo. V. Cap. 79), respectively, with certain modifications.

The Animal Diseases (*Consolidation*) *Ordinance,* 1915 (No. 11). consolidates all the local laws on animal diseases.

The Crown Lands (*Right of Way*) *Ordinance,* 1915 (No. 12) provides a speedier procedure for the acquisition of a right of way from Crown lands across private property.

The Buildings Consolidation Ordinance, 1915 (No. 13) consolidates and amends the laws relating to the construction, repair and alteration of buildings.

The Common Lodging Houses Ordinance, 1915 (No. 15) makes better provision for the control and supervision of Common Lodging Houses.

The Registration of Agricultural Chemists Ordinance, 1915 (No. 20) provides for the keeping at the Department of Agriculture of a register in which are to be entered the names of persons provided with Colonial or Foreign diplomas as Agricultural Chemists.

The Public Health (*Amendment*) *Ordinance,* 1915 (No. 21) allows the Director of the Health Department to prohibit by regulation the hawking of all articles of food without exception within a radius of one kilometre from public markets.

The Municipality (*Shares of Water*) *Amendment Ordinance.* 1915 (No. 22) allows the Municipality of Port Louis to grant shares of water, when available, to owners of property situate outside the Town and the District of Port Louis.

The Civil Status (*Amendment*) *Ordinance*, 1915 (No. 26) facilitates the publication of marriage of British subjects coming from the United Kingdom, so as to meet the requirements of section 1 (1) (b) of the Marriage of British Subjects (Facilities) Act, 1915,

The Vanilla Consolidation Ordinance, 1915 (No. 27) amends and consolidates the laws on Vanilla.

The Post Office and Telegraphs (*Amendment*) *Ordinance*, 1915 (No. 28) prevents the unlawful introduction of correspondence into the Colony and provides that letters to the Lesser Dependencies shall be carried free by all vessels conveying mails from Mauritius.

The Beau Bassin and Rose Hill (*Amendment*) *Ordinance*, 1915 (No. 29) and *The Quatre Bornes* (*Amendment*) *Ordinance*, 1915 (No. 30) extend the powers and duties of the Boards of Commissioners for Beau Bassin and Rose Hill and for Quatre Bornes, respectively.

The Evidence (*Amendment* : No. 2) *Ordinance*, 1915 (No. 31) enacts that the English law on Evidence, when applicable to the Colony, shall be the law in force for the time being instead of the law which was in force in 1881.

The Licences (*Consolidation*) *Ordinance*, 1915 (No. 32) consolidates and amends all the laws dealing with licences.

The Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (*Temporary Rules*) *Ordinance*, 1915 (No. 33) extends the powers of the Governor in Executive Council, during the continuance of the present hostilities to make Rules under the Patents (Amendment) and Designs, Ordinance 1913 and the Trade Marks (Amendment) Ordinances 1913. It is borrowed from the Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (Temporary Rules) Acts 1914 (4 & 5 Geo. V. Caps. 27 & 73).

The Official Secrets Ordinance, 1915 (No. 34) reproduces with the necessary terminology sections 1 to 9 and 12 of the Official Secrets Act 1911.

The Sales of Immoveable Properties (*Amendment*) *Ordinance* 1915 (No. 35) and *The Partition of Successions* (*Amendment*) *Ordinance*, 1915 (No. 36) reduce the cost of liquidation and partition of small successions, the assets of which do not exceed Rs. 3,000 and fix the fees payable to Sworn Land Surveyors, Attorneys-at-law and Notaries, respectively, appointed ex-officio for that purpose.

The Curepipe (*Amendment*) *Ordinance*, 1915 (No. 38) transfers to a special Board of Appeal the powers hitherto conferred on the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Curepipe for the hearing of appeals from the decisions of the valuer appointed for the assessment of real property situate within the town.

The Church Temporalities (*Amendment*) *Ordinance*, 1915 (No. 41) empowers the Bishop of Mauritius to veto the appointments of the Auditors and of the Seat Holders' Church Wardens in case the persons appointed are ineligible.

The Volunteer Force Ordinance, 1915 (No. 42) provides for the establishment and regulation of a Volunteer Force in Mauritius. It reproduces the provisions of the Ceylon Volunteer Ordinance No. 8 of 1910 with some modifications.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Schools.

The Primary Schools at the end of the year 1915 numbered 148 of which 57 were Government and 91 Aided Schools. Of the Aided Schools there were 67 Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 2 Mahomedan and 1 Hindoo. Three Government schools, were closed during the year.

The number of Primary Schools, Government and Aided, and the number of pupils for the years 1911 to 1915 are shown in the following table :—

Year.	Government Schools.			Aided Schools.		
	Number of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.	Number of of Schools.	Annual average number of pupils on roll.	Annual average number of pupils in attendance.
1911	60	9,421	6,030	88	11,589	7,972
1912	60	9,522	5,775	89	11,987	7,635
1913	60	9,223	5,693	89	11,735	7,717
1914	60	9,906	6,435	91	12,762	8,684
1915	57	10,127	6,433	91	12,638	8,451

The average attendance in Government and Aided schools for the year was 14,884 with a roll of 22,765, showing an average attendance of 65.4% of the number of pupils on the roll. There is a slight increase in the number enrolled but the percentage of attendance as compared with the number on the roll has fallen. The numbers for 1914 were : on roll, 22,668 ; average attendance, 15,119 ; percentage attendance, 66.7% .

The increase in the number of Indian children attending the Primary schools is maintained, the figures being as follows :— 10,677 in 1915, 9,369 in 1914, 8,413 in 1913, 8,316 in 1912, and 8,175 in 1911.

Of the total number of pupils on the roll in the six standard classes 56% passed the examination tests as compared with 62% in 1914 and 64% in 1913, while, of the number of pupils who were presented for examination, 57 % passed in 1915 as compared with 64% in 1914 and 64 % in 1913.

The total expenditure for the year on the salaries of, and grants to, Teachers in Primary schools amounted to Rs. 324,579 of which Rs. 141,667 was expended on Government schools and Rs. 182,912 on Aided schools. The figures for 1914 were Rs. 319,245, Rs. 142,439 and Rs. 176,806, respectively. The cost to Government of a pupil in a Government school was Rs. 18.75 and in an Aided School Rs. 16.09, as compared with Rs. 19.26 in 1913 and Rs. 15.66 in 1914.

There are open annually to pupils of Primary schools 6 scholarships and 6 exhibitions at the Royal College for which there is keen competition. The exhibitioners receive free tuition and the scholars free tuition and an allowance of Rs. 100 a year. There were 174 candidates in 1915 and 165 in 1914; 23 candidates failed in the test examination and 46 scored the minimum number of marks. The number of candidates from Government schools was 108 and from Aided schools 66, as compared with 100 from Government and 65 from Aided schools in the previous year.

Elementary instruction in Hygiene and Malaria prevention continued to be given to the children in the Primary Schools. Hygiene was taken as a special subject of examination for grants in 23 Government and 19 Aided Schools. In these 1,637 children were presented for examination and 857 obtained certificates.

A course in Elementary Agricultural Science for Teachers was given at the Royal College and was attended by 80 Head and Assistant Teachers of Government and Aided schools.

Secondary Education.

Secondary Education is provided by the Royal College and by 15 Aided Secondary Schools. New regulations provide for the number of classes in Secondary Schools in which public examinations are held has been reduced in the case of girls, from 7 to 4 and in the case of boys from 5 to 2; 119 candidates from girls schools were examined of whom 33 passed. In 1914 the figures were 400 and 235 respectively but on 7 classes instead of 4. In boys schools 123 candidates were examined in 2 classes and 32 passed, as compared with 409 in 5 classes in 1914 of whom 201 passed.

There were in December 1915, 206 pupils at the Royal College, the average number for the year being 229. Of 206 pupils at the College in December, 83 did not pay fees.

The attendance at the boys Secondary Schools was 737 and at the girls Secondary Schools 518.

One pupil of the Royal College passed the London Matriculation examination in 1915 in the Second Division.

There were 113 candidates for the Senior Cambridge Examination: 12 of 75 candidates from the Royal College and 7 of 38 others passed. Of 29 candidates from the Royal College for the Junior Cambridge Examination, 12 passed; of 16 others 3 passed.

Twenty-two girls entered for the Senior Local Examination, of whom 11 passed; 18 entered for the Junior and 4 passed.

There are scholarships and exhibitions in nearly all the classes of the Royal College and there are two valuable scholarships to enable pupils of the College to continue their studies in Europe.

Training of Teachers.

There are Government Training Schools for men and for women. There were 11 candidates from the Men's Training School for the second class teacher's certificate, of whom 2 passed. There were 3 candidates from the Women's Training School for the second class certificate and 2 for the third class ; they all passed.

The following table shows the number of candidates for certificates and the number who passed during the year :—

Class of Certificate.	Candidates.			Successful.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Second ...	29	13	42	3	10	13
Third	37	26	63	6	8	14
Monitor's ...	115	121	236	4	6	10
Total ...	181	160	341	13	24	37

There are 700 certificated Teachers employed in Government and Aided schools, of whom 150 are Head Teachers, 165 Assistant Teachers and 385 Monitors.

Technical Education

There are 8 mechanical engineering apprenticeships for which there were 80 candidates in 1915 as against 84 in 1914. There are 2 horticultural apprenticeships for which there were 28 candidates as against 23 in 1914, and 2 engineering studentships for which there were 4 candidates, the same number as in 1914.

Needlework receives attention in girls' schools and the work of the pupils continues to show improvement. Thirty-four candidates entered for the needlework competition, to 4 of whom apprenticeships were awarded.

Manual work is taught in 1 Government and 5 Aided schools.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

There are 11 Hospitals, including 3 in connection with the Prisons and Reformatory, and there is also a Hospital Ward with 30 beds attached to the Lunatic Asylum. The total number of cases treated at all hospitals, including a few cases admitted in 1914, was 20,142 as compared with 18,979 in 1914. The number of cases treated at the dispensaries was 57,716.

Lunatic Asylum.

There is a Lunatic Asylum and a Lunatic Ward in connection with the Poorhouse of Barkly Asylum. There were 479 patients in the Asylum on the 31st December 1915 as compared with 488 on the corresponding date of the previous year, and the daily average rose from 470.45 in 1914 to 484.98. The total number of certified lunatics in the Colony on the 31st of December 1915, including patients out on probation and patients in the Lunatic Ward of Barkly Asylum, was 722, giving a proportion of 1 insane to 519 of population. There were 23 criminal lunatics of whom 20 were males and 3 females.

Poor Relief.

Barkly Asylum is the only institution under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioner at which paupers receive institutional relief.

The buildings of Barkly Asylum were originally acquired for the purpose of affording institutional relief to the poor. The hospital was later placed entirely under the control of the Medical Department and has come to be used as a general hospital for the district. Arrangements also exist at various religious institutions for the maintenance of aged and infirm paupers at fixed rates, and there is an asylum for pauper lepers in which patients are maintained at the public expense.

Exclusive of the number of patients treated free at the Public Hospitals and Dispensaries of the Colony, and at St. Lazare Leper Asylum 1,112 paupers, as compared with 1,252 in 1914, received institutional relief during 1915 at the Barkly and Lunatic Asylums and different religious institutions.

2,330 paupers (460 males and 1,870 females) received outdoor relief (pecuniary), permanently or temporarily, during 1915, against 2,343 in 1914.

Savings Bank.

At the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th June 1915, a sum of Rs. 3,482,531 to the credit of 29,749 depositors, as compared with Rs. 3,237,874 to the credit of 29,409 depositors on the 30th June 1914. The investment funds amounted to Rs. 3,494,171. Interest is allowed at the rate of 3 o/o.

The following table shows the number of depositors who belonged to the General and Indian populations and the amount standing to their credit on the 30th June 1915 :

	Number	Rs.
General Population	17,946	2,145,286
Indian Population	11,803	1,337,245

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The authorised strength of the Police on the 31st of December 1915 was 1 Inspector General, 1 Deputy Inspector General, 5 Inspectors, 1 Pay and Quarter Master 6 Sub Inspectors, 1 Staff Sergeant Major, 36 Sergeants, 49 Corporals, and 496 Constables. Eighty-eight men were enlisted in 1915 and the total number discharged was 76.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the Police in 1915 was 19,974 as against 21,262 in 1914.

They may be classified as follows :

Homicide	17
Other offences against the person... ...	7,180
Prædial Larceny	260
Other offences against property	4,402
Other offences	8,115
	19,974

In connection with these offences 11,661 persons (including 341 persons arrested on suspicion) were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates. In 11,129 cases no person was charged.

The total number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts (District, Stipendiary and Bench of Magistrates) in 1915 was 23,188 ; of these the number prosecuted was 20,656 including persons tried before a Bench of Magistrates or committed to the Court of Assizes. The number discharged for want of prosecution by party complaining or for want of evidence was 2,503.

The cases prosecuted in the District Courts (including preliminary inquiries with a view to commitment to the Assizes and Bench cases) were distributed as follows :—

Offences	Discharged for want of prosecution or evidence.	Dismissed on the merits.	Convictions.	Committed to the Assizes.
Against the person	164	424	921	20
Prædial Larceny	10	31	325	...
Other offences against property	456	351	1,350	9
Offences against Revenue, Municipal, Road and other laws relating to the social economy of the Colony.	170	237	10,665	...
Other offences	75	205	2,626	...
Total	875	1,248	15,887	29

The total number of persons prosecuted before the District Courts during the last five years was distributed as follows :—

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial Larceny.	Other offences against property.	Other offences (including Revenue cases &c.)	Total.
1911	1,398	174	2,368	12,273	16,213
1912	1,486	297	2,022	14,152	17,957
1913	1,468	198	1,681	14,274	17,621
1914	1,340	151	1,806	14,057	17,354
1915	1,365	356	1,710	13,733	17,164

The convictions (including committal to the Assizes) before the District Courts for the same period were as follows :—

Year.	Offences against the person.	Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences against property.	Other Offences.
1911 ...	954	159	1,876	11,697
1912 ..	1,073	280	1,645	13,587
1913 ...	985	166	1,338	13,530
1914 ...	940	127	1,463	13,546
1915 ...	941	325	1,359	13,291

Twenty-four persons were charged at the Assizes in 1915 ; of these, 6 were acquitted and 15 convicted. In three cases a *nolle prosequi* was entered.

The following table shows the number of persons convicted at the Assizes during the last five years and the offences for which they were convicted.

Year.	Murder, other than wife and child murder	Manslaughter and attempt at.	Attempt at murder.	Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Including attempts to commit the several offences.									
					Child-Murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injury to property.	Larceny with aggravating circumstances.	Other offences against property.	Miscellaneous.
1911	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	49	2	...	...
1912	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	2	1	...
1913	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	7	...	6	...	...
1914	...	2	2	...	...	...	..	1	...	7	...	1	...	...
1915	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	3	...	...

In 1915, the number of persons tried at the Assizes for offences against the person, was 17 as compared with 22 in 1914; the number of convictions was 12 in 1915 and 11 in 1914. Seven persons were tried at the Assizes for offences against property in 1915, three of whom were convicted; 4 were tried in 1914, of whom 2 were convicted.

Prisons and Reformatory.

The number of prisoners admitted to prison after conviction shows an increase of 29 as compared with 1914, the figures being:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1914 ...	... 3,454	122	3,576
1915 ...	... 3,471	134	3,605

The number of prisoners under detention on the 31st of December 1915 was 665 as compared with 562 on the corresponding date in 1914. The daily average number under detention shows an increase of 31.26 as compared with 1914, the daily average for the year being 621.99.

The deaths in the Prisons numbered 15 as compared with 8 in 1914. The daily average number under treatment in the Prison Hospitals shows an increase, the figures being 22.21 in 1914, and 28.96 in 1915. The prevailing diseases were Malaria, and Dysentery at the Beau Bassin and the Port Louis Prisons, and Enteritis at the latter Prison.

Twelve prisoners escaped whilst on out door work, as against 18 in 1914; of these, 10 were recaptured. In addition to these, a prisoner who had escaped in 1914 was recaptured.

The number of boys admitted to the Reformatory in 1915 shows a decrease of 28 when compared with 1914, the admissions for 1915 being 127, as follows: 45 new boys, 24 ex-Reformatory boys, and 58 untried .The daily average shows a decrease of 1.64 as compared with 1914.

The admissions on conviction numbered 69. Of these, 62 entered the Institution with sentences of from one year to five years. It was enacted at the end of 1914, and the measure became operative in 1915, that juvenile offenders not deserving detention in the Government Reformatory for a period of not less than one year should not be admitted to that Institution, but should be cautioned or birched if a male offender. The convictions, in consequence fell from 123 in 1914 to 69 in 1915.

No deaths occurred during the year. The general state of health of the boys was satisfactory. The admissions to hospital increased by 23 as compared with the previous year.

The discipline among the boys was satisfactory; there were 42 departmental offences as against 24 in 1914, the offences being committed by 29 of the boys. None of the offences were of serious nature.

There were 7 escapes during the year; all were recaptured.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Island on the 31st December 1915, exclusive of the Dependencies (7,320), is estimated in the Registrar General's Annual Report at 375,420, showing a decrease of 813 on the population returns for 1914.

Births and Deaths.

There were 11,893 births registered during the year. The law allows a delay of 45 days for free registration, and the number of births which were not registered owing to death intervening before registration was 1,201. The total number of births was accordingly 13,094, of which 6,747 were males and 6,347 females, giving a proportion of 34.8 infants born to 1,000 persons living. The deaths registered numbered 13,101, giving a proportion of 34.8 deaths to 1,000 persons living.

The birth rate amongst the general population was 36.1 per thousand as compared with 38 per thousand in 1914 and amongst the Indian population 34.3 per thousand as compared with 42 per thousand in 1914. The death rate amongst the general and Indian populations was 34.2 and 35.1 per thousand respectively, as against 30.4 and 33.4 per thousand respectively in the previous year.

Public Health.

The general health conditions were not satisfactory during the year 1915. The number of patients treated at public hospitals shows an increase over that recorded in 1914. There was a considerable reduction in the number of patients attending dispensaries, but more out door patients were treated in hospitals. From the returns of the Civil Status Offices the diseases that caused the largest number of deaths in 1915 were Malaria (4,401), Tuberculosis (959), Pneumonia (710) and Dysentery (636), but it should be observed that a medical certificate is not required in all cases. The statistics from the public hospitals and dispensaries also shew that the rise in admissions was principally due to Malaria and Dysentery.

Only 33 cases of plague were registered during the year as against 125 in 1914. The death rate being 75.8% as compared with 88.8% in 1914. The number of plague cases notified in 1915 is the lowest in any year.

There was a marked reduction in the number of admissions for Enteric Fever from 234 in 1914 to 188 in 1915. The cases occurred principally in the districts of Plaines Wilhems, Savanne, Rivière du Rempart and Port Louis. The greatest number of cases occurred in September and October.

Malaria.

Malaria still causes more deaths than any other disease.

The number of deaths ascribed to fever was 4,401, showing an increase of 487 on that recorded in 1914; 3,728 cases were treated in the hospitals. The following are the figures for the years 1911 to 1915.

Year	...	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Cases	...	2,117	3,063	2,546	2,925	3,728

The case mortality was 1.63 o/o as against 1.77 o/o in 1914. The death rate for the whole Colony per thousand of the population was 11.7

Malaria was most prevalent in March, April and May, after the comparatively heavy rainfalls in February and March.

The spleen census and the treatment of school-children with quinine, as well as the free house to house distribution of quinine, have been continued under the supervision of the Sanitary Wardens.

The execution of Major anti-malarial works was continued during the year, and attention was given to the upkeep of completed major works, and minor anti-malarial works. The more important major works were carried out in Lataniers River in Port Louis, in Deep River, Rivière Sèche and Rivière Françoise in Flacq district and at Rivière Citron, Pamplemousses River, Tombeau River, Powder Mills and Cocoterie Marsh in Pamplemousses and Ruisseau Sec, Rose Belle, and Case Noyale in Black River.

Vaccination.

The number of children vaccinated during the year was 10,358 as compared with 12,537 in 1914. Of this number 10,318 were certified by the Public Vaccinators to have been successfully vaccinated; 15 vaccinations were unsuccessful and in the remaining 25 cases the result of the operation could not be ascertained. The percentage of vaccinations was 79.1 o/o of the total births.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Meteorological observations are taken at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, and at nine second-order stations. The Observatory is about three miles from the West coast and is 179 feet above sea level. There are considerable variations both in temperature and humidity in the different parts of the island, the coast districts being hotter and drier than the higher altitudes in the interior. Hurricanes occur between December and April, which is the hottest season.

The mean rain-fall from 42 stations was 58.20 inches as compared with an average of 75.84 inches.

Rainfall was greatly in defect in the total for the year although the falls of February and March were markedly above normal. This defect was a continuation of the general shortage of rainfall which set in in 1914 over all the Southern Stations from Africa to Australia. The drought at the end of 1915 was exceptionally severe, October being the driest month on record: 99 o/o below normal in the Port Louis district and 75 o/o below normal in the other districts.

The temperature of the air was slightly above normal in the mean and considerably above in the early months of the year.

The highest temperature occurred on January 28 was 91.5 the lowest was 54.0 on August 22.

A feature of the year was the weak cyclonic activity in the region round Mauritius. Only 5 cyclones being recorded in the South Indian Ocean as follows :

February	18	... South of Madagascar
„	19	... Between Mauritius and Rodrigues
March	4–5	... North of Mauritius
„	10	... West of Mauritius
„	11	.. Between Mauritius and Réunion.

IX.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The total number of Post Offices open in 1915 was 62 of which 55 are also Telegraph Offices ; 47 of these are at Railway stations.

The revenue for the year 1915 was Rs. 223,829 as compared with Rs. 216,510 in 1914. The expenditure was Rs. 157,283 in 1915 and Rs. 164,302 in 1914, leaving an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 66,546 in 1915 and Rs. 52,208 in 1914.

The total number of letters, post cards, newspapers and postal packets, exclusive of parcels, which passed through the Post Office in 1915 was approximately 3,670,948 as compared with 3,764,086 in 1914. There is an increase of 12,453 in newspapers, commercial papers and samples and a decrease of 105,591 in the number of letters, post cards, &c., which passed through the Post Office as compared with the previous year. The number of reply coupons sold during the year was 56 and the number paid was 129. The number of postal parcels received and despatched decreased from 10,900 in 1914 to 9,455 in 1915. The number received from abroad decreased by 1,450 and the duty collected amounted to Rs. 32,849.

The number of Inland money orders issued was 53,603 and their value Rs. 573,972, being an increase of 704 in number and of Rs. 4,377 in value as compared with the previous year. The number issued on other countries was 7,521 and their value was Rs. 303,945 being an increase of 768 in number and an increase of Rs. 30,752 in value as compared with the previous year.

There were decreases of 422 in the number of postal orders sold and of 283 in the number paid. The decreases in value being Rs. 2,010 and Rs. 2,773 respectively.

There are 432 miles of Telegraph and 120 miles of Telephone wires under the charge of the Department. The Railway has not a telegraphic system of its own and the ordinary messages for the working of the traffic and for the administration of the Department are transmitted over the Post Office wires. The number of Railway messages and signals transmitted in 1915 was 331,507. The number of messages sent by the public decreased by 5,419 in 1915. Out of a total number of 460,489 messages forwarded, 48,718 were sent by the public as compared with 54,137 out of a total of 415,423 in 1914. The receipts for the messages sent by the public amounted to Rs. 26,960, in which charges for porterage (Rs. 11,835) are included.

X.—RAILWAYS.

The Mauritius Railways consist of two main lines with a common terminus in Port Louis and four branch lines. The track is single and is about 120 miles in length exclusive of the Bois Cheri Light Railway. The gauge is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The earnings from all sources for the year amounted to Rs. 3,158,424 as compared with Rs. 3,169,960 in 1914, being a decrease of .99 o/o. Excluding Government traffic the earnings amounted to Rs. 2,896,769 being Rs. 7,851 more than in 1914. The services performed for Government Departments for which no cash payments were made would at ordinary rates have cost Rs. 261,654 of which Rs. 200,365 for passenger traffic, Rs. 52,880 for goods traffic and Rs. 8,409 for parcels, representing 8.28 o/o of the total traffic as compared with 8.99 o/o in 1914.

The receipts for passenger traffic amounted to Rs. 1,410,771 being higher than those of the preceding year by Rs. 137,421 and in excess of the mean for the last five years by Rs. 142,213.

The following table shows the tonnage of goods traffic, exclusive of Government traffic, carried in 1914 and 1915.

	1914	1915	Increase + Decrease –
Sugar Canes … …	176,682	183,937	+ 7,255
Sugar … … …	200,233	173,496	– 26,737
General Merchandize …	183,112	239,544	+ 56,432
Total… …	560,027	596,977	+ 36,950

The total tonnage carried was 628,427 tons or 9.27 o/o more in 1915 than in 1914. The aggregate earnings for goods traffic were Rs. 1,476,680 or 2.55 o/o under those of 1914. The earnings for sugar cane traffic were Rs. 150,976 or 82.09 cents of a rupee per ton carried, as compared with 92.30 cents in 1914. The earnings for sugar traffic were Rs. 707,261 or Rs. 4.07 per ton carried, as against Rs. 4.03 in 1914. The earnings for general merchandize were Rs. 616,096 or Rs. 2.27 per ton carried as against Rs. 2.72 in 1914. The total expenditure charged to capital account including all sums paid from general revenue, surplus balances or loans up to the 31st of December 1915 was Rs. 32,515,325 in which is included

Rs. 3,949,407 advanced on account of the re-equipment of the Railways and which is eventually to be met from loan funds. The working expenses for 1915 amounted to Rs. 2,201,430. The ratio which working expenses bore to total earnings showed an increase of 9.80 o/o as compared with 1914 the figures being 59.90 o/o and 69.70 o/o respectively. This increase is due to the rise in the price of materials and stores caused by the war. The net earnings amounted to Rs. 956,994 or 2.94 o/o on the capital.

Bois Chéri.

A small gauge line of 2 ft. 6 in. known as the Bois Chéri Light Railway runs from Rivière du Poste Station on the Savanne Branch of the Midland Line to Mexico. The length of the line is 10 miles. The total goods traffic carried in 1915 amounted to 16,346 tons of which 13,627 tons were sugar cane as against a total traffic of 19,593 tons and 17,518 tons of sugar cane in 1914. The actual working expenses for 1915 were Rs. 25,088, the earnings Rs. 12,269, and the work done for the Government Departments was valued at Rs. 1,870. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 16,196, Rs. 12,664 and Rs. 818.

XI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The principal works undertaken by the Public Works Department during the year 1915 were in connection with the La Ferme Irrigation Works ; New District Court, Police Station and Police Barracks, at Curepipe ; Victoria Hospital ; Leper Asylum and the replacing of wooden road bridges by ferro-concrete structures.

Buildings.

The walls of was in connection with the Victoria Hospital have been completed and the roofing of such wards as material has been received for is proceeding. Delay has however occurred due to certain of the steel sections ordered not being obtainable owing to the war. A first class paying-patients ward is also under construction. The installation of a drainage system has been commenced.

A District Court was completed at Curepipe during the year and a new Police Station is in course of erection, both in the neighbourhood of the Royal College.

Buildings purchased from the War Department have been divided into quarters for the European Police.

The construction of the new sugar shed for the Customs Department has been delayed owing to the non-arrival of steel sections required for the roof ; the design has been slightly altered to permit of the employ of sections obtainable locally and the work will be continued.

Bridges and Roads.

Ten bridges have been constructed in reinforced concrete or masonry during the year to replace old timber bridges and so reduce cost of maintenance. Two steam rollers have been at work and improvements have been effected not only in the surface of the roads but in gradients and dangerous corners. Widths of roadways have been increased in several places to make them more suitable for motor traffic which is rapidly on the increase.

Irrigation.

The dam of the La Ferme reservoir was raised to level 463 and the conservation of the water commenced. It is estimated that the capacity of the reservoir at this level is sufficient to supply water to 1,600 acres of land.

Four diversion dams have been constructed on Rivers Sèche, Mesnil, Papayes and Rempart with connected feeder channels to carry water to La Ferme and supplement the amount collected on the drainage area of the dam itself.

Distributary channels are in course of construction to convey water from La Ferme Reservoir to the cane fields.

Mare aux Vacoas Water Works.

The level of the water in the Mare aux Vacoas reservoir is being raised five feet from 1832 to 1837 ft above Mean Sea Level. This will increase the storage capacity from 570 to 1168 million gallons or rather more than double the former capacity and is being done with the double object of improving the quality of the water stored in the reservoir for drinking purposes during dry weather and to enable a larger amount of flood water to be stored during rains. The water so stored will be sent by way of River du Rempart to the diversion dam already constructed, where it will be turned by way of the feeder channel into La Ferme Reservoir and will so become available to still further augment the supply of the latter reservoir for irrigation purposes. Much of the masonry work in connection with the raising of the water level has been completed but it will be necessary to raise all existing earthen dams also ; this work should be completed in 1916. Tumbling shutters will be provided on the top of the new masonry dam ; these will fall when the water level reaches a certain height and provide additional spillway to prevent the earthen dams being topped.

A second service reservoir was completed for Curepipe during the year.

Port Louis Drainage Works.

Little construction work was done during the year owing to shortage of materials and the fact that the existing pumps are already fully loaded. The pipes previously laid in District No. 4 were connected with the Pumping Station.

The total length of sewers laid up to the end of 1915 is 26.62 miles ; 1,266 properties were connected to the system. The total amount expended in Districts Nos 2, 3 and 4 is Rs. 1,000,531 on construction works and Rs. 621,130 on house services.

XII.—FORESTS.

The area of forests, mountains and river reserves, and Curatelle lands under the care of the Forests Department was about 85,352 arpents, including 381 arpents acquired this year in the gathering ground of rivers, under the land-purchase scheme sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

Forest Utilization.

Improvement fellings in Grand Bassin Forest yielded 12,030 cubic feet of timber of indigenous species, including 5,000 broad gauge Railway sleepers ; also 359,000 shingles and 11,600 Railway keys.

The Public Establishments were supplied with 210,000 cubic feet of fuel from Crown Lands.

Thinning in forest plantations, chiefly Pines and Eucalyptus, yielded 2,844 cubic feet of timber used for building and repairing quarters for the staff, and Rs. 4,055 worth of timber and firewood sold.

The sale of filaos (casuarina) fuel to lessees of Pas Geometriques amounted to Rs. 11,316. The areas cleared were replanted by the lessees.

The utilization of dead and dying trees in mountain reserves by owners thereof was effected under control, with obligation to replant.

Nurseries and Plantations.

Rs. 1,268 worth of forest plants were sold to the public, from the Nurseries ; 750,000 plants were reared and planted at a cost of Rs. 37,291.

XIII.—DEPENDENCIES.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands situated between 5° and 19° 50′ South Latitude and 51° and 72°30′ East Longitude, of which the nearest is 230 miles, and the most remote about 1,200 miles distant from Mauritius.

Rodrigues, the largest and most important, is administered by a resident Magistrate, has an area of 40 square miles, and had at the census of 1911 a population of 4,829 of whom 2,523 were males and 2,306 females. The total population showed as compared with 1901 an increase of 1,667.

The increase was almost entirely in the general population which numbered 4,667, or 1,567 more than in 1901. The Indo-Mauritian population numbered 102, other Indians 36, and Chinese 24. The male agricultural population increased considerably in the last 10 years and development is noticeable in the trade of the island.

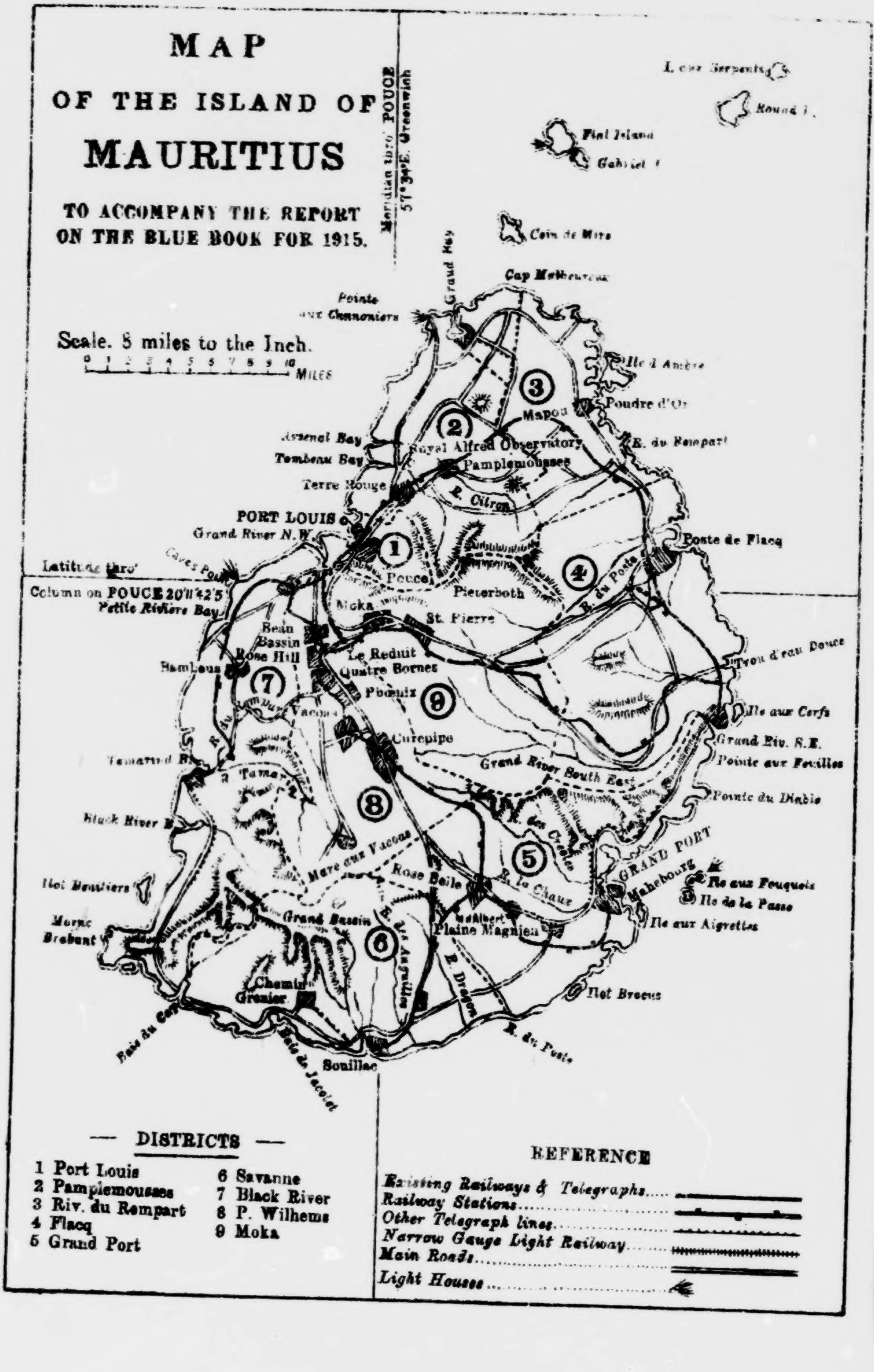
The Customs returns show that 24 cattle were imported from Rodrigues in 1915 as against 72 in 1914. In 1915, 1,624 pigs, value Rs. 21,391, were sent to Mauritius as against 1,290, value Rs. 18,275 in 1914; and 5,592 goats and sheep, value Rs. 50,990 as against 3,249, value Rs. 19,341, in 1914. The importation of salted fish from Rodrigues was of 340,570 kilos as against 238,505 in 1914. The imports of tobacco from that dependency amounted to 34,344 kilos, and shewed a slight decrease as compared with those of the previous year.

At the Rodrigues branch of the Government Savings Bank, there was on the 30th of June 1915 a sum of Rs. 20,120 to the credit of 68 depositors, as compared with Rs. 25,775 and 70 depositors on the corresponding date of 1914.

Most of the islands in the lesser Dependencies have been conceded or sold with the exception of a few islands in the St. Brandon Group, and one near the great Chagos Bank, which are leased. The islands are administered by two Magistrates who are resident in Mauritius and pay regular visits to the Dependencies. The chief exports from the Dependencies are coconut oil, coconuts, copra, guano and fish (dried and salted).

H. HENNIKER HEATON,
Ag. Colonial Secretary.

September, 1916.



MAP
OF THE ISLAND OF
MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT
ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1915.

Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°34'E. Greenwich
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42"S
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Terre Rouge
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Petite Rivière Bay
Pouce
Pieterboth
Moka
St. Pierre
R. du Poste
Poste de Flacq
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Bambous
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
Vacoas
Curepipe
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Grand River South East
Pointe du Diable
Tamarind B.
Tamarin
Black River B.
R. des Creoles
Mare aux Vacoas
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
GRAND PORT
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ile aux Aigrettes
Ilot Boutiers
Morne Brabant
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
Mahébourg
Plaine Magnien
R. Dragon
Chemin Grenier
Ilot Brocus
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
R. du Poste
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis	6 Savanne
2 Pamplemousses	7 Black River
3 Riv. du Rempart	8 P. Wilhems
4 Flacq	9 Moka
5 Grand Port	

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs.....
Railway Stations..........
Other Telegraph lines..........
Narrow Gauge Light Railway..........
Main Roads..........
Light Houses..........

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
881	East Africa Protectorate	1914–1915
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	,,
887	Fiji	,,
888	Sierra Leone	,,
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
890	Gambia	,,
891	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
892	Hong Kong	,,
893	Ashanti	,,
894	Gold Coast	,,
895	Malta	1915–1916
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	,,
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915–1916
901	Swaziland	,,
902	Somaliland	,,
903	Cyprus	,,
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	,,
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands..	1915
908	Bermuda	,,
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	,,
913	Leeward Islands	,,
914	Uganda	,,
915	British Honduras	1915

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 961.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 916.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

June, 1918.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year
926	Fiji	1916
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	"
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	"
938	Falkland Islands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"
940	Straits Settlements	"
941	Cyprus	1916–1917
942	Grenada	"
943	Jamaica	"
944	Somaliland	"
945	Swaziland	"
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	"
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	"
952	Leeward Islands	"
953	St. Vincent	"
954	Uganda	"
955	Nyasaland	"
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	"
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	"
960	Bermuda	1916

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MAURITIUS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1916.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1915–16 was Rs. 12,975,041, and the expenditure Rs. 11,490,946, thus showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 1,484,095.

2. The financial year ended with accumulated surplus funds amounting to Rs. 6,081,567. This surplus, after deducting the sums advanced for the re-equipment of the Railway (Rs. 2,460,830) and for Irrigation Works (Rs. 1,285,582), was reduced to Rs. 2,335,154.

REVENUE.

3. The total revenue for 1915–16 which amounted to Rs. 12,975,041 showed an excess of Rs. 2,325,891 over the estimate, and an increase of Rs. 861,231 over that of the preceding year.

4. The following table shows the revenue for the last five years:—

1911–12	Rs.	10,435,648
1912–13		11,035,642
1913–14		11,142,611
1914–15		12,113,810
1915–16		12,975,041

5. The revenue has thus increased by more than 24 per cent. in five years. The figure of 1914–15 exceeded that of any previous year and it is remarkable that in the second year of war that record was exceeded by Rs. 861,231.

6. The principal increases over the estimate were Licences, Excise, &c., Rs. 1,008,918; Import duties Rs. 634,741 and Railways Rs. 523,310. One item fell below the estimate, "Harbour (Pilotage, towage etc.) etc.," by Rs. 32,192.

EXPENDITURE.

7. The actual expenditure was Rs. 11,490,946 or Rs. 965,467 above the estimate, and Rs. 645,478 below the expenditure of the previous year.

8. Fourteen heads of expenditure exceeded the estimate by Rs. 1,276,179 and fourteen showed savings amounting to Rs. 310,532.

9. The following table shows the expenditure for the last five years:—

1911–12	Rs.	9,843,980
1912–13		10,235,605
1913–14		10,216,470
1914–15		12,136,424
1915–16		11,490,946

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

10. The contribution of the Colony payable under Ordinance No. 33 of 1897 was Rs. 477,092. An annual grant of Rs. 35,000 is in virtue of Ordinance No. 6 of 1900 also made instead of Customs rebate under Ordinance No. 19 of 1904.

11. At the instance of the unofficial members of the Council of Government an additional sum of Rs. 150,000 was voted as a contribution towards the cost of the present war.

12. A sum of Rs. 91,825 was provided in the Estimates for the expenses of the Mauritius Volunteer Force created under Ordinance No. 42 of 1915.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

13. On 30th June 1916 the assets of the Colony stood at Rs. 8,852,548 while the liabilities amounted to Rs. 6,517,394, thus showing a balance of Rs. 2,335,154 in favour of assets.

PUBLIC DEBT.

14. The amount of the Public Debt, on 30th June 1916, was £1,268,590 in respect of which the sinking funds amounted to £347,302. The charge on account of the public debt was Rs. 937,533 for the financial year 1916–17.

15. The loan of £270,000, authorized by Ordinance No. 19 of 1915 to meet the cost of Railway Improvements and Irrigation Works, has not been floated, and these works are being financed from surplus balances. The amount advanced for Railway re-equipment stood at Rs. 2,460,831 on 30th June 1916, and at the same date the advance made for Irrigation Works amounted to Rs. 1,285,582.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

16. All accounts are kept in rupees and cents of a Rupee which is the currency of the Colony.

17. The average value of notes circulating in 1915–16 was Rs. 6,336,160 as against Rs. 5,280,250 in 1914–15.

18. The average amount of specie held was Rs. 3,797,914 as compared with Rs. 2,742,000, the average for the previous year.

19. The investments which stood at Rs. 2,538,250 on 1st July 1915 remained the same at the close of the financial year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 417,026 to Rs. 446,987.

20. The banks established in the Colony are the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, and the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

21. A Government Savings Bank was established in 1865 and had on 30th June 1916 Rs. 3,612,390 deposited.

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS.

22. The management of the affairs of the Town of Port Louis is vested in a Municipality elected by the ratepayers.

23. The revenue and expenditure of the Municipality for the last two years is shown in the following statement :—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
1915 ...	Rs. 547,746 ...	Rs. 468,769
1916 ...	518,567 ...	522,394

24. The indebtedness of the Municipality up to the end of the year and the provision for payment are shown below :—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayment to be made in 1917.
Conversion Loan	£99,300	£2,800
Electric Lighting Loan ...	6,333	333
Municipality Loan, 1908 ...	2,857	143
Municipality Loan, 1909 ...	3,750	179
	£112,240	£3,455
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892...	Rs. 9,232	Rs. 9,232
Municipality Loan, 1903 ...	4,000	2,000
	Rs. 13,232	Rs. 11,232

LOCAL BOARDS.

25. The smaller towns of the Colony—Curepipe, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes—are controlled by Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor.

26. The revenue of the town of Curepipe consists principally of the receipts from the house property and tenant tax, taxes collected from vehicles and animals, licences and market dues. The Board is also entitled to all fines resulting from contraventions prosecuted by the Board, and to a contribution voted annually by the Council of Government.

27. The debt of the Curepipe Board to the Treasury for loans made on account of public works &c., amounted at the close of the year 1916 to Rs. 132,500.

28. The revenue of the two other Boards consists of the amount of the taxes paid on vehicles and animals, receipts of the house tax, supplemented by a contribution voted annually by the Council.

29. The revenue and expenditure of the Board for the last two years are shown in the following comparative statement :—

Curepipe.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
1914–15 ...	Rs. 80,707 ...	Rs. 83,665
1915–16 ...	115,915 ...	176,161

	Beau Bassin–Rose Hill.		*Quatre Bornes.*	
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
1914–15	Rs. 39,663	Rs. 38,230	Rs. 16,156	Rs. 15,767
1915–16	38,870	39,496	15,196	13,895

30. The totals of the annual contributions made by Government to the Boards amount to Rs. 65,600 annually, thus :—

Curepipe	Rs. 47,000
Beau Bassin–Rose Hill	13,600
Quatre Bornes	5,000

31. There is a Branch Roads Board for each of the eight rural districts of the Island to which is entrusted the maintenance of the branch roads under Ordinance No. 9 of 1900. These Boards receive as revenue a contribution from Government equivalent to 10 per cent. of the direct taxes collected in each district during the year and an addition of 10 per cent. to the direct taxes to be levied in each year in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and the Townships. The additional 10 per cent. to be levied on the direct taxes may be increased to 25 per cent. subject to the approval of the Governor in Executive Council. The Government contribution amounted in 1915–16 to Rs. 12,500.

32. The powers of these Boards were extended by Ordinance No. 35 of 1902 to include the construction, maintenance and management of water works. For this purpose they receive an annual contribution from Government, which in 1915–16 amounted to Rs. 79,000, and also the proceeds of water rates and of charges paid for water supplies.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

33. The total values of imports and exports, excluding specie, for the last five years are as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1912	Rs. 32,002,440	Rs. 36,893,269	Rs. 68,895,709
1913	35,864,703	33,291,706	68,156,409
1914	35,674,864	59,524,405	95,199,299
1915	41,682,251	56,015,511	97,697,762
1916	53,615,754	72,682,170	126,294,924

IMPORTS.

34. The imports during 1916 exceeded those of the previous year by Rs. 11.933,503, equal to 26.6 per cent. in value.

35. Of the total imports the United Kingdom supplied 30.2 per cent., British Possessions 48.1 per cent., and Foreign Countries 21.7 per cent.

EXPORTS.

36. The exports, excluding specie but including charges, exceeded those of the previous year by Rs. 16,666,659, equal to 29.8 per cent. in value.

37. As compared with 1915 the export of sugar increased by 5,120,189 kilograms in weight and Rs. 15,204,476 in value. The total weight exported was 230,559,715 kilograms valued at Rs. 69,309,970, as against 225,439,526 kilograms valued at Rs. 54,105,494 in the previous year, an increase in value of 28.1 per cent.

38. All the sugar is exported save that kept for local consumption, between 5,000 and 6,000 tons. Previous to the war the principal market was India and the average annual export to that country for the five years 1909—1913 was 127,000 metric tons.

The other principal markets were during the same period :

United Kingdom (annual average)	T. 39,500
Cape Colony	14,700
Australia	7,000
Hong Kong	2,600

39. Veson production which represented some years ago 73 to 75 per cent. of the total output is increasing yearly and reaches now 90 per cent. of the total sugar manufactured.

40. The export of aloe fibre during 1916 amounted to 1,460,102 kilograms valued locally at Rs. 422,050, being an increase of 126,198 kilograms in weight and a decrease of Rs. 54,076 in value over the figures of the preceding year.

AGRICULTURE.

Sugar.

41. At the close of 1916 the total area of land reported to be under cane cultivation was 167,560 arpents (1 arpent = 1.043 acre), the largest area yet planted in the Colony, showing an increase of 14,750 arpents since 1913.

42. New plantations continue to increase steadily, chiefly in irrigation areas, owing to the high prices ruling for sugar.

43. The area under cultivation by Indians has passed in four years from 50,067 arpents to 62,381, or 40 per cent. of the total cane area, and showing an increase of 12,314 arpents.

44. The normal sugar production is about 255,000 metric tons. The sugar crop for 1915–16 was below the average, yielding 214,518 tons. The standing crop since harvested was seriously affected by the unprecedented cyclone of May 26th owing to which the registered loss in sugar was 20 per cent. The total crop made was about 209,000 tons.

45. The bulk of the crop 1915–16 was sold to His Majesty's Government at prices ranging from 16s. 8d. to 17s. 4d. per cwt. The total quantity of vesou exported was 177,600 tons. The output of syrup was only 47 tons.

46. All the output of vesou sugar of the outstanding crop (1916–17) estimated at 165,000 tons was purchased by the Imperial Government at prices ranging from 17s. 4d. to 18s. per cwt. The output of syrup is estimated at 43 tons.

Aloe Fibre.

47. The aloe fibre industry has been much hampered by lack of shipping facilities. However, with the satisfactory prices in the home markets, remunerative prices were obtained locally and a certain quantity of good fibre turned out.

48. Experiments with the new Corona decorticating machine were continued during the year. In the treatment of sisal leaves (Agave) it has proved to be a complete success, and further trials are contemplated for dealing with the local plant (Furcræa).

Maize.

49. An important agricultural work of the year has been the efforts made to develop the production of maize in the Colony: and the erection of an American plant for the kiln-drying of maize is expected to give this industry a much desired impetus.

Food Crops.

50. Encouragement was also given to foster the cultivation of manioc, sweet potatoes and other provision crops by peasant cultivation on Government lands.

Tobacco.

51. The services of an expert tobacco grower and curer from the French colony of Réunion have been secured with the object of manufacturing tobacco of the Réunion type. Trial crops have been established and a large yield is expected.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

52. This disease was diagnosed in September and was soon established throughout the central districts of the Island. The attack was remarkably benign and the preventative measures proved effective.

Live-stock.

53. According to a census taken by the Department of Agriculture in 1914 the number of horned cattle stood at 41,300 of which 16,000 were cows.

54. Several fine specimens of Hissar bulls and cows were imported by Government from India with a view to the improvement of the local stock. This policy is being greatly appreciated by cattle owners.

55. Two large Punjabi goats were also introduced for loan to Estates.

Entomological.

56. Special attention was devoted to insect pests and the most satisfactory point in this connexion was the discovery early in the year that the wasp parasitic on Phytalus (*Tiphia parallela*) had established itself in certain fields and appeared to be increasing.

57. Important work was also undertaken with the distribution of parasites of the Gros Moutouc (*Oryctes tarandus*) throughout the Colony.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

58. The co-operative credit movement is working on satisfactory lines. There have been no additions to the number of Societies in operation during the year. The total number of Societies operating has been 23, comprising 2,869 shareholders.

SHIPPING.

59. There was an increase in the number of vessels which entered and cleared during 1916. 396 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 857,858 entered and cleared as against 382 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 763,174 in 1915, showing an increase of 14 vessels and an increase of 94,684 tons.

60. Of the aggregate tonnage entered, British steamships accounted for 632,324 tons, and foreign steamships 193,602 ; while British sailing vessels amounted to 28,398 tons, and foreign sailing vessels to 3,534.

61. The steam vessels entered and cleared showed an increase of 33 British, of a tonnage of 95,648, while foreign steam vessels decreased by 2 with a tonnage of 3,206.

III.—LEGISLATION.

62. The number of Ordinances passed by the Legislature during the year was 25. Several of these owe their origin to the war. They were :—

No. 1 of 1916.—To provide for the extension of the restrictions relating to Trading with the Enemy to Persons to whom, though not resident or carrying on business in Enemy Territory, it is by reason of their Enemy Nationality or Enemy Associations expedient to extend such restrictions.

No. 2 of 1916.—To prohibit payments to Enemy Subjects by Custodian of Enemy Property.
No. 16 of 1916.—To amend the Pensions Ordinance No. 30 of 1881.
No. 24 of 1916.—To empower the Colonial Government to raise a War Loan.

63. Other important enactments of the session were :—

The Pharmacy (Amendment) Ordinance, 1916 (No. 5) allows practising students in Pharmacy of ten years' standing and upwards to pass a modified examination which is more of a practical than of a theoretical kind, so as to entitle them to act as qualified assistant pharmacists.

The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1916 (No. 6) fixes a delay of three months for the removal of goods landed on the quays and makes it lawful for the Collector of Customs to have them sold by public auction after that period.

The Forest Produce Protection (Extension) Ordinance, 1916 (No. 8) provides for the control of dealers in imported timber converted from trees of the same species as trees of indigenous species and for the repression of larceny of timber.

The Weights and Measures (Amendment) Ordinance, 1916 (No. 11) has for its chief object the enabling ot Revenue Officers to prosecute for certain offences against the law dealing with weights and measures, it having been decided that such Officers could not prosesute under the Penal Code.

The Habitual Criminals and Licensed Convicts Ordinance, 1916 (No. 12) facilitates the identification and supervision of habitual criminals. The portion dealing with habitual criminals is borrowed from the Ceylon Ordinance of 1914 with certain modifications to suit local convenience. Revised clauses are incorporated dealing with convicts out on licence. The original clauses were in the Prisons Ordinance of 1887.

The Co-operative Credit Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1916 (No. 13) allows rules to be made prescribing the conditions under which a Society may enter into contracts for the sale of agricultural products on behalf of such of the shareholders as shall have given their authorization to the Society.

The Public Health Amendment Ordinance, 1916 (No. 15) provides for the removal of vegetable growth, &c., from river courses and banks by the responsible party in cases of small importance.

The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1916 (No. 17) provides for the case of officers seconded from a pensionable post for temporary employment in a non-pensionable one. It adopts a practice which obtains in the Straits Settlements and other Colonies.

The Animal Diseases Consolidation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1916 (No. 18) authorizes the landing of animals coming from Great Britain and Ireland if accompanied by an official export certificate. It also empowers the Governor in Executive Council to regulate or restrict the movement of animals in certain defined areas of the Colony during outbreaks of epidemic diseases.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY.

64. The number of children on the registers of the Government and Grant-Aided Schools in the Colony during the year 1916 was 23,273 as against 22,765 in the year 1915. The annual average attendance was 15,661 or 67.4 per cent., as against 14,884, or 65.4 per cent. for the previous year.

65. The distribution of the Primary Schools among the several denominations is as follows:—

	Number of Schools.	Number enrolled.	Average Attendance.
Government Schools ...	57	9,433	6,156
Aided Schools :			
Denominations.			
Roman Catholic ...	67	9,612	6,542
Church of England.	19	,704	1,944
Presbyterian ...	2	180	119
Mahomedan ...	2	266	201
Hindu	1	266	185
	148	22,461	15,147

66. Compared with the previous year, these figures show a slight decrease in the roll number, but an increase of 263 in the average attendance.

67. The total expenditure for the year on salaries and grants to teachers was Rs. 331,269 as compared with Rs. 324,579 in the previous year. The cost to Government of a pupil in a Government School was Rs. 19.63 and in an Aided School Rs. 15.44 as compared with Rs. 18.75 and Rs. 16.09 in 1915.

68. There were 711 certificated teachers employed in Government and Aided Schools, of whom 150 are head teachers, 171 assistant teachers and 390 monitors and monitresses.

69. Six scholarships and six exhibitions are awarded every year under which boys from the primary schools can pass on to the Royal College. There were 186 candidates in 1916 as against 174 in 1915. The number of candidates from Government Schools was 112 and from Aided Schools 74, as compared with 108 from Government and 66 from Aided Schools in the previous year.

70. For the examination for the four Girls' scholarships giving free tuition in a secondary school and money payment of Rs. 100 a year for 3 years, the number of candidates was 69 : from Government Schools 45, from Aided Schools 22, and from non-Christian Schools 2.

71. The Men's Training School presented 9 candidates for the 2nd Class Teachers' Examination of whom 2 passed, and 9 candidates for the 3rd class of whom 2 passed. The Women's Training presented 2 candidates for the 2nd Class Examination of whom 1 passed and 3 candidates for the 3rd class of whom all passed.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

72. The Royal College in Curepipe is the Government Institution for affording Secondary Education to boys. There were in December 1916 209 pupils, the average number for the year being 220. There are also 14 Secondary Schools for boys and girls, assisted by grants from Government.

73. Out of 264 candidates examined from the Colony at the last Cambridge Local Examination, 89 passed.

74. The Matriculation examination of the University of London was not taken in the Colony.

75. Two Government Scholarships tenable in England are offered annually to students of the College of the value of £1,000 each extending over four or five years, with £150 for travelling expenses.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

76. The Civil Hospital in Port Louis, with 275 beds, is the most important of the Colony. The number of patients admitted at this institution during the year was 6,411, the number discharged 6,060 and the daily average in hospital 246. The number of deaths was 529.

Of those discharged 3,128 were reported as cured, 2,605 were relieved and 327 were not improved.

77. District Hospitals are also maintained by Government at Barkly Asylum (Beau Bassin), Mahebourg, Souillac, Long Mountain, Poudre d'Or, Flacq and Moka, with an aggregate accommodation of 592 beds.

The total number of cases treated at all district hospitals was 12,164 as against 12,782 in 1915.

A new hospital is under construction at Candos, Quatre Bornes, to replace the present hospital buildings at Barkly Asylum.

The outlying districts are served by dispensary hospitals and dispensaries for the treatment of emergency and pauper cases.

The Immigration law also requires the maintenance of hospitals on every estate on which there are 20 Indian indentured labourers.

78. The Lunatic Asylum contained on 31st December 1916 486 patients (285 males and 201 females) and the Lunatic branch wards at Barkly Asylum 99 inmates (69 males and 30 females).

79. There were 72 inmates in the Leper Asylum at the close of the year, a decrease of 9 as compared with 1915.

POOR RELIEF.

80. There is only one institution under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioner at which paupers receive institutional treatment and this is Barkly Asylum situated at Beau Bassin.

81. Exclusive of the pauper cases treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries 1,064 paupers, as compared with 1,112 in 1915, received institutional relief during 1916 at the Barkly Asylum and different religious institutions.

2,233 paupers received pecuniary outrelief, permanently or temporarily, during 1916, against 2,330 in 1915.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

PRISONS AND REFORMATORY.

82. 3,142 persons were committed to prison during the year, being 463 less than in the previous year. Of this number 3,000 were males and 142 females. The daily average in prison was 627.67; this is an increase of 5.68 on the average of 1915.

83. The Government Reformatory contained, on 31st December, 59 inmates, 92 were admitted during the year 1916 and 91 were discharged, leaving 60 boys at 31st December 1916.

84. The majority of inmates in the Industrial School are trained in agriculture and a small number as carpenters and tinsmiths.

85. The regulations for the instruction and training of youthful offenders in the Government Reformatory and Industrial School were published in consolidated form during the year under Government Notification No. 213 of 1916.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

86. The total number of offences reported to the Police was 19,638, being 336 less than in the previous year.

87. The number of persons brought before Magistrates' Courts was 21,625, a decrease of 1,563 compared with the previous year.

88. There was a decrease of praedial larceny, 154 cases being reported as against 260 cases in 1915.

89. 10 persons were tried in the Assizes in 1916 for offences against the person, compared with 17 in 1915. The convictions were 9 in 1916 and 12 in 1915. 2 persons were tried for offences against property in 1916, 1 of whom was convicted. 7 were tried in 1915, of whom 3 were convicted.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

90. The estimated population, inclusive of the Dependencies, on the 31st December 1916 was 384,253, an increase of 1,513 on that of the previous year, and in the proportion of 492 males and 1,021 females.

91. There were 13,161 births during the year or 67 more than in 1915. The birth-rate was 35.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 34.8 per 1,000 for 1915.

92. Of the births registered 4,280 or 32.5 per cent. were legitimate and 8,881 or 67.5 per cent. illegitimate.

93. The deaths registered were 11,432 or 1,669 less than in the previous year. The death-rate was 30.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as against 34.8 the death-rate in 1915, or a decrease of 4.4.

94. Comparing the infant mortality with the births during the year, 13,161 infants were born and 1,932 died at one year of age or under, equal to 16.9 per cent. The percentage under 5 years was 30.5.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

95. The principal causes of death throughout the Colony during the year were: malaria 32.6 per cent.; phthisis and other forms of tuberculosis 18 per cent.; dysentery 9.8 per cent.

96. 227 cases of enteric fever were notified with 52 deaths.

97. Plague registered 22 attacks with 15 deaths, giving a death-rate of 68.2 per cent. Port Louis has been plague free since the 6th April 1915.

Trapping and poisoning of rats is carried out continuously. Rat-catchers accounted for 55,532 rats in Port Louis and 66,860 in the districts.

98. Anti-malaria and anti-mosquito measures were continued during the year. The more important major works were carried out in connection with Mon Goût, Espérance, Mon Rocher, Mon Plaisir and Beau Plan marshes, and with Rivers des Pamplemousses and Calebasses, in Pamplemousses District, as well as in Rivière Sèche, Rivière Françoise, Rivulets Pont Blanc and Grande Barbe in Flacq District. In Port Louis the digging of the Champ de Lort drain was undertaken.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

99. The annual rainfall for the Island was 1937.22 mm. compared with an average of 1927.07 mm.

100. A cyclone was experienced on the 26th May which as to the epoch and longitude of its occurrence was unprecedented. High wind velocities were recorded in the central, eastern, south-eastern and southern districts and considerable damage was done to the crops in these districts.

IX.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

101. There are 62 Post Offices in the Colony, of these 55 are Telegraph Offices.

102. The total Post and Telegraph Revenue was Rs. 240,394, an increase of Rs. 16,565 as compared with 1915. The expenditure was Rs. 157,283 in 1915, leaving an excess of revenue of Rs. 71,504 in 1916 and Rs. 66,546 in 1915.

The ratio of expenditure to earnings in 1916 was 70.25%, against 70.26 in 1915.

103. The estimated number of postal articles (excluding parcels) exchanged was 4,437,028 as against 3,670,948 in 1915.

104. The number of postal parcels handled was 12,366 to the value of Rs. 424,036, as against 9,455 and Rs. 300,141 respectively in 1915. Increase in the number of parcels : 2,911 ; and in value : Rs. 123,895.

105. The number of parcels received was 10,356 to the value of Rs. 393,235 and that despatched 2,010 for Rs. 30,801, as against, in 1915, 7,599 received, value Rs 261,426 and 1,856 despatched value Rs. 38,715.

106. Foreign Money Orders to the value of Rs. 254,573 were issued during 1916 against Rs. 303,945 in the previous year. Foreign Money Orders to the amount of Rs. 98,962 were paid as against Rs. 91,970 in 1915.

107. Inland Money Orders were issued to the value of Rs. 597,585 as against Rs. 573,972 in 1915.

108. British Postal orders were sold for Rs. 19,525 compared with Rs. 19,525 in the year before or a decrease of Rs. 396. Orders for Rs. 53,063 were cashed in the Colony.

109. There was an increase of 38,809 in the number of telegrams sent and an increase of Rs. 934 in the telegraph revenue.

X.—GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

110. The total earnings exclusive of Government traffic amounted to Rs. 3,078,149 as compared with Rs. 2,884,501 in 1915.

111. The total traffic including transport on Government service amounted to Rs. 3,344,283 against Rs. 3,144,285 in 1915.

112. The expenditure exclusive of debt charges was Rs. 2,876,631 as compared with Rs. 2,222,060 in 1915. This figure however includes Rs. 96,549 for new works, thus reducing the working expenditure to Rs. 2,780,082 leaving a nett profit of Rs. 564,201 or 1.72% on the capital expenditure to December 31, 1916.

113. The passenger traffic, including miscellaneous receipts, amounted to Rs. 1,862,405, being higher than the 1915 traffic by Rs. 195,367.

114. The total tonnage handled was 582,403 tons or 46,024 tons less than in 1915. The goods earnings amounted to Rs. 1,481,878 or Rs. 5,918 more than in the previous year.

115. The ratio of working expenses to total earnings showed an increase of 23.23% as compared with 1914 and 13.63 as compared with 1915, the figures being 83.13, 59.90, 69.50 % respectively.

BOIS CHÉRI LIGHT RAILWAY.

116. The Light Railway was lengthened by 5 miles in 1916. The receipts showed an increase of Rs. 5,058 over 1915 or 26.34%. The tonnage carried was 21,236 against 16,346 tons in 1916. The bulk of the traffic was sugar canes—20,961 tons.

XI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

117. All works that could be postponed were deferred on account of the war. The only important public works completed by the Department during the year were: the new Police station and the European police quarters at Curepipe.

118. A large amount of repair work was also put in hand and accomplished. Three works of some importance are in hand: the Victoria Hospital at Quatre Bornes, the extension of quay sheds at Cerné Dock and Mariners' Point and the Leper hospital at Powder Mills.

LA FERME IRRIGATION WORKS.

119. Work was continued throughout the year on the Irrigation Reservoir at La Ferme but owing to the stringency of the labour market the progress was not well maintained.

120. At the end of the year the dam was raised to a height of 16 feet above the sluice level so that 13 feet more have to be added; but on a much greater length, as the work has been started at the lowest portion of the ground. The reservoir began to fill on the 2nd January 1916 and the first supply for irrigation purposes was issued on the 27th June. The revenue derived from water delivered for irrigation purposes is increasing steadily and there is now no doubt that the undertaking will be remunerative.

121. The amount spent to 31st December 1916 was Rs. 1,051,115.11. Another sum of Rs. 280,338.42 was spent on the acquisition of land for the La Nicolière project and Rs. 130,765.39 on projects and studies. The cost of the final work will not exceed the estimate submitted by the Irrigation Expert.

122. The revenue collected was as follows :—

Quarter ending 30th September 1916	...	Rs. 508.07
Do. 31st December 1916	...	Rs. 2,170.25

123. About 36,000 feet of main distributaries were excavated and 10,000 feet of minor distributaries, together with the necessary masonry works requiring skilled labour viz. : 6 main road culverts, 30 estate road culverts, 6 minor culverts, 27 troughs to take private channels over distributaries, 3 drainage crossings, 5 drainage superpassages, 3 regulators, 5 drainage syphons, 1 large aqueduct over Bosquet Ravine and 14 supply sluices with basins and V notches to measure the water delivered on the fields. The distributaries were still incomplete at the end of 1916.

MARE-AUX-VACOAS RESERVOIR.

124. Works for increasing the storage capacity of the reservoir were proceeded with during the year, the additional volume to be collected is intended to feed the La Ferme Irrigation Reservoir. The increase will be a substantial one, as the Mare will hold 187 million cubic feet against 91.5 million cubic feet, with an increased submerged area of 78 acres.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

125. The total length of roads at the end of the year was 433 miles.

126. The system of rolling the surfaces of the roads has been continued with good results. Over 9 miles of surface were so treated.

127. Twelve timber bridges were reconstructed in ferro-concrete. A new bridge has been erected over Grand River South-East to serve the inhabitants of Belle Rive—7 spans of 35 feet on masonry piers—old railway girders were used with a ferro-concrete platform. A second bridge is in course of construction to connect the new road from Beau Champ to Grand River South-East and Mahebourg.

XII.—FORESTS.

128. The area of forests, mountain and river reserves, and Curatelle land under the control of the Forest Department was about 86,367 arpents.

129. The revenue obtained by the Forest Department was Rs. 220,000 in 1916 as against Rs. 153,000 in the previous year, an important increase attributed to the heavier consumption of fuel wood owing to the increased price of coal.

130. The plantations of the island were added to by 843,000 seedlings, mostly pines and eucalyptus, including some 40,000 seeds of indigenous species, especially natte.

XIII.—DEPENDENCIES.

131. Rodrigues island lies about 320 miles to the eastward of Mauritius of which it is the largest dependency : area 42 square miles = 26,170 acres. The island is under the administration of a magistrate who takes his instructions from the Governor of Mauritius. Cable communication through a branch of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company was opened on 16 May 1902.

132. The population at the 1911 Census was 4,829 and with the natural increase it was estimated at 7,598 at the end of 1916.

133. The health conditions of the island are very favourable. The number of births was 259 as against 266 in 1915. The number of deaths was 51 as against 66 in 1915. The birth-rate was 35.9 per thousand of the population and the death-rate 7.05.

134. The value of the imports in 1916 was Rs. 71,986. The exports of the island produce show a gradual increase and in 1916 they were valued at Rs. 329,112.

The principal exports are beans, salt fish, cattle, pigs, goats, poultry, tobacco in leaf and acacia seed.

The whole trade is with Mauritius and is maintained by a Government steam service running four times a year between Mauritius and Rodrigues.

135. The Lesser Dependencies are : Diégo Garcia, Six Islands, Peros Banhos, Solomon Islands, Agalega, St. Brandon group, Farquhar Islands, Trois Frères. These islands are administered by two Magistrates who are resident in Mauritius and pay regular visits to the islands.

136. The chief exports to the Colony are coconut oil, nuts, copra, guano and salted fish.

137. The export of nuts increased from 369,245 to 505,600, whilst in addition 937,900 litres of coconut oil were received in Mauritius in 1916. By far the greater number of nuts grown are used in the islands for the manufacture of oil or copra. 471 tons of copra were exported to England in one shipment during 1916.

138. Guano is obtained from St. Brandon and Farquhar Islands; an annual average of 1,000 tons being received into the Colony.

XIV.—GENERAL.

Major Sir J. R. Chancellor, R.E., K.C.M.G., who had been Governor of Mauritius since July 1911, left the Colony on 28th January 1916 to take up his new appointment of Governor of Trinidad.

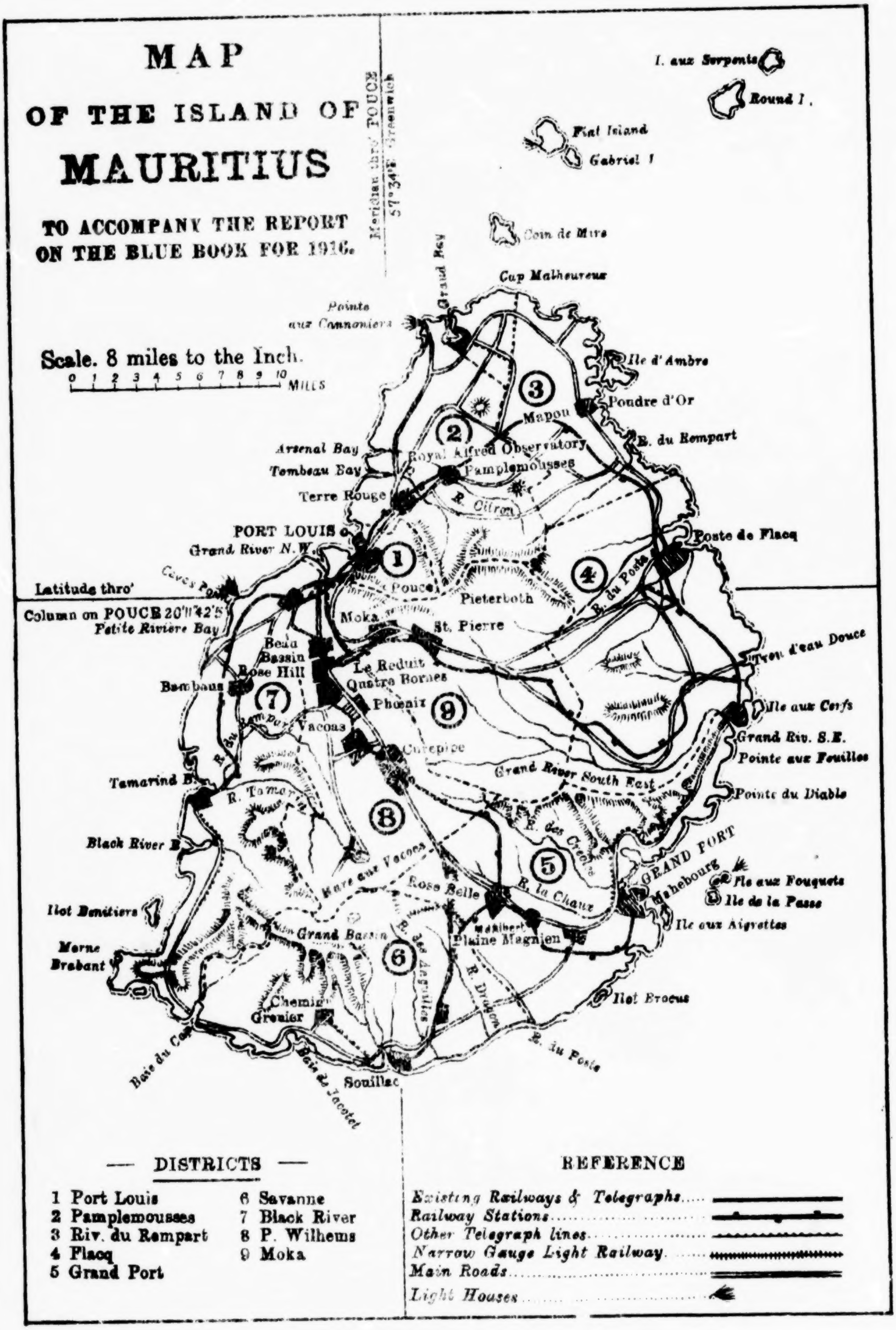
The Honourable J. Middleton, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government pending the arrival of Governor Sir H. Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., who assumed the Government on 18th May 1916.

The general condition of the island has been prosperous in 1916 and the effect of the war on the trade and prosperity of the Colony has, if anything, been beneficial.

It has to be noted that the Colony's revenue during the year was the highest on record. The increased cost of living has been to a great extent counterbalanced by higher wages and abundance of employment.

L. KŒNIG,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

January 1918.



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1916.

Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
Meridian thro' POUCE 57° 34'8" Greenwich
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42"S
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Poste de Flacq
R. du Poste
Caves Point
Pouce
Pieterboth
Petite Riviere Bay
Moka
St. Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Bambous
Phoenix
Vacoas
Curepipe
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Grand River South East
Pointe du Diable
Tamarind B.
R. Tamarin
Black River B
R. du Rempart
Mare aux Vacoas
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ile aux Aigrettes
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Ilot Benitiers
Morne Brabant
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
Mahébourg
Plaine Magnien
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 985.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 961.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

February, 1919.

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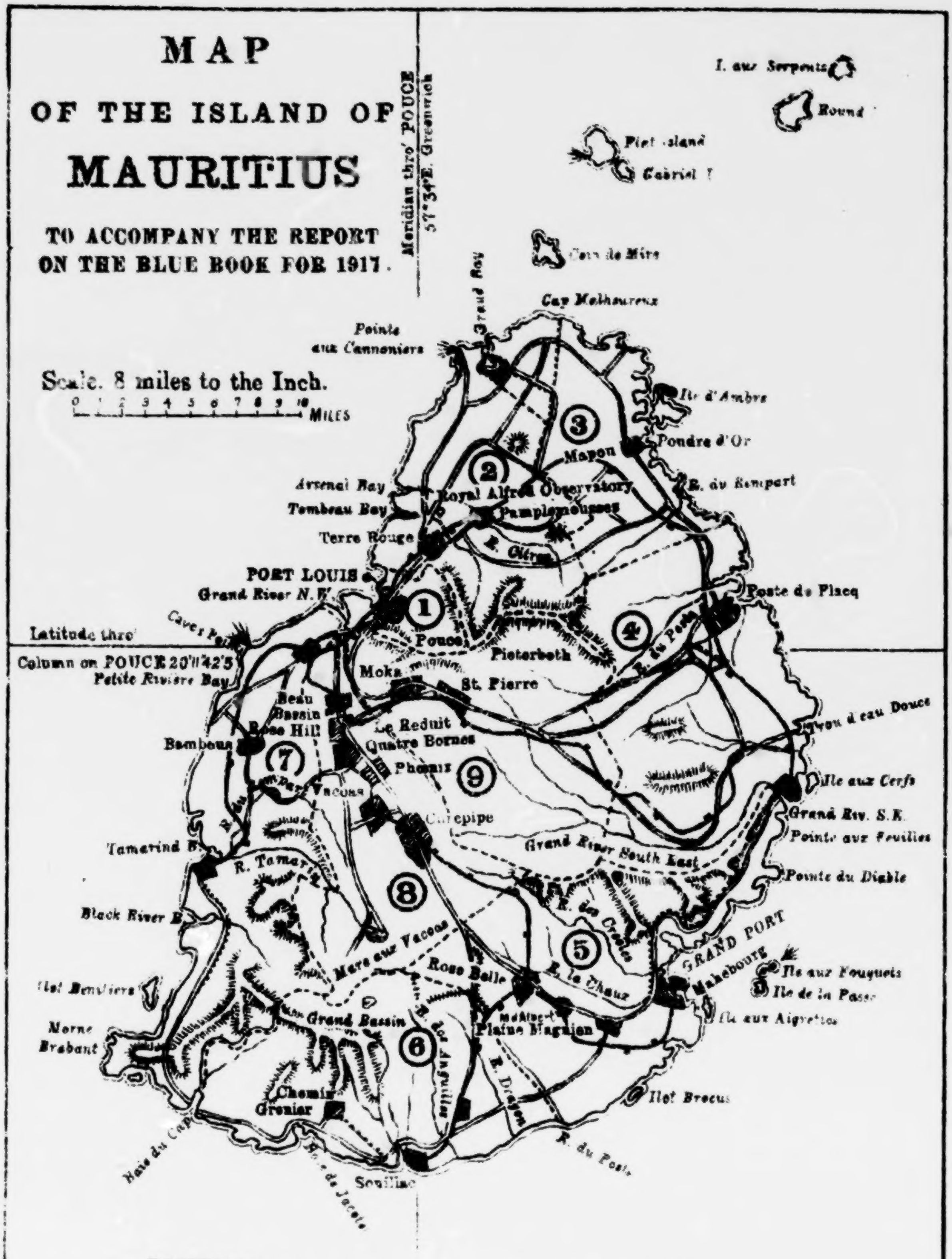
MAP

OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT
ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1917.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REFERENCE

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Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

MAURITIUS

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Government House,
Port Louis,
5th September, 1918.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book on Mauritius for the year 1917, together with the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

2. The Revenue surpassed all previous records and considerably exceeded the expenditure on all ordinary and recurrent services.

3. Although the military establishment represented a mere *cadre* of the usual establishment, the contribution to the Imperial Government, for military purposes, amounting to Rs. 575,886, was, as in previous years, paid in full. The Colony also contributed largely to the separation allowances due to the men of the Mauritius Labour Battalion, which is rendering good service in one of the principal theatres of the war.

4. The gross excess of Assets over Liabilities at the close of the financial year 1916–17, represented a total of Rs. 7,136,804. After deduction of the large advances made for Railway improvements and Irrigation Works, and which are unlikely ever to be reimbursed to the Treasury, the net balance to the credit of the Colony, on the 30th June 1917, stood at Rs. 3,060,000.

5. The net total of the Public Debt now stands at £907,788, and represents an indebtedness of less than £3 per head.

In spite of the war the public finances may be considered to be in a highly satisfactory condition.

6. The sugar crop was considerably lower than those of preceding years, but the price paid by the Sugar Commission for a large proportion of the *vesous* enabled the planters to realize a satisfactory profit and to maintain the industry in good condition. A large portion of the crop was also purchased by the local Government for shipment to India in order to finance the supplies of foodstuffs and essential supplies imported from that country.

7. The general health of the Colony still leaves much to be desired. Although plague has been stamped out and anti-malarial works are showing a very beneficial effect, the death rate of the island is far higher than it should be. The city of Port Louis especially is very unhealthy and shows a mortality of over 5% per annum. There can be no doubt that the high price of all food is reacting injuriously on the health of the labouring classes and that, in many cases, there is an impaired power of resistance to many diseases which, under better conditions, would not prove fatal. It is almost needless to say that the improvement of sanitary conditions and the provision of good supplies of water are subjects which chiefly engross my attention, and I trust that, in spite of the enormous increase in the cost of cement and of all other materials, progress will gradually and steadily continue to be made.

I have, &c.,
H. HESKETH BELL,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
WALTER HUME LONG, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1917

I.—FINANCIAL

Revenue

1. The revenue for the year 1916–17 was Rs. 13,844,060, or Rs. 2,193,810 more than estimated. The revenue however includes Rs. 232,588 being the proceeds of the export tax on sugar collected under Ordinance No. 3 of 1917, to meet the Planters' Gift of Rs. 500,000 to the Imperial Government.

2. The principal excesses of revenue over the Estimates were in respect of Licences, Excise &c. Rs. 1,273,806 ; Customs duties Rs 237,310 ; Railways Rs. 173,965.

3. The changes in taxation during the year were : (1) An additional export duty on sugar of 12 cents per 100 kilogrammes to meet the payment of the Planters' Gift of Rs. 500,000 towards the expenses of the War (Ordinance 3 of 1917). (2) A further additional export duty of 16 cents per 100 kilogrammes on all sugar carried by the Railways in lieu of an increase in the rates for goods traffic (Ordinance 16 of 1917).

Expenditure

4. The expenditure was Rs 11,816,140, or Rs. 403,644 more than estimated. In addition special expenditure was incurred amounting to Rs. 972,684 thus :

Colony's Gift to the Imperial Government	Rs. 500,000
Planters' Gift to the Imperial Government	235,963
Interest on Imperial War Loan	236,721

5. The principal excesses of expenditure over the Estimates were : Medical, Health and Quarantine Rs. 105,508 ; Military Expenditure Rs. 100,572 ; Miscellaneous Rs. 100,945 ; Railways Rs. 357,692.

Military Expenditure

6. The military contribution to the Imperial Government for the financial year 1916–17 amounted to Rs. 575,886. An annual grant of Rs. 35,000 is also payable to the local Military Authorities in lieu of refunds of Customs duties.

7. The Colony also contributes towards the expenses of a Labour Battalion for service in Mesopotamia to the extent of one half of the amount of the separation allowances up to a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 per mensem, and of one half of the pensions and gratuities up to a limit of Rs. 30,000 per annum.

8. The expenditure for the local Volunteer Force during 1917 was approximately Rs. 92,000.

Assets and Liabilities

9. The excess of assets over liabilities on the 30th June 1917 stood at Rs. 3,060,952.

10. The loan of £270,000, authorized by Ordinance No. 19 of 1915 to meet the cost of Railway Improvements and Irrigation Works has not been raised, and there was brought to account up to 30th June 1917

expenditure amounting to Rs. 2,550,000 on Railway re-equipment, and Rs. 1,525,851 on Irrigation works.

PUBLIC DEBT

11. The amount of the Public Debt, on 30th June 1917, was £1,262,990, in respect of which the sinking funds amounted to £355,202. The charge on account of the public debt was Rs. 937,533 for the financial year 1916–17.

CURRENCY AND BANKING

12. The average value of notes in circulation in 1916–17 was Rs. 6,927,065 as against Rs. 6,336,160 in 1915–16. The average amount of specie held was Rs. 3,563,384 as compared with Rs. 3,797,914, in the previous year.

13. The investments on account of the Currency Commissioners which stood at Rs. 2,538,250 on 1st July 1916 amounted to Rs. 3,614,250 at the close of the financial year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 446,987 to Rs. 470,704.

14. There are two private banks established in the Colony—the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, and the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS

15. The management of the affairs of the Town of Port Louis is vested in a Municipality elected by the ratepayers.

The revenue and expenditure of the Municipality for the last two years is shown in the following statement :—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
1916 ...	Rs. 518,567 ...	Rs. 522,394
1917 ...	534,061 ...	504,621

The funded debt of the Municipality at the end of the year was £ 108,785. Provision for repayment is made regularly every year.

LOCAL BOARDS

16. The smaller towns of the Colony : Curepipe, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes, are controlled by Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor.

17. The revenue of the town of Curepipe, the largest town after Port Louis, consists principally of the receipts from the house property and tenant taxes, taxes collected from vehicles and animals, licences and market dues. The Board also receives all fines resulting from contraventions prosecuted by the Board, and a contribution voted annually by the Council of Government.

18. The revenue of the two other Boards consists of the amount of the taxes paid on vehicles and animals, receipts of the house tax, supplemented by a contribution voted annually by the Council.

19. The revenue and expenditure of the Boards for the last two years are shown in the following comparative statement :—

Curepipe

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
1915–16 ...	Rs. 115,915 ...	Rs. 176,161
1916–17 ...	122,799 ...	167,302

	Beau Bassin–Rose Hill		*Quatre Bornes*	
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
1915–16	Rs. 38,870	Rs. 39,496	Rs. 15,196	Rs. 13,895
1916–17	37,140	38,046	19,072	19,605

20. The following sums were contributed by Government in th financial year 1916–17 :—

Curepipe	Rs. 67,982
Beau Bassin–Rose Hill	13,600
Quatre Bornes	5,000

21. There is a Branch Roads Board for each of the eight rural districts of the Island to which is entrusted the maintenance of the branch roads under Ordinance No. 9 of 1900. These Boards receive as revenue a contribution from Government equivalent to 10 per cent. of the direct taxes collected in each district during the year and an addition up to 25 per cent. to the direct taxes which is levied in each year in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and the Townships. Additional percentages on such taxes up to 25 per cent. may also be imposed. The Government contribution amounted in 1916–17 to Rs. 12,500.

22. The powers of these Boards were extended by Ordinance No. 35 of 1902 to include the construction, maintenance and management of water works. For this purpose they receive an annual contribution from Government amounting to Rs. 79,000, and also the proceeds of water rates and of charges paid for water supplies.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

23. The total values of imports and exports, excluding specie, for the last five years were as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1913 ...	Rs. 35,864,703 ...	Rs. 33,291,706 ...	Rs. 68,156,409
1914 ...	35,674,864 ...	59,524,405 ...	95,199,269
1915 ...	41,682,251 ...	56,015,511 ...	97,697,762
1916 ...	53,615,754 ...	72,682,170 ...	126,297,924
1917 ...	42,152,460 ...	58,319,728 ...	100,472,188

24. The value of the total trade of the Colony in 1917 was below that of 1916 by Rs. 25,825,736 but it was still above the figures for 1915 by Rs. 2,774,426 and also above the average of the last four years by Rs. 3,633,347.

25. The difference between the figures for 1916 and 1917 is fairly evenly divided between imports and exports, the imports being Rs. 11,463,294 and the exports Rs. 14,362,442. The decrease in the volume of imports may be attributed to the shortage of freight.

26. In 1916 the value of exports exceeded that of imports by Rs. 19,066,416. In 1917 the excess was Rs. 16,167,268.

27. The amount of Customs duties collected on imports during the year was Rs. 3,273,920 as compared with Rs. 4,143,085 in 1916. Owing to the shortage of shipping there was a falling off in the revenue from import duties.

28. The principal reductions in imports in 1917, as compared with 1916, occur under the following heads :

Grain and Flour	Rs. 4,450,000
Yarns and Textiles	1,130,000
Chemicals, Drugs	900,000
Food and Drink	750,000

The principal increases in imports were :

Manures and Fertilizers	Rs. 420,000
Chemicals for local manufactures ...	59,700
Tobacco	40,000

29. The principal items of export are sugar and aloe fibre, the quantities and values of these products exported during the year 1917 being as follows : Sugar, 187,815 tons, valued at Rs. 54,539,232 ; aloe fibre 1,194 tons, valued at Rs. 411,600. The other or minor exports were : Coconut oil 112,000 litres valued at Rs. 62,500 ; molasses Rs. 29,000 ; rum Rs. 26,600 ; vanilla Rs. 4,100.

30. The amount of export duties collected on sugar in 1917 was Rs. 832,916, being an increase of Rs. 10,998 on the duties collected in 1916. The increase in duty received on the sugar exported is due to the additional duty levied under Ordinances Nos. 3 and 16 of 1917.

Sugar

31. The total area under cane cultivation at the commencement of 1917 was 168,366 arpents, being 806 arpents more than at the commencement of the preceding year. Of this total 92,538 arpents were cultivated by large estates and 75,828 arpents by planters.

32. The area under cultivation by Indian proprietors or tenants amounted to 72,633 arpents or 43.1 per cent. of the total cane area. This represents a further increase of 245 arpents over the area cultivated by Indians in the preceding year.

33. The rise in the cost of living and materials owing to war conditions have combined to increase the cost of production of both sugar in the factory and cane in the field. It is estimated that owing to these causes the cost of production of sugar has increased since the commencement of the war by as much as 55.4 per cent. while the increase in the average sale price of sugar is computed at 50 per cent. compared with the pre-war average prices.

34. The total crop made for 1916–17 was 209,035 tons, the lowest recorded since 1911, and about 15 per cent. below the normal sugar production.

35. The crop for 1917–18 now harvested, has been substantially heavier, being 226,000 tons.

36. Arrangements were concluded in July with the Royal Sugar Commission for the whole of the vesou crop of 1917 to be sold for exportation to England on the basis of 17s. per cwt. f.o.b. for the first grade sugar. Subsequently the arrangements were modified to allow of a portion of the vesou to be shipped to India, together with the whole of the first syrup sugar, for financing the export of foodstuffs and essential supplies to Mauritius.

Aloe fibre

37. High prices have continued to prevail during the year for Mauritius fibre, but the output has been very much restricted owing to the difficulty of shipping.

Tobacco

38. The experiments made in the cultivation of Reunion tobacco have shown good results ; the tobacco is regarded as distinctly promising.

Food Crops

39. The erection of the Government Maize Sécherie at Mahebourg was completed during the year and in December the drying corn for estates had been commenced.

40. Considerable further efforts were made during the year to promote the production of maize and of provision crops and it is satisfactory to find that their effect has been already felt. It is estimated that at close of the year 15,675 arpents were under the cultivation in foodstuffs, representing an increase of 66.7 per cent. on the area previously cultivated.

41. A scheme of short term leases of Crown lands at nominal rentals has been devised by the Department of Agriculture for garden produce, as maize, manioc and sweet potatoes. In all some 500 acres of Crown land have been leased in this way.

Limes

42. During the year, His Excellency the Governor invited attention to possibilities of development in the cultivation of limes in Mauritius where there is abundance of the suitable soil. In October the Council of Government voted a sum of Rs. 2,000 for the establishment of a Government demonstration area in the southern part of Flacq.

Cattle

43. The outbreak of foot and mouth disease which occurred at the end of 1916 continued during the early part of the year but was finally stamped out in April.

Entomological

44. *The Phytalus Smithi* campaign was conducted on previously established lines and steps were taken to assist the spread of the parasite (*Tiphia parallela*) in the infected area. Special measures of quarantine and barrier protection continue to be enforced.

Co-operative Credit Societies

45. The Co-operative Credit movement continues to make satisfactory progress. One new Society was registered during the year making the total number operating at 31st December, 24, with a working capital of approximately Rs. 259,572.

The general situation is sound and great possibilities of development are contained in the movement.

SHIPPING

46. The number of merchant vessels entered and cleared during 1917 was 301, with a tonnage of 592,854 giving a decrease of 95 vessels and of 265,004 tonnage, as compared with the previous year. British tonnage was 74 per cent. of the total.

There was a decrease of Rs. 68,724 in the revenue of the port owing to the bulk of the shipping frequenting the port being under Government charter and consequently paying no Harbour dues.

III.—LEGISLATION

47. The number of Ordinances passed by the Council of Government are 24 in number. The most important Ordinances are :—

The Volunteer Force (Amendment) Ordinance, 1917 (No. 1) which empowers the Governor to call out the Volunteer Force or a proportion thereof for active service by means of an order in writing addressed to the Officer Commanding the Mauritius Volunteer Force, instead of by Proclamation.

The Stamp Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1917 (No. 2) which provides for certain duties being paid in cash in lieu of stamps, thus carrying into effect a recommendation of the Royal Commissioners (1909).

The Port Louis Sewerage (Extension) Amendment Ordinance, 1917 (No. 7) which makes the owner of the premises in which a meter has been fixed liable to a fine in case of damage to, or destruction of, such meter whereby water is consumed and not paid for, unless he proves his *boná fides.*

The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1917 (No. 10) which makes provision to prevent smuggling (a lacuna in our laws) and is borrowed from the Malta Ordinance No. 7 of 1909.

The British Nationality and Status of Aliens (Payment of Fees) Ordinance, 1917 (No. 14), the Schedule whereof is borrowed from article 14 of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Regulations, 1914, local legislation being necessary in view of sub-section 2 of section 19 of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914.

The Registration of Agricultural Chemists Ordinance, 1917 (No. 17) which reproduces the Registration of Agricultural Chemists Ordinance, 1915, with the following modifications :—

(1) Persons holding the diploma of Fellow or Associate of the Institute of Chemistry of Great Britain and Ireland have been added to the list of persons entitled to registration.

(2) The qualification of candidates for the preliminary and final examinations has been omitted from the Ordinance, the matter being now dealt with by Regulations.

The Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance, 1917 (No. 21) which reduces the stamp duty on small policies of insurance not exceeding Rs. 500, thus facilitating the issue to the poorer classes of "Industrial Policies."

The Irrigation Works (Management) Ordinance, 1917 (No. 22) which provides for the management of the works undertaken under the Irrigation Works Ordinances Nos. 4 and 33 of 1914.

IV.—EDUCATION

PRIMARY

48. The average number of children on the registers of the Government and Aided Schools in the Colony during the year 1917 was 23,835 against 22,461 in the year 1916, being more than 1,000 in excess of the highest number previously recorded, 22,765 in 1915. The annual average attendance was 15,197 as compared with 15,147 in the previous year.

49. The number of Indian children attending the Primary Schools was 10,244 compared with 10,677 in 1915 and 10,501 in 1916. There has thus been a slight fall of about 4 per cent. since 1915, the year in which the number was the highest.

50. Out of the total number of children in attendance in December, 13,604 were Roman Catholics, 528 belonged to the Church of England and 211 to other Christian denominations. The Mahomedans and Hindoos were 2,670 and 6,738 respectively.

51. There were 720 certificated teachers employed in Government and Aided Schools, of whom 151 were head teachers, 167 assistant teachers and 402 monitors and monitresses.

52. Six scholarships and six exhibitions are awarded every year under which boys from the primary schools can pass on to the Royal College. There were 214 candidates in 1917 against 166 in 1916.

53. For the examination for the four Girls' scholarships giving free tuition in a secondary school and money payment of Rs. 100 a year for three years, the number of candidates was 49.

54. The Men's Training School presented 9 candidates for the 2nd Class Teachers' Examination of whom 2 passed, and 2 candidates for the 3rd class of whom 1 passed. The Women's Training School presented 5 candidates for the 2nd Class Examination and 1 for the 3rd Class, of whom all passed.

55. A technical school was opened during the year for pupils belonging to the primary schools in Port Louis. 92 boys joined the elementary classes and the number allowed to take the full course was about 25 at the end of the year.

56. Elementary agricultural instruction is supplied by a scheme of school gardens in connection with primary schools. Gardens have been established at 17 Government Schools and 9 Aided Schools.

57. A new Education Code came into operation at the beginning of the year. One of the main changes is the introduction of inspection grants to be based on the quality of work done in the school and the general conduct of it.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

58. The Royal College in Curepipe is the Government institution affording Secondary Education to boys. There were in December 1917 215 pupils, of whom 76 were free pupils, the average number for the year being 221. Thirteen Secondary Schools for boys and girls receive grants from Government.

59. Out of 263 candidates examined at the last Cambridge Local Examination, 56 passed.

60. Two Government Scholarships tenable in England are offered annually to students of the Royal College of the value of £1,000 each, extending over 4 or 5 years, with £150 for travelling expenses.

61. A Commission was appointed during the year to enquire into the general administration of the Royal College, with particular reference to the efficiency and suitability of the staff of Professors and Masters.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

HOSPITALS

62. The Civil Hospital in Port Louis, with 290 beds, is the most important of the Colony. The number of patients admitted to this institution during the year was 6,595, the number discharged 6,205 and the daily average in hospital 257. The number of deaths was 384.

Of those discharged 2,931 were reported as cured, 2,876 relieved and 398 not improved.

63. District Hospitals are also maintained by Government at Barkly Asylum (Beau Bassin), Mahebourg, Souillac, Long Mountain, Poudre d'Or, Flacq and Moka, with an aggregate accommodation of 655 beds.

The total number of cases treated at these district hospitals was 13,656.

Little progress was made during the year with the new hospital at Candos, Quatre Bornes, to replace the present hospital buildings at Barkly Asylum, owing to the difficulty and cost of getting materials.

The outlying districts are served by dispensaries for the treatment of emergency and pauper cases.

64. The Lunatic Asylum contained on 31st December 1917, 478 patients as compared with 486 on the corresponding date of the previous year. The total number of certified lunatics including patients on probation and patients in the Lunatic branch wards at Barkly Asylum was 766, giving a proportion of 1 in 491 or 20.34 per 10,000 of the population.

65. There were 68 inmates in the Leper Asylum at the close of the year, a decrease of 4 as compared with 1916.

POOR RELIEF

66. There is only one institution under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioner at which paupers receive institutional treatment and this is Barkly Asylum situated at Beau Bassin.

67. Exclusive of the pauper cases treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries, 1,026 paupers, as compared with 1,064 in 1916, received institutional relief during 1917 at the Barkly Asylum and different religious institutions.

2,359 paupers received pecuniary out relief, permanently or temporarily, during 1917, against 2,233 in 1916.

SAVINGS BANK

68. At the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th June 1917 a sum of Rs. 3,640,091 to the credit of 30,564 depositors, as compared with Rs. 3,612,390 to the credit of 30,154 depositors on the 30th June 1916. The amount of deposits during the financial year was Rs. 1,516,387 and the withdrawals amounted to Rs. 1,491,960 an excess of deposits over withdrawals of Rs. 24,427.

The balance to the credit of 12,890 Indian depositors on 30th June 1917 was Rs. 1,473,388, being Rs. 332,964 more than the previous year.

The total sum invested on behalf of the Savings Bank by the Crown Agents for the Colonies in securities approved by the Secretary of State is Rs. 3,772,495. The amount realised by interest on sums invested for the Savings Bank was Rs.121,367 and the expenditure incurred, including the payment of interest to depositors, amounted to Rs. 113,832 thus leaving a balance in favour of the Bank of Rs. 7,534.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS

POLICE

69. The strength of the Police Force on the last day of the year 1917 was 11 officers and 572 non-commissioned officers and men, being 3 officers and 12 men below the authorized strength.

61 men were enlisted during the year against 58 struck off the strength. Of this latter number 38 were pensioned off or resigned, 9 were dismissed, and 11 died. 1 officer, 3 non-commissioned officers and 3 men were seconded for service in the Mauritius Labour Battalion and are now serving in Mesopotamia.

The health of the Force was on the whole good, although there were many cases of malaria. 834 cases were admitted to hospital, chiefly suffering from fever.

The number of departmental offences was 273 as compared with 381 in the previous year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

70. The Police held 252 inquiries into cases of sudden death. Of these 33 cases were attributed to suicide and 18 to homicide.

Reports of criminal offences made at the various stations numbered 21,796 as compared with 19,638 reports in 1916. Altogether 11,806 persons were arrested in respect of such offences (inclusive of 504 arrested on suspicion). Of these 10,488 were actually taken before the Courts and 9,192 were convicted. 522 persons were still untried at the beginning of the year.

There were 2,361 cases of serious crime in 1917, as compared with 2,107 in 1916. 12 persons were tried at the Assizes in 1917 of whom 8 were convicted. There was no conviction for murder.

PRISONS AND REFORMATORY

71. 3,350 persons, as compared with 3,142 in 1916, were admitted to prison after conviction. Of this number 3,214 were males and 136 females. The average daily number of convicted prisoners was 624.61, as against 627.67 in 1916.

1,836 of the prisoners admitted during 1917 were recidivists, 558 with 3 or more convictions, 460 with 2 previous convictions and 818 with 1 previous conviction.

The average daily number of in-patients was 28.92. There were 25 deaths compared with 18 in 1916, of which 6 deaths were due to dysentery. The death-rate was 4.03 as against 2.87 in 1916.

72. The Government Reformatory contained, on 31st December 1916, 60 inmates, 123 were admitted during the year and 112 were discharged, leaving 71 boys on 31st December 1917, 1 of whom was untried.

The general health was satisfactory, the prevailing disease being malaria. The discipline is said to have shown improvement.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS

73. The estimated population, inclusive of the Dependencies, on the 31st December 1917 was 384,951, an increase of 698 on that of the previous year. There was a decrease of 542 in the number of males and an increase of 1,240 in the number of females.

There were 13,887 births during the year or 726 more than in 1916. The birth-rate was 36.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 35.0 per 1,000 for 1916. Of the births registered 4,606 or 33.2 per cent. were legitimate and 9,281 or 66.8 per cent. illegitimate.

The deaths registered were 12,234 or 802 more than in the previous year. The death-rate was 32.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as against 30.4 the death-rate in 1916, or an increase of 2.1.

74. Infant mortality continues very high, the rate being 16.55 per cent. that is about a sixth of the children born die before they are a year old.

PUBLIC HEALTH

75. The public health during the year 1917 cannot be considered as satisfactory, the deaths showing an increase of 2.1 per thousand of the population compared with 1916.

The general character of the prevalent diseases has been maintained and as in previous years malaria accounted for the greatest number of cases of illness in the island.

76. Measures for the prevention of the disease were systematically maintained throughout the year. The execution of major anti-malarial works has been handed over to the Public Works Department; but the control of the minor works and of the free distribution of quinine are retained by the Medical Department.

77. No disease broke out in epidemic form and plague may be considered to have disappeared from the Colony.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL

78. The temperature ranged between 12.2° C. on August 22, 1917, and 31.6° on December 15. The mean temperature was 22.5° C.

The rainfall was 1734.79 mm. compared with an average of 1926.71. Its distribution throughout the year was irregular. The wettest months were April, October and November, and the driest February, March and December. On the whole, however, the year was a satisfactory one. No cyclone visited the Colony.

Observations at the Observatory are now recorded in metric units: temperatures in centigrade, rainfall in millimetres, wind velocities in metres per second and pressure in millibars.

IX.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH

79. At the end of the year the total number of offices of all classes was 61 of which 56 were telegraph offices. One post office was closed during 1917 owing to lack of business.

The estimated number of postal articles (exclusive of parcels) which passed through the post office was 3,956,207, or 480,821 less than in 1916; 192,648 fewer letters and post cards were dealt with; foreign letters and post cards were 6,030 more, and printed matter, 294,203 less. The number of postal parcels handled was 10,721, a decrease of 1,645 over the figures of the preceding year.

The number of insured parcels received was 8,796 to a value of Rs. 386,768, and the number despatched 36, to a value of Rs. 4,658, as against, in 1916, 10,356 received, valued Rs 393,235 and 68 despatched, valued Rs. 10,356.

There was an increase of Rs. 82,731 in Inland money order transactions and an increase of Rs. 450,453 in Foreign money order transactions.

The amount collected as commission on Foreign money orders issued was Rs. 20,836 in excess of the previous year's figure. This large increase is due to the rate of commission on money orders drawn on India having been raised from 2 to 4 per cent. in April, from 4 to 6 per cent. in May and from 6 to 9 per cent. in November, to protect this Government against loss in the adjustment of accounts with the Government of India. Postal Order business showed a reduction of Rs. 8,576.

80. The expenditure of the Department, including Telegraphs, in 1917 was Rs. 199,100 and in 1916 Rs. 168,890; while the revenue for the two years was Rs. 220,180 and Rs. 240,394 respectively.

The sale of stamped postal matter produced Rs. 35,597 less than in 1916.

The total number of telegrams handed in shows a decrease of 35,767 and an increase of Rs. 2,076 in paid telegrams.

X.—GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

81. The gross revenue for 1917 amounted to Rs. 3,289,803, the working expenses to Rs. 3,016,041 and the net revenue to Rs. 3,032,638.

The passenger traffic, including miscellaneous receipts, amounted to Rs. 1,860,428 or Rs. 1,977 less than in 1916. The passenger traffic has shown a fairly consistent increase and has risen from Rs. 1,190,253 in 1912 to Rs. 1,565,273 in 1917, or an increase of Rs. 375,020 within five years.

The total tonnage of goods carried in 1917 was 573,990 tons or 8,413 tons less than in 1916 and the earnings were correspondingly less, amounting to Rs. 1,429,326 as compared with Rs. 1,481,878 in the previous year.

The ratio of working expenses to total earnings showed an increase of 32.69 as compared with 1914 and 9.46 as compared with 1916, the figures being 92.59, 59.90 and 83.13 % respectively.

When compared with 1913, the last normal year, the increase of working expenditure due to the war shows a rise of over one million rupees.

82. Owing to the large increase in the cost of all railway supplies and in view of providing additional revenue to meet the increased expenses of the railway, the Council of Government on the 17th July 1917 voted a resolution imposing an additional export duty on all sugar carried by the railway. This special tax was fixed at 16 cents per 100 kilos. and was estimated to realize Rs. 281,000.

It was also decided to reduce the passenger train service on week days and to suspend all traffic on Sundays with the object of effecting economy in the wear and tear of the rolling stock and in the consumption of coal.

BOIS CHÉRI LIGHT RAILWAY

83. The tonnage carried, including the Government timber traffic, was 21,146 against 21,236 tons in 1916. The bulk of the traffic was sugar canes—20,072 tons. The crop in the district served by the Light Railway was comparatively small and the total tonnage of cane handled was 1,500 tons less than in the previous year.

XI.—PUBLIC WORKS

84. No new works were undertaken during the year, due to enforced economy, and, as was the case last year, expenditure on public works was confined to maintenance and repairs.

85. Work connected with La Ferme reservoir has continued on normal lines and the distribution system was carried to an advanced stage. Throughout the year a supply of water for irrigation was maintained and the reservoir is already supplying water to irrigate 1,500 arpents. The revenue from rent of water amounted to Rs. 34,982.

86. The main roads were maintained in fair order and over eleven miles of surface were rolled.

XII.—FORESTS

87. The area of Crown Lands and Mountain and River Reserves under the custody of the Forest Department was about 86,441½ arpents, showing an increase of 74¾ arpents representing properties acquired during the year in the catchment area of River du Poste de Flacq for Rs. 5,101.

The revenue obtained by the Forest Department was Rs. 185,117 in 1917, showing a decrease of Rs. 34,960 over last year, but an increase of Rs. 31,947 over 1915.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS RETURNS

88. A contribution, known as the Ecclesiastical Grant, is made by the Colonial Government to the authority of the various recognized churches, on the basis of the number of adherents of each body. The apportionment in 1917 was as follows :

Roman Catholic	Rs. 111,520
Church of England	34,533
Presbyterian	5,583

89. The number of churches in the Colony are as follows :—In Mauritius, Roman Catholic 83, Church of England 28, Presbyterian 17, and in Rodrigues, the largest Dependency, Roman Catholic 2, Anglican 1.

90. Statistics under the head of immigration show that during 1917, 301 old and infirm Indians were repatriated. Imported labour from India has been discontinued.

91. The material prosperity of the Indians is evidenced by the value of landed property acquired by them. During the year under review the value is returned at Rs. 1,478,000 and property which changed hands among the Indian population is valued at Rs. 5,448,000.

92. The amount to the credit of the Public Officer's Guarantee Fund on 31st December, 1917, was Rs. 125,277, of which Rs. 123,500 have been invested through the Crown Agents.

XIV.—DEPENDENCIES

93. The population of Rodrigues was estimated at 6,105 at the end of 1917. The general health of the island during the year has been very favourable. The number of births was 293 as against 259 in 1916. The number of deaths was 66 as against 51 in 1916. The birth-rate was 48 per thousand of the population and the death-rate 10.8.

94. The value of the imports in 1917 was Rs. 286,279. The exports of island produce show a gradual increase and in 1917 they were valued at Rs. 379,595. The principal exports are beans, salt fish, cattle, pigs, goats, poultry, tobacco in leaf and acacia seed. The whole trade is with Mauritius.

95. The Lesser Dependencies are : Diégo Garcia, (the most important of the Oil Islands group), Six Islands, Peros Banhos, Solomon Islands, Agalega, St. Brandon group, Farquhar Islands, Trois Frères. These islands are supervised by two Magistrates who are resident in Mauritius and pay regular visits to the islands. The population of the Lesser Dependencies was estimated at 1,760 at the end of 1917. The chief exports to the Colony are coconut oil, nuts, copra, guano and salted fish.

XV.—GENERAL REMARKS

96. There have been few incidents in the past year to record. The food supply has been adequate in spite of difficulties of freight. The cost of the chief necessaries of life has however risen considerably and presses heavily on the poorer inhabitants.

The Volunteer Force has maintained its efficiency and a useful force is in existence. The first Volunteer Camp was held in June.

Eleven Government servants from various Departments, who had responded to a special appeal from the Secretary of State to members of the Civil Service, were allowed to proceed to the United Kingdom to offer their services for the period of the war. Six other officials are now serving with the British and French Armies.

A public collection for France's Day (14th July) amounted to Rs. 46,850. October 19 was observed as "Our Day" when a sum of Rs. 91,952 was raised for the British Red Cross Society.

Numerous sums have also been raised by private effort for the various patriotic funds and remitted otherwise than through Government.

20th July, 1918.

L. KŒNIG,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title-page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year
952	Leeward Islands	1916–1917
953	St. Vincent	"
954	Uganda	"
955	Nyasaland	"
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	"
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	"
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	"
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	"
964	Seychelles	"
965	Weihaiwei	"
966	Fiji	"
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	"
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
971	Ceylon	"
972	Hong Kong	"
973	Zanzibar	"
974	St. Helena	"
975	Malta	1917–1918
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	"
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917–1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	"
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 985.)

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF MAURITIUS AND ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR 1918

I.—FINANCIAL

1. The revenue for the financial year 1917–18 amounted to Rs. 12,607,384, being Rs. 1,004,087 below the revenue for the previous year and Rs. 431,670 above the average of the last five years.

Revenue

2. The chief excesses of the revenue over the preceding year were in respect of Licences, Excise, etc. Rs. 878,993; Fees of Court or Office Rs. 112,202; Interest Rs. 35,406; while the chief decreases were under Customs Rs. 525,746 and Port and Harbour dues Rs. 93,276.

3. The following table shows the revenue for the last five years:—

1913–14	Rs. 11,142,611
1914–15	12,113,810
1915–16	12,975,041
1916–17	13,611,473
1917–18	12,607,384

Expenditure

4. The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 12,015,394, or Rs. 199,254 above the expenditure of the previous year and Rs. 836,278 above the average expenditure of the previous five years.

5. The following table shows the expenditure for the last five years:—

1913–14	Rs. 10,216,470
1914–15	12,136,424
1915–16	11,490,946
1916–17	11,816,140
1917–18	12,015,394

Assets and Liabilities

6. There was brought to account, up to the 30th June 1918, expenditure amounting to Rs. 2,545,000 on Railway re-equipment, and Rs. 1,654,079 on Irrigation works. The net balance to the credit of the Colony on 30th June stood at Rs. 3,771,991, against a net surplus for the previous financial period of Rs. 3,060,952.

Public Debt

7. The amount of the public debt on 30th June 1918 was £1,255,590 in respect of which the sinking funds amounted to £386,115. The charge on account of the public debt for the last financial year was Rs. 938,000.

Currency and Banking

8. The average value of notes in circulation in the year 1917–18 was Rs. 7,301,750, against Rs. 6,927,065 in the previous year, while the average amount of silver held was Rs. 2,842,000 compared with

Rs. 3,563,384 in the previous year. The investments on account of the Currency Commissioners which stood at Rs. 3,614,250 on 1st July 1917 were increased to Rs. 4,854,250. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 470,704 to Rs. 505,726.

9. There are two private Banks established in the Colony—the Mauritius Commercial Bank and the Mercantile Bank of India Limited. The usual Government accounts at both banks were maintained during the year.

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS

10. The management of the affairs of the town of Port Louis is vested in a Municipality elected by the ratepayers. The revenue and expenditure of the Municipality for the last two years is shown in the following statement :—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
1917 ...	Rs. 534,061 ...	Rs. 504,621
1918 ...	534,712 ..	557,261

The debt of the Municipality at the end of the year was £110,655. Provision for repayment is made regularly every year and the total amount repaid on 31st December 1918 was £52,668.

LOCAL BOARDS

11. The smaller towns of the Colony—Curepipe, Beau Bassin—Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes are controlled by Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor.

12. The revenue of the Town of Curepipe consists principally of the receipts from house property and tenant taxes, taxes collected from vehicles and animals, licences and market dues. The Board also receives all fines resulting from contraventions and a contribution voted annually by the Council of Government.

13. The receipts and expenditure of the Boards for the last two years are shown in the following comparative statements :—

Curepipe	Receipts	Expenditure
1916–17 ...	Rs. 122,799 ...	Rs. 167,302
1917–18 ...	141,697 ...	162,329

	Beau Bassin—Rose Hill		*Quatre Bornes*	
	Receipts	Expenditure	Receipts	Expenditure
1916–17	Rs. 37,140	Rs. 38,046	Rs. 19,072	Rs. 19,605
1917–18	41,176	40,995	21,094	22,994

14. The following sums were contributed by Government to the Boards in the year 1917–18 :—

Curepipe	Rs. 68,000
Beau Bassin—Rose Hill	13,600
Quatre Bornes	5,000

The debts of the Boards to the Treasury for advances made on account of public works amounted at the close of the year to Rs. 48,000, thus :—

Curepipe Board	Rs. 45,000
Quatre Bornes	3,000

15. There is a Branch Roads Board for each of the eight rural districts of the island to which is entrusted the maintenance of the branch roads under Ordinance No. 9 of 1900. These Boards receive as

revenue a contribution from Government equivalent to 10 per cent. of the direct taxes collected in each district during the preceding year and an addition of 10 per cent. to the direct taxes to be levied in each year in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and the townships. Additional percentages on such taxes up to 25 per cent. may also be imposed.

16. The powers of these Boards, excluding Plaines Wilhems, were extended by Ordinance No. 35 of 1912 to include the construction, maintenance and management of water works. For this purpose they receive an annual contribution from Government, which in 1917-18 amounted to Rs. 79,000, and also the proceeds of water rates and of charges paid for water supplies.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

Imports and Exports

17. The following table shows the total value of imports and exports, excluding specie, in each of the years from 1913 to 1918 :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1913 ...	Rs. 35,864,703 ...	Rs. 35,291,706 ...	Rs. 68,156,409
1914 ..	35,674,864 ...	59,524,405 ...	95,199,269
1915 ...	41,682,251 ...	56,015,511 ...	97,697,762
1916 ...	53,615,754 ...	72,692,170 ...	126,297,924
1917 ...	42,094,708 ...	58,319,728 ...	100,414,436
1918 ...	42,921,250 ...	55,652,480 ...	98,573,730

18. Taking the exports and imports together, there is a decrease of Rs. 1,840,000 in 1918 as compared with 1917. It may be observed that the increase in the total trade in the island during each year of the war is an increase of values rather than of quantities.

19. The percentages of imports, exports and total trade held by the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries are as follows :—

	1916	1917	1918
Percentage of total trade held by :	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	31.7	42.3	28.6
British Possessions ...	29.7	29.7	62.8
Foreign Countries ...	38.6	28.	8.6
	100.	100.	100.
Percentage of import trade held by :	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	29.7	26.	16.3
British Possessions ...	48.1	52.4	70.2
Foreign Countries ...	22.2	21.6	13.5
	100.	100.	100.
Percentage of export trade held by :	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	33.2	54.	38.1
British Possessions ...	16.2	13.4	57.1
Foreign Countries ...	50.6	32.6	4.8
	100.	100.	100.

20. The great bulk of the trade was done with British Possessions and the country having the largest share was British India. The value of the total trade to that country rose from Rs. 35,032,927 in 1916 to Rs. 50,265,217 in 1918. Owing to the war there is a falling off in the trade with Foreign Countries, the decline affecting both imports and exports.

21. The value of imports from, and exports to, the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries during the years 1914 to 1918, is shown below (specie is not included) :—

	Imports from (unit Rs. 1000)			*Exports to* (unit Rs. 1000)		
	U. Kingdom	B. Possessions	F. Countries	U. Kingdom	B. Possessions	F. Countries
1914...	11,819	... 16,716	... 7,140	32,116	... 26,270	... 1,138
1915...	13,851	... 19,131	... 8,700	35,636	... 16,449	... 3,931
1916...	15,903	... 25,786	... 11,927	24,140	... 11,757	... 36,785
1917...	10,939	... 22,050	... 9,106	31,489	... 7.789	... 19,041
1918...	7,016	... 30.123	... 5,782	21,258	... 31,810	... 2,664

22. The chief articles contributing to the Revenue from imports in 1918 were :—

Tobacco and Cigars	Rs. 695,000
Grain	501,000
Oils, raw	168,000
Cotton manufactures	151,000
Wines	141,000
Matches	93,000
Haberdashery	60,000
Spirits	53,000

Imports

23. The general rate of duty under the Customs Tariff is 12 per cent. *ad valorem*. Special specific rates are fixed for some goods, and some goods are admitted free of duty. No increased import duties were imposed during the year.

24. The following statement is of interest as showing the principal countries suplying goods to the Colony with the figures for 1913 for comparison :—

	1913		1918
1. British India ...	Rs. 13,536,419	...	Rs. 24,401,249
2. UnitedKingdom	12,218,219	...	7,016,235
3. South Africa ...	1,163,361	...	4,555,435
4. France ...	3,696,209	...	963,692
5. United States...	862,527	...	1,492,722
6. Madagascar ...	1,739,326	...	398,377
7. Reunion ...	372,527	...	919,275
8. Japan ...	3,336	...	903,100
Total	Rs. 33,591,924	...	Rs. 40,650,085

The British share of the trade before the war was very large and it has continued for the most part British.

25. No specie was imported in 1918. The value of the specie imported in 1917 was Rs. 46,740. The value of the imports, exclusive of specie, in 1918 as compared with 1917, shows an increase of Rs. 827,000. The largest increases occur under the following heads :—

Corn, Grain, etc.	Rs. 5,633,000
Wood and Timber	42,000

The largest decreases occur under the following heads :—

Manures and Fertilizers	Rs. 3,518,000
Machinery for local industries ..	671,000
Coals, Coke and Patent Fuel	623,000
Motor Cars and Cycles	216,000
Tobacco of all kinds	183,000
Haberdashery	179,000
Cotton manufactures	139,000

26. The imports of rice, which is the chief article of food of the majority of the population, were 59,723 metric tons, as compared with 48,414 metric tons in the previous year, the value of the importations being Rs. 15,308,000 in 1918 and Rs. 8,985,000 in 1917. The great bulk of the supply was from Rangoon (33,000 tons) ; Singapore supplied only 7 tons and China 14 tons, against 314 and 145 tons respectively in the previous year.

27. 2,385 tons of wheat flour valued at Rs. 922,000 were imported as against 8,427 tons valued at Rs. 1,981,000 in 1917. India supplied 2,188 tons and the Union of South Africa 118 tons. India supplied all the dholl, lentils and gram imported, the importations being . —

Dholl 4,451 tons valued at Rs. 1,350,000 as against 3,615 tons valued at Rs. 783,000 in 1917 ; lentils 1,526 tons valued at Rs. 490,000 as against 792 tons valued at Rs. 188,000 in 1917 ; gram 995 tons valued at Rs. 278,000 as against 1,687 tons valued at Rs. 358,000 in 1917.

28. The importations of coal decreased from 71,077 tons in 1917 to 30,965 tons in 1918, the Union of South Africa being the principal source of supply with 27,000 tons in 1918 as against 54,000 tons in 1917.

29. The following table shows the principal countries which supply goods to Mauritius and the value of the goods supplied, exclusive of specie, in the years 1917 and 1918 :—

Country	*Imports into Mauritius*	
	1917	1918
British India	Rs. 17,107,000 ...	Rs. 24,401,000
United Kingdom ...	11,043,000 ..	7,016,000
Union of South Africa ...	4,359,000 ...	4,555,000
United States of America	2,267,000 ..	1,493,000
Chili...	1,746,000 ...	....
France	1,721,000 ...	964,000
Madagascar	1,028,000 ...	398,000
Réunion	1,019,000 ...	919,000
Sumatra	251,000 ..	184,000
Japan	232,000 ...	903,000
Sweden	185,000 ...	248,000

Exports.

30. The following table shows the items of export with quantities and values for 1917 and 1918.

	1917		1918	
	Tons (metric)	*Value Rs.*	*Tons (metric)*	*Value Rs.*
Sugar ...	190,821 ...	54,539,232	183,222 ...	53,882,000
Aloe fibre ...	1,214 ...	411,631	391 ...	140,135
	hectol.			
Coconut oil	1,115 ...	62,530	966 ...	72,572
Rum ...	1,283 ...	26,669	475 ...	15,952
	Tons			
Molasses ...	581 ...	29,185	8 ...	125
Copra ...	75 ...	18,750	15 ...	400
Vanilla ...	¼ ..	4,163	⅓ ...	7,485

31. The quantity of sugar shipped to the United Kingdom has amounted to 74,022 tons for the year, a decrease of 37,352 tons on the figures for 1917. India has purchased 86,586 tons, representing in value Rs. 25,844,728.

32. The following table shows the principal countries to which sugar was exported during the calendar years 1917 and 1918:

Country	1917 *Metric tons*	1918 *Metric tons*
United Kingdom... ...	111,373 ...	... 74,022
British India	24,477 ...	... 86,586
France	52,639 ...	... .
Union of South Africa ...	417 ...	.. 6,145
Portuguese East Africa ...	730 ...	... 4,790
British East Africa ...	396 ...	.. 2,087
Australia	373 ...	... 1,002
Egypt	....	... 5,523
Seychelles	242 ...	... 593
Zanzibar	48 ...	... 1,429

Out of 183,222 tons of sugar exported in 1918, the United Kingdom and British India purchased together 160,608 tons.

The export duty on sugar yielded Rs. 842,000. Export duty is levied on sugar at the rate of 51 cents per 100 kilos.

33. The following table shows the value and the destination of the principal products of the Colony, other than sugar, which were exported in 1917 and 1918:

Product	*Year*	*United Kingdom*	*British Possessions*	*Foreign Countries*	*Total*
Aloe Fibre ...	1917	Rs. 250,437	Rs. 129,931	Rs. 31,263	Rs. 411,631
...	1918 ...	...	... 140,135 ...	...	... 140,135
Copra and Poonac	1917 ...	18,750 ...	20,625 ...	...	... 39,375
...	1918 ..	.. ...	400 ...	...	... 400
Molasses ...	1917 ...	... ...	29,185 ...	...	... 29,185
...	1918 ...	... ...	125 ...	...	... 125
Rum ...	1917 ...	17,003 ...	9,666 ...	...	... 26,669
...	1918 ...	... ...	9,920 ...	6,032 ...	15,952
Coconut oil ...	1917 ...	... ...	26,920 ...	35,610 ...	62,530
...	1918 ...	... ...	45,925 ...	26,647 ...	72,572
Vanilla ...	1917 ...	2,000 ..	2,163 ...	...	... 4,163
...	1918 ...	... ...	6,985 ...	500 ...	7,485

AGRICULTURE

Sugar

34. The area under sugar cane for the production of sugar at the commencement of the year was estimated to be 168,356 arpents, an increase of 806 arpents over the previous year. Of this total 92,538 arpents were cultivated by estates and 75,828 arpents by farmers. The area under cultivation by Indians amounted to no less than 72,633 arpents or 43 per cent. of the whole.

35. The number of factories in Mauritius has decreased from 104 to 55 from the year 1892 to 1918, but on the other hand the tendency has been to centralise the industry, so that the total capacity is much greater than it was formerly. There is not much scope for the extension of the Sugar Industry in Mauritius as practically the whole of the lands which are suitable for cane cultivation are at present under that crop.

36. The sugar crop of 1917-18 did not exceed 225,970 tons, which is below the average production of the last five years ; the chief cause of the reduction being unfavourable weather. The description of sugar manufactured is 95.5 per cent. of white sugar and 4.5 per cent. of low grade sugar. Of the total crop about 6,000 tons are used for local consumption.

The total sugar crop in each year of the war is shown below in metric tons with the pre-war average for comparison :—

	1914-15	1916	1917	1918	5 years' average 1914-18	5 years' average 1909-13
Tons	214,518	209,035	225,970	252,370	235,800	221,400

It will be seen that the crop of 1918 was the best of the five, that of 1917 being the next best. When it is remembered that in 1917, and still more in 1918, the stringency in supplies and the scarcity of land fertilizers were more acute than in previous years, the result is highly satisfactory.

Aloe fibre

37. The output was much restricted during the year owing to the want of shipping space. Some small areas were planted with Sisal but the cultivation of this plant shows no great progress.

Tobacco

38. There was an extension of the local manufacture of tobacco of the Reunion type, or *tabac bleu,* during the year, and the trials carried out on the initiative of His Excellency the Governor have been justified by success. The results have shown that a thoroughly satisfactory and marketable article can be produced and that the production of this tobacco for local consumption may eventually attain considerable importance.

Tea

39. Little or no extension of this cultivation is taking place although tea growers receive preferential treatment to the extent of 30 cents per lb. import duty on foreign tea. The local demand is chiefly for foreign tea.

Limes

40. Interest is being taken in the experimental plantation of limes made by the Department of Agriculture. The results of trials have proved very satisfactory as regards growth, and indicate the probability of the opening up of a profitable industry in this direction.

Vanilla

41. There is no progress to report in relation to the vanilla industry and there is no sign of any improvement. The acreage under cultivation shows little signs of increasing.

Food Crops

42. Renewed efforts have been continued to bring about an extension of the cultivation of food crops. Considerably increased areas were planted in maize during the early part of the year but owing to the heavy rainfall during the growing season the results were adversely affected in certain districts. Operations at the Maize *Sécherie* at Mahebourg were much restricted owing to the high prices realized by locally grown maize.

The scheme by which about 500 acres of Crown land were made available for cultivation by small planters during the year made satisfactory progress but it is not an easy matter to induce landowners to produce foodstuffs when sugar cultivation is so remunerative.

Live Stock

43. A general census of cattle taken in the month of August revealed the fact that since 1914 the horned stock has diminished by over 8,000 head, the diminution being chiefly marked in the case of milch cows and young animals.

Legislation was passed during the year to restrict the slaughtering of cattle which it is hoped will materially improve the position and maintain the herds of the country.

Entomological

44. Strong measures have been taken to guard against the spread of Phytalus Smithi and have been productive of good results; but despite the Government action and genuine effort on the part of the planters, the presence of the insect has been observed to a greater extent this year than on previous occasions. The work of encouraging the spread of the parasite (*Typhia parallela*) is being vigorously prosecuted.

Co-operative Credit Societies

45. Progress continues to be made with Co-operative Credit Societies. The number working at the end of December 1918 was 23. The total number of members is now 2,781 an increase of 14 on the year 1917, and the working capital has been increased by Rs. 9,749 to a total of Rs. 310,461.

SHIPPING

46. The net tonnage (sailing and steam) visiting Port Louis in 1918 amounted to 53,290 tons. In addition 135 vessels with a tonnage of 192,771 entered, and 136 vessels with a tonnage of 194,494 cleared during 1918, a decrease of 12 vessels and a tonnage of 955,490 entered, also a decrease of 18 vessels cleared and a tonnage of 110,040 as compared with the previous year.

The comparative distribution according to nationality for 1917 and 1918 is shown below :—

1917	*Entered*	*Cleared*
British	108	115
Dutch	1	1
French	28	29
Japanese	4	3
Norwegian	2	2
Spanish	3	2
Swedish	2	1
	148	153

1918	*Entered*	*Cleared*
British	86	85
American	2	1
Chinese	2	2
Dutch	2	2
French	28	28
Japanese	8	8
Norwegian	2	3
Portuguese	1	1
Spanish	2	2
Swedish	3	3
	136	135

III.—LEGISLATION

47. During the year 1918, 34 Ordinances were passed. Of these the following are the more important :—

(*a*) The Slaughtering of Cattle Restriction Ordinance, No. 1 of 1918, which was passed with the object of maintaining the live-stock of the Colony.

(*b*) The Sugar Purchase Ordinance, No. 8 of 1918. The object of this Ordinance was to validate the special conditions under which the purchase by the Colonial Government of certain categories of vesou sugar of the 1918-19 crop was effected.

(*c*) The Fisheries Ordinance, No. 9 of 1918, which amends and consolidates the law on fisheries.

(*d*) The Vanilla Consolidated Ordinance, No. 10 of 1918, which reproduces, with certain modifications, the Vanilla Ordinance of 1915.

48. The Ordinances of lesser importance are:

(*a*) The Copyright Ordinance, No. 5 of 1918, which empowers the Collector of Customs to perform the duties and exercise the powers imposed on or given to the Commissioners of Customs and Excise of the United Kingdom by Sec. 14 of the Imperial Copyright Act, 1911.

(*b*) The Animals Destruction Ordinance, No. 20 of 1918. The object of this Ordinance is to stimulate the development of foodstuffs by affording better protection against the depredations of certain animals.

IV.—EDUCATION

Primary

49. In December 1918 there were 57 Government Primary Schools and 91 Aided Schools attended by 23,794 pupils, as compared with 23,835 in 1917. The average attendance was 15,073 as against 15,197 in 1917, which shows a small decrease both in the enrolment and in the average attendance.

50. The number of Indian children attending the Primary Schools was 10,675 as compared with 10,244 in 1917 and 10,501 in 1916. Of the total number of pupils 12,417 were described as Roman Catholics, 481 as belonging to the Church of England and 207 to other Christian denominations. The Mohammedans and Hindoos were 2,886 and 6,925 respectively. One Hindoo and two Mohammedan Schools are also assisted.

51. The percentage ot passes at the annual examinations in the obligatory subjects on the number examined and on roll in Government Schools was 72.95 and 70.62 respectively, as against 67.66 and 66.12 in 1917. The percentages for Aided Schools were 71.19 and 68.82, as against 72.5 and 70.2 in 1917. The examinations were held for the first time under the new Education Code.

52. There are 724 teachers employed in Government and Aided Schools, of whom 151 are head teachers, 136 assistant teachers and 437 monitors.

53. The encouragement offered by Government takes the form of scholarships and exhibitions. Under that system six scholarships and six exhibitions are offered every year to boys from the primary schools and those who take the first twelve places pass on to the Royal College. The exhibitioners receive free tuition and the scholars free tuition and an allowance of Rs. 100 a year, for three years. Of the 216 candidates who entered in December 1918, 126 failed to satisfy the preliminary test and 27 of the remainder reached the pass standard.

There is also keen competition for the four girls' scholarships giving free tuition in a secondary school and money payment of Rs. 100 a year for 3 years. The number of candidates that entered in 1918 was 112, of these 9 obtained the minimum marks required.

54. There are Government Training Schools for men and for women. The training school for men presented 8 candidates for the Teachers' certificate examinations, of whom one obtained a 2nd and one a 3rd class certificate. Of the three candidates presented by the Women's Training School none passed.

Technical Education

55. There are 8 mechanical engineering apprenticeships for which there were 52 candidates in 1918 as compared with 91 in the previous year. For the two horticultural apprenticeships only three candidates entered their names and failed to qualify. There were no entries for the civil engineering apprenticeships.

56. There are four needlework apprenticeships in the Girls' Schools and 37 candidates entered for the competition, as against 49 in the previous year.

57. Instruction in woodwork and mechanical drawing was given to 187 boys in the Port Louis Technical School, being 95 in excess of the number attending during 1917, the year in which the scheme was developed. Woodwork is also taught in five country schools.

58. Elementary agricultural instruction is supplied by a scheme of School Gardens conducted in connection with primary schools. Gardens have been established at 17 Government schools and 9 Aided schools.

Secondary Education

59. There were in December 1918, 245 pupils on the Royal College roll. The number on 31st December 1917 was 215. Thirteen secondary schools for boys and girls receive grants from Government.

60. There are two Government Scholarships to enable pupils of the College to continue their studies in England, of the value of £ 1,000 each extending over four or five years, with £150 for passage expenses.

61. The Senior and Junior Cambridge Local Certificate Examinations were held in December, the number of entries being 131 for the Senior and 97 for the Junior Certificate. The number of passes was 38 for the Junior and 31 for the Senior Certificate. The total expenditure on education in 1917-1918 amounted to Rs. 632,507.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Hospitals and Dispensaries

62. The Civil Hospital in Port Louis, to which are attached a Maternity ward and a Police hospital, is the most important of the Colony. It contains 290 beds. 6,672 patients were admitted during the year, which, with 194 patients remaining from last year, makes a total of 6,866 patients treated, against 6,595 for last year. There were 388 deaths, against 384 for last year. A striking feature of this institution is the amount of surgical work carried out. During the year 1,039 operations were performed and the number of deaths was 22. The number of out-patients was 433 against 427 for 1917.

The Maternity ward has treated 104 cases during the year as against 114 in the previous year. The training of midwives under the de Chazal scheme has been a marked feature of this ward.

63. District Hospitals are also maintained by Government with an aggregate accommodation of 659 beds. The total number of cases treated was 14,824 during the year, chiefly suffering from malaria.

64. There are Government outdoor dispensaries for the treatment of emergency and pauper cases. The number of "cases" treated at the public dispensaries was 57,025, or 308 less than in the previous year. Owners of estates provide estate hospitals of which there are 83.

Lunatic Asylum

65. The Lunatic Asylum contained on 31st December 1918 485 patients of all races, of whom 267 were males and 218 females, as compared with 478 in the corresponding date of the previous year. The patients in the Lunatic branch wards of Barkly Asylum were 99 (66 males and 33 females). The total number of certified lunatics in the Colony, including patients out on probation, was 771, giving a proportion of one to 488 of the population or 20.46 per mille. The number of criminal lunatics was 23 (21 males and 2 females).

Leprosy

66. The Leper Asylum is situated on the outskirts of Port Louis. There were 68 inmates at the close of the year and 21 admissions during the year. 9 inmates were discharged and the number of deaths was 19. The Government is erecting a new leper colony at Powder Mills in the district of Pamplemousses, a few miles out of Port Louis.

Poor Relief

67. Barkly Asylum, situated at Beau Bassin, Plaines Wilhems, is the only institution under the direct control of Government for the infirm and destitute poor. A large number of aged and infirm paupers are maintained at the expense of Government in private religious institutions and pauper orphans also receive public relief at the Barkly Asylum and at benevolent and other charitable institutions. Exclusive of the pauper cases treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries of the Colony and at St. Lazare Leper Asylum, 1,161 paupers, as compared with 1,026 in 1917, received institutional relief during 1918 at the Barkly Asylum and different religious institutions.

2,179 paupers (376 males and 1,803 females) received pecuniary out-relief, permanently or temporarily, during 1918, as against 2,359 in 1917.

Crèche

68. There has been no improvement in the death-rate of children in the first five years of life. The total number for the whole island in 1918 was 4,096, equivalent to a rate of 312.4 per 1,000 births. To the total Port Louis contributed 672 or 388.9 per 1,000 births, and the remainder of the island 3,424 deaths or 300.8 per 1,000 births.

Systematic neglect and lack of care are largely responsible for this great waste of life : and with the object of improving the conditions of infant life an appeal was made by His Excellency the Governor during the year for the opening of a crèche in the city of Port Louis for the sick infants of the poor, who not being sufficiently ill to be taken to a hospital are in danger of dying through the sickness, neglect or poverty of the mothers. The appeal met with sympathy and the work is to be extended subsequently to other centres.

Savings Bank

69. At the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th June 1918 a sum of Rs. 3,678,416 to the credit of 31,234 depositors, as compared with Rs. 3,640,091 to the credit of 30,564 depositors on the 30th June 1917. The amount of deposits during the year was Rs. 1,419,120 and the withdrawals amounted to Rs. 1,380,457 an excess of deposits over withdrawals of Rs. 38,663.

70. The balance to the credit of 12,481 Indian depositors on 30th June 1918 was Rs. 1,304,740 being Rs. 168,648 less than the previous year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS

Police

71. The authorized strength of the Force on the last day of the year was 598, the actual strength being 594. During the year 1 inspector, 3 non-commissioned officers and 3 men were on war service in Mesopotamia.

74 men were enlisted against 66 struck off the strength. Of this latter number 28 were pensioned off or discharged, 4 were transferred to other departments, 16 were dismissed and 18 died. The number of departmental offences was 175, as against 273 in the previous year.

Criminal Statistics

72. Reports of criminal offences made at the various stations numbered 20,591 in connection with which 11,397 persons were arrested, being a decrease of 1,205 cases and 409 persons, as compared with 1917.

There were 2,620 cases of serious offences in 1918 in which 3,409 persons were charged. Of these 2,548 or 74.74 per cent. were either summarily convicted or committed to assizes. 386 persons were still untried at the beginning of the year.

73. The amount of property declared to have been stolen was valued at Rs. 47,226 of which Rs. 25,203 or 53.56 per cent. was recovered.

74. There was an increase of praedial larceny, 516 cases being reported as against 280 in the preceding year and 154 in 1916. 22 persons were tried at the Assizes in 1918 of whom 17 were convicted. There was no convictions for murder.

Prisons and Reformatory

75. There was an increase of 531 in the total number of admissions of convicted prisoners during 1918. The figures are as follows: 1917—3,673; 1918—3,142. Of this number 3,536 were males and 137 females. The daily average in prison was 739.38 which is an increase of 114.78 on the average of 1917.

76. The number of deaths has been fewer than in 1917. The total number of deaths in jail was 21 as against 25 in 1917 and the death-rate per 1000 of the admissions during the year was 2.84 as against 4.03 in 1917 and 2.87 in 1916.

77. The daily average sick shows an increase. The numbers are 34.81 as against 28.92 in 1917. The number of punishments inflicted during the year for prison offences was 1,479 as against 1,334 in 1917. There were 22 cases of corporal punishment, as against 16 in 1917.

The usual industrial labour has been carried out at the prisons, the cash earned amounting to Rs. 6,214, as compared with Rs. 4,156 in 1917.

78. The numbers admitted to the Reformatory in 1918 were 47 new boys, 11 ex-reformatory boys and 73 untried, a total of 131, against 123 in 1917. Of the 58 admitted on conviction 13 were non-penal boys and 45 reformatory boys.

No deaths occurred during the year and the general state of health of the boys was satisfactory. The admissions to hospital increased by 91, as compared with the previous year and the prevailing disease was malaria. The discipline among the boys was satisfactory; there were 48 departmental offences, the offences being committed by 22 boys.

The results of the annual school examinations were exceptionally good, the percentages of passes being 91 for the Industrial School and 82 for the Reformatory. In 1917 they were 71 and 72 respectively.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS

79. The estimated population of the Colony exclusive of the Dependencies (8,144) was 376,813 on the 31st December 1918 which is 273 less than the return for the previous year.

The population according to the 1911 Census was 370,393. The number of Indians was 257,887 or 69.6 per cent. of the total population.

Marriages

80. The marriages registered numbered 1,665 in 1918, of which 717 were among the General population and 948 in the Indian population.

Births and Deaths

81. There were 13,109 births during the year or 778 less than in 1917, corresponding to a birth-rate of 34.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 36.9 in 1917 and 35 in 1916. The mean birth-rate for the last five years was 36.4.

The deaths registered were 12,794 or 560 more than in 1917, corresponding to a death-rate of 33.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population, it being 1.4 per 1,000 higher than in 1917 and 1.1 per 1,000 higher than the average for the five years 1914–1918. The highest mortality was in Port Louis and corresponded to a rate of 50.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population it being 7.6 higher than the average for the five years 1914–1918.

82. The number of deaths ascribed to malaria was 3,460, which is higher by 103 than in the preceding year, but compares favourably with the mean for the last five years (3747). The percentage on total deaths was 27.0 for 1918, 27.4 for 1917 and 30.3 for the five-year period.

The other principal causes of death have been pulmonary tuberculosis, dysentery, bronchitis and pneumonia with percentages on total deaths of 7.3, 7.1, 5.8 and 5.6 compared with five-year mean of 7, 4, 5, 4, 5, 0, and 5.8 per cent.

Public Health

83. No outbreak of serious infectious disease occurred, but the general health conditions of the Colony were not favourable for a considerable part of the population. The constant rise in the prices of all commodities caused much hardship and suffering with consequent deterioration of health, and the most hard-hit were the labouring classes. The rainfall which was exceptionally heavy during the first part of the year necessarily acted as a stimulus to the breeding of anopheles mosquitos and malaria has been prevalent throughout the island.

Malaria

84. A Committee has been appointed to report on the incidence of malaria in Port Louis and to make recommendations for its gradual reduction.

The free distribution of quinine has been continued throughout the year. Under the supervision of the Director of Public Works anti-malarial works have been carried out and efforts have been concentrated chiefly in the districts of Pamplemousses, Moka and Flacq where the progress though slow cannot be denied. Anti-mosquito measures and drainage works have also been undertaken by the Sanitary Authority and minor works which also include the upkeep of the works already effected has formed part of the scheme.

A more extensive spleen census among school children has been taken. A total of 15,616 children were examined during the second half of the year ; of these 13,638 were found without enlargement of spleen, 1,440 were returned with slight enlargement, 401 and 237 had medium and great enlargement of the organ respectively. These figures give a spleen rate of 13.02 for the whole island shewing an increase of .31 on the rate of the corresponding half year.

Plague

There was no case of plague discovered but provision continues to be made to guard against a possible outbreak of the disease.

Meteorological

85. The annual rainfall for the island (mean of 38 stations) was 2693.67 m.m. (106.03 inches) compared with an average of 1796.51 m.m. (70.71 in.) The rainfall was in excess during the first half of the year and in defect during the second half. The total for the year was 10.9 m.m. above normal. Temperature of the air was above normal in all months except December.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH

86. The number of Post Offices open in 1918 was 62 of which 55 are also Telegraph Offices. The total revenue for the year was Rs. 230,752, an increase of Rs. 10,572 as compared with 1917. The expenditure was Rs. 184,461 showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 46,291.

The sale of stamped postal matter amounted to Rs. 142,842 or 61.9 per cent. of the revenue.

The estimated number of postal articles (excluding parcels) dealt with was 3,403,050 or 553,184 less than in 1917. The number of parcels received from abroad amounted to 10,367, an increase of 1,571 and the number despatched was 1,777, a decrease of 148. The duty collected amounted to Rs. 59,830 an increase of Rs. 52,697 over 1917.

Foreign Money Orders to the value of Rs. 438,117 were issued during 1918 against Rs. 705,026 in 1917 and Rs. 254,573 in 1916. Foreign Money Orders to the amount of Rs. 85,248 were paid during the year against Rs. 85,619 in 1917 and Rs. 95,964 in 1916. Inland Money Orders were issued to the value of Rs. 831,795 as against Rs. 679,382 in 1917, an increase in value of Rs. 152,413. British Postal Orders were sold for Rs. 12,630 compared with Rs. 17,906 in the year before. Orders for Rs. 48,075 were cashed in the Colony in 1918 compared with Rs. 45,710 in 1917.

The number of telegrams transmitted in 1918 shews an increase both as regards official messages and as regards unofficial messages over the number transmitted in 1917. The collections amounted to Rs. 31,739 as compared with Rs. 29,970 in 1917. No serious breakdown occurred during the year.

There are 621 miles of telegraph, including the block system for the Railway, and 145 miles of telephone under the charge of the Department.

IX.—GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

87. The length of line open for traffic at the end of 1918 was 119.65 miles of standard gauge, exclusive of the Bois Chéri light railway (of 2′.6″ gauge) which is 24 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The gross earnings for the year amounted to Rs. 3,498,643 and working expenses to Rs. 2,805,106 showing an excess of receipts over working expenses of Rs. 693,537 or a percentage of expenses to total receipts of 87.50. The ratio in the previous year was 92.59 per cent. These results do not include debt charges and interest on Treasury advances.

88. The Government traffic in 1918 amounted to 8.68 per cent. of this total against 7.82 per cent in the previous year.

The receipts for passenger traffic show a decrease of Rs. 77,398 as compared with 1917 owing to the suppression of Sunday trains and the curtailment of the passenger train service on week days. There was less tonnage carried in 1918 than in the preceding year but the earnings show an increase of Rs. 14,070 over those of 1917. The following table shows the tonnage of Goods traffic, exclusive of Government traffic, carried in 1917 and 1918 :—

	1917	1918	Decrease Tons
Sugar canes ...Tons	170,362	157,862	12,490
Sugar ...	203,711	188,602	15,009
General merchandize	199,917	197,182	2,735
Total ...Tons	573,990	543,756	30,234

89. The earnings for sugar cane traffic were Rs. 149,799 or 94.88 cents per ton carried, as compared with 90.05 in 1917.

The earnings for sugar traffic were Rs. 713,617 or Rs. 3.78 per ton as compared with Rs. 3.47 in 1917. The earnings for general merchandize were Rs. 574,783, or Rs. 2.91 per ton, as compared with Rs. 2.82 in 1917.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS

90. The only works of importance in course of construction are the Victoria Hospital near Candos and the Leper Hospital at Pamplemousses. These projects had to be suspended owing to the high cost of building materials. The expenditure on public works was thus confined to maintenance and repairs. Necessary and urgent requirements were also met.

Bridges and Roads

91. Seven small bridges have been reconstructed in ferro-concrete. The total length of main roads maintained during the year was 440 miles. Six more miles of road surface were re-metalled by the use of the steam roller. The branch roads were well maintained by the respective District Boards. The average cost of ordinary maintenance of main road for the whole island was Rs. 500 per mile.

Irrigation Works

92. The area irrigated from La Ferme Reservoir and paying rate during 1918 was estimated at 1,760 arpents. A further area of irrigable land of 500 acres is ready for development.

The revenue for the year has amounted to Rs. 49,352. The amount spent to 31st December 1918 was Rs. 1,244,533 on the La Ferme scheme proper. In addition the following sums were spent on surveys and studies for the two schemes (La Nicolière and La Ferme) Rs. 137,067 ; on acquisition of lands for La Nicolière Reservoir Rs. 236,964 ; on storage works Mare-aux-Vacoas Rs. 100,504 ; the grand total being Rs. 1,719,070.

Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works

93. The actual capacity of the reservoir is now 186 million cubic feet and the submerged area about 477 acres. A constant supply of water was maintained throughout the year. The standard of purity of the water was good.

Port Louis Drainage

94. The pumping installation worked satisfactorily and no large repairs were necessary.

House Service.—14 new properties were connected and to 8 others extensions were carried out. The total length of sewers laid is 27.3 miles and 1,190 properties have been connected.

XI.—FOREST DEPARTMENT

95. The Crown Lands, including the islets around the coast, together with mountain and river reserves, represent about 88,200 arpents, which is a little less than 20 per cent. of the area of the colony. During the year the area of plantations was increased by 655 arpents.

96. Public Departments were supplied during 1918 with: 18,047 broad gauge sleepers, 2,780 cubic feet of timber, 2,578 cords of firewood. The value of these supplies was Rs. 171,784. Since 1914 the Forest Department has supplied the Railways with 32,500 broad gauge sleepers at an average cost of Rs. 8 per sleeper.

XII.—DEPENDENCIES

97. The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands situated 5° and 19°50 South Latitude and 51° and 72°21 East Longitude, of which the nearest is 230 miles, and the most remote about 1,200 miles, distant from Mauritius.

Rodrigues island lies about 320 miles to the eastward of Mauritius of which it is the largest dependency: area 42 square miles or 26,170 acres. The island is under the administration of a resident Magistrate who takes his instructions from the Governor of Mauritius. Cable communication through a branch of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company was opened on 16 May 1902.

The population at 1911 Census was 4,829 and with the natural increase it was estimated at the end of 1918 at 6,315. The health conditions of the island are distinctly favourable. The number of births was 285 as against 293 in 1917. The number of deaths was 54 as against 66 in 1917.

The value of the imports in 1918 was Rs. 475,981 or Rs. 96,368 more than in 1917. The exports of island produce were valued at Rs. 335,030 against Rs. 282,211 in 1917. The total trade has thus amounted to Rs. 811,000, or about Rs. 130 per head of the population.

The Customs returns show that 26 cattle were sent to Mauritius in 1918 as against 57 in 1917. In 1918, 686 pigs value Rs. 13,071 were sent to Mauritius as against 492 value Rs. 23,136 in 1917, 3,249 goats and sheep value Rs. 37,638 as against 2,162 value Rs. 18,920 in 1917. 232,890 kilos salted fish were exported during 1918. The exports of tobacco (37,951 kilos) showed an increase of 28,517 kilos, as compared with 9,434 kilos in 1917. Acacia seed exported was valued at Rs. 68,946 against Rs. 73,347 in 1917.

At the Rodrigues Branch of the Government Savings Bank there was on the 30th June 1918 a sum of Rs. 38,794 to the credit of 99 depositors as compared with Rs. 30,068 and 99 depositors on the corresponding date of the previous year.

98. The Lesser Dependencies are: Diego Garcia (the most important of the Oil Islands Group), Six Islands, Peros Banhos, Solomon Islands, Agalega, St. Brandon group, Farquhar Island, Trois Freres. These islands are supervised by two Magistrates who are resident in Mauritius and pay regular visits to the islands. The population of the Lesser Dependencies, according to the 1911 Census, was 1861 of whom 1097 were males and 764 females. The number of births in 1917 was 73 and the number of deaths 52. The chief exports to the colony are :—

		1917		1918	
		Quantity	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*
Coconut oil...	litres	959,200	Rs. 129,012 ...	843,408	Rs. 113,149
Nuts ...	no.	705,994	19,288 ..	462,800	10,556
Coprah ...	kilos	516,510	13,352 ...	15,100	378
Guano ...	„	344,891	10,080 ...	553,655	16,813
Salted fish ...	„	5,800	2,300 ...	8,010	1,703

L. KŒNIG,

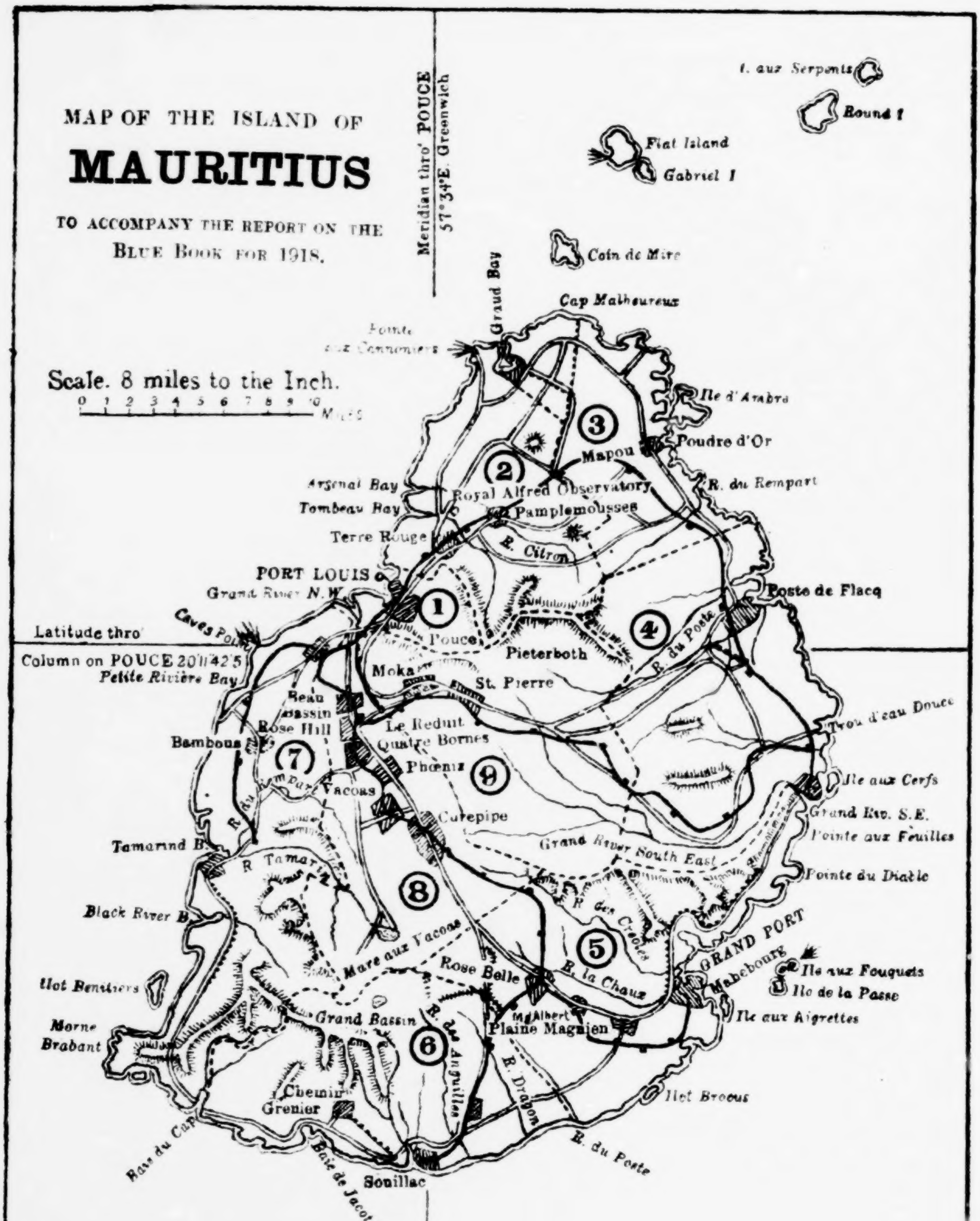
31st December, 1919. Assistant Colonial Secretary.

MAP OF THE ISLAND OF

MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT ON THE
BLUE BOOK FOR 1918.

Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.


0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°34'E. Greenwich
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42"5
I. aux Serpents
Round I
Flat Island
Gabriel I
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Tombeau Bay
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Poste de Flacq
Pouce
Pieterboth
R. du Poste
Petite Rivière Bay
Moka
St. Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Trou d'eau Douce
Bambous
Phoenix
R. du Rempart
Vacoas
Ile aux Cerfs
Curepipe
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Grand River South East
Tamarind B.
R. Tamarin
Pointe du Diable
Black River B.
R. des Creoles
Mare aux Vacoas
GRAND PORT
Rose Belle
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ilot Benitiers
R. la Chaux
Ile de la Passe
Mt. Albert
Plaine Magnien
Ile aux Aigrettes
Morne Brabant
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
R. du Poste
Souillac
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

DISTRICTS

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	,,
1004	Malta	,,
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	,,
1007	Ceylon	,,
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St. Helena	,,
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1012	Ashanti	,,
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917–1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland	,,
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	,,
1019	Bermuda	,,
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1923	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	,,
1025	Cyprus	,,
1026	British Honduras	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	,,
1030	Nigeria	,,
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados	1918–1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the Northern Part of the Protectorate.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1062.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(FOR REPORT FOR 1918 SEE NO. 1036.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1921.

PRINTED IN MAURITIUS.

LONDON:
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1921.

[Cmd. 1103-5.] *Price 2d. net.*

MAURITIUS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1919

SITUATION AND AREA

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the Indian Ocean, some 500 miles East of Madagascar, between latitude 19°50′ and 20°31′ South, and on longitude 57°48′ East of Greenwich. With an area of no more than 720 square miles, the population (about 365,000) is very dense the number of persons per square mile being over 500.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° South Latitude. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, is 350 miles to the East of Mauritius, while lesser islands of importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

HISTORY

Mauritius is said to have been first visited by the Portuguese in the first years of the sixteenth century, on one of their voyages to India. Pedro Mascarenhas, the commander of the fleet, called the island Cerné and conferred his own name on its neighbour to the West (now Reunion). This celebrated navigator is still honoured in the designation Mascarenes given to the three islands Reunion, Mauritius and the third (added to the group by its later Dutch discoverers as Diego Ruys island) which is now Rodriguez.

The Portuguese made no act of occupation but remained in undisturbed possession for nearly a century when the island was accidentally sighted by a Dutch squadron under Admiral Warwick who took possession of it and called it Mauritius after Prince Maurice, the then Dutch Stadtholder. Even the Dutch made no attempt at colonisation. They finally evacuated the island in 1710 when the French established themselves, naming it Isle de France. The colony continued under the rule now of the French Crown, now of the French East India Company, till it was, after a severe struggle, captured by the British in 1810 and the possession of the island was confirmed to England by the Treaty of Paris, 1814, when the ancient name of Mauritius was restored.

CLIMATE

Being just within the tropics, Mauritius has a warm climate but seldom too hot for comfort. The temperature even during the warm season is never excessive, and during the winter months from May to September the climate in the elevated plateaux is often bracing and generally delightfully cool.

Mauritius lies in the track of cyclones, the critical months being December to April. Of late years the colony has been remarkably fortunate in the absence of these visitations. The last cyclone occurred on the 26th May 1916 passing about 80 miles eastward. It caused little damage but was unprecedented both as to the epoch and longitude of its occurrence.

The rainfall varies considerably according to locality. In the central portion of the island an average yearly rainfall of 175 inches is recorded whereas the dry area in the west coast plains receives less than 40 inches of rain. The greater part of the rainfall falls during the cyclone season. The dry season occurs in September and October.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The material prosperity of the Colony increased during the past year owing to the high prices obtained for sugar and cane. The growth of trade was remarkable, but the oppressive rise in the cost of food, clothing and other necessaries was a very adverse factor. The year was an unfortunate one owing to a severe epidemic of influenza which was attended by an alarming mortality before it began to decline, entailing much distress and suffering.

Vital Statistics and Public Health

The estimated population on 31st December 1919 was 364,493 which is 12,320 less than the return for the previous year. The population according to the census of 1911 was 370,393.

The births in 1919 numbered 13,261 as against 13,109 in 1918.

The deaths were 24,455 as against 12,794 in 1918 and exceeded the births by 11,194. The birth-rate was 35·2 and death-rate 64·9 per 1,000.

This abnormal mortality must be attributed to the violent outbreak of influenza which prevailed in the island in the months of May, June and July, and it is estimated that the deaths from this epidemic numbered more than 11,000. The mortality was especially high in Port Louis, and was chiefly due to the poverty and decreased power of resistance of the people.

The general death-rate for the whole island after abstraction of the epidemic rate was thus 35·5 per 1,000, which compares unfavourably with previous years.

The most prevalent disease was malaria. It takes a large toll of human life, and still larger toll of health and capacity. Increased attention is being devoted to measures of prevention and no expense is being spared. The measures taken in recent years to cope with the disease have proved of benefit and if more fully organised and extended are capable of still more satisfactory results.

The other principal causes of death are given as follows :—

Phthisis and other forms of tuberculosis, which appear to be on the increase, pneumonia and bronchitis, dysentery.

Public General Hospitals

The aggregate accommodation is 975 beds.

During the year 25,073 patients were treated.

The daily average number of inmates was 68.6.

There were 1905 deaths in hospitals.

The number of patients who attended the public dispensaries during the year was 78,546 as against 57,025 in the previous year.

Lunatic Asylum

The total number of patients under treatment during the year was 447; the daily average number resident was 470·61; 134 patients were admitted; 117 were discharged; there were 56 deaths.

St. Lazare Leper Asylum

There were 67 patients on 31st December 1918, and 14 were admitted during the year. During the year 2 patients absconded, 8 were discharged, and 19 died.

Poor Relief

Exclusive of the number of patients treated free at the public hospitals and dispensaries of the Colony and at St. Lazare Asylum, 1,496 paupers as compared with 1,161 in 1918 received institutional relief during the year. 2,840 paupers (385 males and 2,455 females) received outdoor relief during 1919 against 2,179 in the previous year.

Criminal Statistics

The cases of "serious offences" reported to the Police numbered 2,925, as against 2,620 for 1918. The increase was chiefly for praedial larceny, the numbers being 391 cases in which 495 persons were charged, compared with 274 cases and 73 persons for the previous year. This was only to be expected in view of the paucity of food and the harder conditions of life among the poorer classes which were felt in 1919 more than previously during the war.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June 1919 amounted to Rs. 13,813,069 exceeding that of any previous year.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 14,711,349 being Rs. 898,280 in excess of the revenue. The general rise in prices entailed a considerable increase in the cost of Departments and institutions and included in the total expenditure is a sum of Rs. 1,267,102 being the payments on the working account of H.M.C.S. *Secunder* which was passed to expenditure.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as under :—

Year	Revenue	Expenditure
1914–15 ...	Rs. 12,113,810	Rs. 12,136,424
1915–16 ...	12,975,041	11,490,946
1916–17 ..	13,611,473	11,816,140
1917–18 ..	12,607,384	12,015,394
1918–19 ...	13,813,069	14,711,349

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance sheet of the Colony on the 30th June 1918 showed a net surplus of assets over liabilities of Rs. 7,971,071, and that of the 30th June 1919 a surplus of assets over liabilities of Rs. 7,072,792. The financial transactions of the year thus resulted in a deficit of Rs. 898,279.

From this surplus, up to 30th June 1919, advances amounting to Rs. 2,545,000 for Railway re-equipment and Rs. 1,787,379 for Irrigation Works have been made pending the raising of a loan as authorized by Ordinance No. 19 of 1915.

PUBLIC DEBT.

At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at £1,249,990 as compared with £ 1,255,590 at 30th June 1918. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £ 431,633 as compared with £ 386,115 at 30th June 1918.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The currency of the Colony consists of

(1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :—
  (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents.
  (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.
(2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.
(3) The Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5 and R. 1.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year 1918–19 was Rs. 8,197,200 compared with Rs. 7,301,750 in 1917–18. The average amount of silver held amounted to Rs. 3,097,000 as compared with Rs. 2,842,000 in 1917–18. The investment and depreciation funds on 30th June 1919 amounted to Rs. 6,054,250 and Rs. 403,849 respectively.

Government Savings Banks are established in nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June 1919 was 31,691 with deposits amounting to Rs. 3,726,724. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June there were 12,863 depositors with Rs. 1,446,390 to their credit.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent.

The private banks are the Mauritius Commercial Bank (paid-up capital Rs. 2,000,000), and the Mercantile Bank of India (paid-up capital £562,500). A branch of the National Bank of South Africa was established towards the end of the year.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE.

The Customs statistics show an increase in the value of trade unprecedented in the history of the Colony. The growth of the trade during the past five years may be gathered from the following statement :—

Year	Imports	Exports	Total Trade
1915	Rs. 41,682,251	Rs. 56,015,511	Rs. 97,697,762
1916	53,615,754	72,682,170	126,297,924
1917	42,094,708	58,319,728	100,414,436
1918	42,921,250	55,652,480	98,573,730
1919	47,037,024	127,806,321	174,843,345

IMPORTS.

The total value of Imports during 1919 was Rs. 47,037,024, as against Rs. 42,921,250 during the previous year, an increase of Rs. 4,115,774, due not so much to an increase in imports as to the inflated prices for imported goods. It should be noted in this connection that for the years 1915 to 1918 and the first seven months of 1919, the sterling equivalent was Rs. 15 to the £1, and Rs. 12 between the 21st July and the 20th of October and Rs. 10 subsequently.

The value of goods imported for consumption was Rs. 45,745,607. In addition, goods valued at Rs.1,291,417 were re-exported.

The following table which shows the sources of supply for the last five years is of interest as indicating the percentage of imports obtained by the various countries :—

	1915		1916		1917		1918		1919	
	Value 000's Rs.	per cent.	Value 000's Rs.	per cent.	Value 000's Rs.	per cent.	Value 000's Rs.	per cent.	Value 000's Rs.	per cent.
United Kingdom ...	13,851	33·3	15,903	29·7	10,939	26·0	7,016	16·3	11,423	24·3
British India	16,808	40·3	22,476	41·9	17,107	40·6	24,401	56·9	14,433	30·7
Other Brit. Possessions	2,377	5·7	3,310	6·1	4,943	11·8	5,722	13·3	8,956	19·0
Foreign Countries ...	8,646	20·7	11,927	22·2	9,106	21·6	5,782	13·5	12,225	26·0
Total... ...	41,682	100·	53,616	100·	42,095	100·	42,921	100·	47,037	100·

The share of the United Kingdom dropped from 33·3% in 1915 to 24·3% in 1919. The falling off was greatest in 1917 and 1918 which coincides with the intensity of the submarine campaign and the restrictions on exports from the United Kingdom. This set-back was only temporary as imports of United Kingdom manufactures have gone up since the Armistice. There is ample opportunity for United Kingdom firms to increase their business.

The following table shows that coals and machinery are the chief items under which decreases have occurred :—

Imports from the United Kingdom	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with 1915 000's Rs.
Coals	− 602
Machinery for local industries ...	−1,484
Cotton piece goods	− 601
Other articles	+ 259

Most kinds of goods were imported in 1919 in smaller quantities than in 1915 and yet cost very much more. The following table shows some of the more important items :—

Imports from U. Kingdom	Decrease (−) in quantities compared with 1915	Increase (+) in value compared with 1915
	(metric)	Rs.
Ammonia, Sulphate...	−3,472 Tons	+ 422,000
Oil, Linseed ...	− 938 Hectol.	+ 10,000
Iron Nails (n.g.) ...	− 3 Tons	+ 40,000

The falling off in the imports from India is due in a large measure to the decline in the exports of rice and flour as follows : —

Imports from India	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in quantities as compared with 1915	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in value as compared with 1915
	Tons (metric)	Rs.
Rice	−18,099	−1,405,000
Wheat flour ...	− 8,141	−1,345,000
Other articles ...	...	+ 375,000

Owing to the high freights from England, there was an increase in the trade from other British Possessions, from 5.7% in 1915 to 19% in 1919. The largest increase in this trade has been from the Union of South Africa which has superseded the United Kingdom for coals and France for wines, as shown in the subjoined table :—

Imports from Union of S. Africa	Increase (+) or decrease (−) in quantity as compared with 1915	Increase (+) or decrease (−) in value as compared with 1915
Coals	+18,708 tons	Rs. 1,804,000
Wine (claret in casks)	+ 1,807 hectol.	112,000
Other articles (chiefly maize & flour)...	...	2,700,000
Total increase South Africa ..	...	Rs. 4,616,000

Australian wheat flour also shows an increase of Rs. 2,013,000 as compared with 1915.

The fluctuations of trade with Foreign Countries is shown in the following table :—

Foreign Countries	Increase (+) or decrease (−) as compared with 1915 000's Rs.
Chili	+ 1,585
China and Siam ...	+ 1,620
Madagascar	+ 986
France	− 815
Other Foreign Countries ...	+ 203

The large increase in regard to Chili was due to the fact that most of the fertilizers were supplied from that country in 1919. The shortage of Indian rice has tended to increase the volume of that trade from Madagascar and Siam. The same influences have been at work in the trade with France as with the United Kingdom.

The United States and Japan have made no advance since 1915 as may be seen from the following table which shows the percentage of trade obtained by the United Kingdom, the United States and Japan during the last five years :—

	1915 per cent.		1916 per cent.		1917 per cent.		1918 per cent.		1919 per cent.
United Kingdom...	33.3	...	29.7	...	26.0	...	16.3	...	24.3
United States ...	5.2	...	5.	...	5.3	...	3.5	...	5.1
Japan ...	.3	...	9.6	...	.5	...	2.1	...	.3

The following goods which formerly all came from the United Kingdom are being supplied to some extent from the United States, as shown below :

Articles imported	Decrease (−) for the United Kingdom		Increase (+) for the United States	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Leather manufactured ..	...	Rs. 42,000	...	Rs. 12,000
Turpentine ...	−252$^{\text{h.lit.}}$	− 8,000	+ 22 h.lit.	6,000
Iron bars (n.g.) ...	...	− 20,000	...	+ 22,000
Machinery for local industries ...	tons −3,226	−1,484,000	+ 82 tons	+ 105,000

The import of motor cars which was of a value of Rs. 452,490 in 1915 was only Rs. 89,500 in 1919. These were supplied almost entirely by the United States.

The imports from Japan were chiefly limited to imitation cheap goods such as earthenware, glassware, haberdashery and cotton goods which formerly came from Europe.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports during 1919 was Rs. 127,806,321 as against Rs. 55,652,480 in 1918, an increase of Rs. 72,153,181.

The value of local products and manufactures amounted to Rs. 126,514,904 and the value of re-exports to Rs. 1,291,417.

The following table gives the direction of the export trade for the last five years :—

	1915 value 000's Rs	per cent.	1916 value 000's Rs	per cent.	1917 value 000's Rs	per cent.	1918 value 000's Rs	per cent.	1919 value 000's Rs	per cent.
United Kingdom ...	35,636	63.6	24,140	33.2	31,489	54.	21,258	38.2	96,362	75.4
British India ...	15,770	28.2	11,057	15.2	6,926	11.9	25,864	46.5	12,479	9.8
France	113	.2	34,511	47.5	15,874	27.2	1	...	8,960	7.0
Other Countries ...	4,496	8.0	2,974	4.1	4,031	6.9	8,530	15.3	10,605	7.8
Total... ...	56,015	100	72,682	100	58,320	100	55,653	100	127,806	100

Nearly the whole export trade is represented by sugar.

The quantity and value of the principal local products exported during the year were :

		Quantity	Value in Rupees
Sugar	...kilos	302,826,129	125,103,201
Aloe fibre	... „	2,176,521	782,285
Rum	..litres	233,687	52,436
Coprah	...kilos	133,500	32,700
Coconut oil	...hectol.	2,411	97,028
Hides (salted)	...kilos	58,880	61,578
Vanilla	... „	2,995	40,595
Molasses	... „	102,935	6,677
Tea	... „	500	1,010
Shells, tortoise	... „	...	38,835

The approximate value and quantity of Mauritius sugar exported in each of the years 1914 to 1919 is shown in the following table :—

Year	Quantity in kilog.	Value in Rupees
1914	269,372,102	57,874,421
1915	225,439,526	54,105,494
1916	230,559,715	69,309,970
1917	190,820,657	54,539,232
1918	183,221,889	53,882,002
1919	302,826,129	125,103,201

SHIPPING

The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year 1919 was 347 with a tonnage of 648,358, an increase of 75 vessels and 261,093 tons as compared with 1918.

There were 173 arrivals of 321,525 tons and 174 departures of 326,883 tons, of which 77.1 per cent. were British as summarised below :—

		Number	Tons	Number	tons
British steamers	entered	104	247,800		
do.	cleared	101	246,650		
British sailing vessels					
	entered	30	7,758		
	cleared	31	7,109		
Total British				266	509,317
Foreign Steamers	entered	37	64,671		
do.	cleared	39	70,405		
Foreign sailing vessels					
	entered	2	1,296		
	cleared	3	2,669		
Total Foreign				81	139,041
Total number and tons		...	...	347	648,358

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

The following table shows the cultivated area of the island :

		arpents	acres
Total area of the island		441,802 =	460,799
Alienated	368,218		
Unalienated or repurchased	73,584		
		441,802	
Total area under cultivation ...	216,770 =		226,091 acres.
Sugar	175,923		
Aloe	20,860		
Tea	313		
Vanilla	261		
Tobacco	52		
Food crops	20,756		
Orchard	834		
Coconut	834		
	219,833		
Pasture...	6,258		——226,091 acres.
Crown Land Forests reserves	90,067		
	316,158		
Uncultivated	144,641		
Total ...	460,799 acres		

It will be seen that the only important crop grown in Mauritius is sugar, upon the harvest of which so much is dependent that it is difficult to find any occupation which is not directly or indirectly influenced by it.

The year 1919 was characterized by great prosperity in the sugar industry, the prices of sugar and cane having passed all previous standards : and in all probability the colony has before it a few years of considerable prosperity. The high water mark of production has however been reached as practically all the areas suitable for cane cultivation are at present under that crop. Increased yield might however be anticipated as a result of the adoption of improved agricultural methods and milling.

The total output of the factories for the 1918–19 crop year was 252,772 metric tons, which was the largest on record. The crop since harvested fell short of that figure but was above the average of pre-war seasons ; and it is stated that the yield of the present crop may be considerably larger than last year's. How far the sugar industry benefited by the increased prices due to the war may be gauged by the fact that while the average value of the sugar shipped from Mauritius was about 40 millions during the pre-war years the average for the five years 1915–1919 reached more than 70 millions. There is thus an enormous amount of capital to be utilised which offers special facilities for the development of subsidiary industries ; but the large profits made by producers of sugar are so attractive that there is no new agricultural industry of importance in view at present.

ALOE FIBRE

The aloe fibre industry which, but a few years ago, was considered an industry of much promise, has been reduced to so low an ebb, that less than 1 per cent. of the exports represents its position in the colony's market. The tendency to plant canes on lands which were formerly occupied by aloes continues, but a demand for fibre may improve the situation and the industry will afford opportunities for profitable investments. The export of aloe fibre in 1919 was 2,177 tons of a value of Rs. 782,285, against 391 tons in 1918, valued at Rs. 140,135. Production was maintained throughout the war, but the lack of shipping has militated against the industry.

Increasing attention is paid to the possibilities of growing sisal and trial plantations are being established. Certain lands seem well adapted to sisal hemp but the planters are not enthusiastic about it.

TOBACCO

For several years past the establishment of plantations of the Réunion type of tobacco has received energetic attention. The result of the experiments of growing the crop on a commercial scale indicates the possibility of opening up a profitable industry for the supply of local requirements, and its further development is only a question of capital and labour.

VANILLA

There is no change to report in regard to vanilla and there is little likelihood that vanilla will regain its former position on the market owing to competition with vanillin. The cultivation is being continued but does not make great progress.

TEA

Greater attention is being given to local preparation of the leaf but there is no new development in the tea industry as a branch of farming.

LIMES

The development of trial plantations is making satisfactory progress and experience appears to show that the cultivation of limes may become an important industry.

FOOD CROPS

The large proprietors have done little to aid the supplies and the work has been left to the small holders. Owing to the efforts to maintain interest in local food products, the area planted in the Colony at the end of the year 1918 was 20,000 acres, which represents an increase of 109 per cent. over the area planted in 1917, but the population is almost entirely dependent for its sustenance on importations from abroad.

Owing to the food shortage special leases on easy terms of vacant blocks of Crown Land were allowed to groups of individuals for the cultivation of foodstuffs, and the total area of Crown Land leased in this way amounted to 500 acres at the end of 1919.

COCONUTS

Very small areas have been put into coconuts although the cultivation of this product offers considerable scope for extension as there are indications that a boom in coconuts is coming, due to the increased demand for margarine and lard.

The planting of coconuts is however the mainstay of the development of the Lesser Dependencies (commonly called the Oil islands) most of which have been definitely conceded and are owned by private companies ; oil and copra being the chief products of these islands. The quantity of oil produced in 1919 amounted to 8,844 hectolitres valued at Rs. 132,812 and the value of copra is given as Rs. 16,427. Copra was formerly shipped to Hamburg but most of it is now sent to England where it is crushed and converted into oil.

SALT MANUFACTURE

The average outturn of salt is 1,800 tons per annum and the supply is mostly drawn from the District of Black River which affords facilities for the easy and cheap manufacture of good salt, being one of the drier districts of the island. By more extensive use of machinery for water lifting and mechanical appliances for transport and storage, the existing salt pans should be able to yield all the salt required for local consumption and for fish curing. The annual consumption is estimated at 3,000 tons the bulk of which is imported from Aden and Liverpool. There is thus ample scope for development in the production of salt locally.

ALCOHOL

The production of alcohol from the waste molasses of the sugar factories is also capable of considerable extension by improvement in methods of production. There is a profitable market locally in the distillation of rum, the annual consumption being about 350,000 gallons.

Of late years increasing attention has been devoted to the utilisation of alcohol for power purposes but so far the experiments that have been conducted have been failures owing to lack of technical assistance.

The enterprise when successful would have many beneficial effects, and one of the most important for the development of the resources of the Colony would be the manufacture of pulp or paper from sugar cane megass. At the present time megass, which is an excellent paper making material, is needed as fuel by the factory owners and its value at the moment is only equivalent to that of the fuel which it replaces in the manufacture of sugar, while there is a world shortage of the raw material it represents.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

Co-operative credit societies continue to make progress and the total number working at the end of 1919 was 26, with a membership of 2,781. Lectures and demonstrations on agricultural subjects are given in the various centres by the Agricultural Instructor. The societies have shown their usefulness in several ways specially in the growing of provision crops.

LANDS

Most of the available Crown lands have long since been alienated, with the exception of Pas Geometriques which form a belt all round the shore and are inalienable. There is thus little unconceded crown land available for concession or sale.

The price of land in Mauritius at present is high. There are difficulties in regard to the supply of labour and cultivation cannot be undertaken without previous local experience and a large amount of capital.

MINES

No minerals of commercial interest are known to exist in the Colony.

FORESTS

The area of Crown Land forests forms about 20 per cent. of the extent of the Colony. The high forests contain a moderate quantity of fine timber, suitable for building and other purposes but no wood is available for export. Of the indigenous species the most valuable are Natte, Makak, Colophane, Tambalacoque, Benjoin, and Puant.

During the year 1919, the area of forest plantations was increased by 634 arpents. This was planted mostly in Eucalyptus, Pines, Cryptomeria, Casuarinas etc., and the growth shown by these species is satisfactory.

The revenue derived from all sales of forest produce on account of timber, fuel and minor produce during the year was Rs. 221,477, as compared with Rs. 215,384.51 during the year 1918. Against this the expenditure was Rs. 258,147 as compared with Rs. 264,076 during the previous year.

FISHING

Fish is plentiful and of excellent quality but the whole of the catch is consumed by the local market, the price being inflated by intermediate profits and transportation charges. Local fisheries however have remained in their primitive condition and though there are rules for the protection of the fish the resources of the sea are little attended to. With capital accustomed to the business and ready to undertake developments there is certainly much more room for fishing on a large scale.

In Rodrigues and the Lesser Dependencies a profitable industry in fish drying and salting exists but it is confined within hereditary methods.

LEGISLATION

26 Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are those which are likely to be of interest outside the Colony:

The Former Enemy Aliens Ordinance, 1919 (No. 15 of 1919) which provides that a former enemy alien shall be required to have a permit signed by the Colonial Secretary before he can enter the Colony or any of its Dependencies.

The Deportation Ordinance, 1919 (No. 26 of 1919) which provides for the deportation of former enemy aliens whenever the Governor deems such a course conducive to the public good.

EDUCATION

Owing to the severe Influenza epidemic which prevailed during four months of the year, there was a considerable decrease in the number of pupils attending the various schools.

The total number of Primary Schools open during 1919 amounted to 148 (of which 57 were Government and 91 Aided Schools) with an enrolment of 22,120 pupils as compared with 23,794 in 1918. Of the Aided Schools, 67 are Roman Catholic, 10 belong to the Church of England and 2 to the Presbyterian Church; there are also 1 Hindoo and 2 Mahomedan Schools.

The average number of pupils in attendance was 14,326 as against 15,073 in 1918, owing to the epidemic of influenza during the year. The Indian community furnished 10,530 pupils, a very small number compared with the proportion of Indians to the rest of the population.

212 candidates sat for the Boys' Scholarship Examination; 104 failed to satisfy the preliminary test and of the remainder 15 reached pass standard. Scholarships and exhibitions were awarded to twelve who joined the Royal College.

There were 208 students who entered for Teacher's certificates during the year 10 of whom passed. Two First Class certificates were issued.

Technical instruction in woodwork was given in 5 primary schools. The number of pupils receiving instruction in the senior or full-time section of the Port Louis Technical School was 41 and the daily attendance 20. The corresponding numbers for the primary classes were 272 and 68 respectively. The Inspector reports an improvement in the work of the elder pupils.

Agricultural instruction is given by a scheme of school gardens conducted in connection with the Government Schools. The number of gardens attached to Government Schools was 18 and to Aided Schools 12.

There were 29 entries for the 8 Mechanical Engineering apprenticeships. The two handicraft apprenticeships were secured and 35 candidates competed for the four needlework apprenticeships.

The teaching of elementary hygiene and sanitation is compulsory in all schools under Government inspection and fair progress is being made.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

In January 1919, 108 new boys joined the Royal College, being 64 more than in January 1918; and the highest number of pupils on the College roll in 1919 reached the total of 321, being 61 more than the highest total in the previous year.

The result of the Senior Cambridge Local Examination in 1919 showed that 113 candidates presented themselves, 46 of whom passed.

Thirteen secondary schools for boys and girls receive grants from Government. There are two scholarships offered annually in the highest class of the Royal College of the value of £1000 each tenable for four or five years, with £75 passage allowance to and from England. The holders may join any British University, or study at any recognised institution in the United Kingdom.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

RAILWAYS

The total length of the Mauritius Government Railway is 119 miles, exclusive of the Bois Chéri light railway of about 10 miles in length. The gauge of the main line in 4 feet 8½ inches.

The revenue derived during the year was Rs. 2,980,840 against Rs. 3,007,924 in 1918, or a decrease of Rs. 27,043 as compared with the preceding year. This figure does not include Government traffic which amounts to Rs. 327,335.

The receipts for passenger traffic showed an increase of Rs. 76,568 as compared with last year. As regards goods traffic the tonnage conveyed was 524,978 tons as compared with 516,183 tons in the previous year.

The working expenses for the year amounted to Rs. 3,523,520 as against Rs. 2,805,106 in the preceding year.

The capital cost was Rs. 32,857,745 at 31 December 1919.

The results of the year's working is as follows :

Receipts	Rs. 3,432,935
Working expenses ...	3,523,520

Bois Cheri

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from the Savanne branch. The total goods traffic carried in 1919 amounted to 21,498 tons of which 18,644 tons were sugar cane, as against a total traffic of 16,947 tons and 13,985 tons of sugar cane in 1918. The actual working expenses for 1919 were Rs. 50,800, the earnings Rs. 18,708 and the work done for Government Departments was valued at Rs. 3,259.

Post and Telegraphs

At the end of the year there were 60 post offices open in the island, of which 57 were also telegraph offices.

The total revenue of the Department was Rs. 263,737 and the total expenditure Rs. 228,333 showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 35,404. The sale of stamped postal matter amounted to Rs. 172,633.

There were 665 miles of Government telegraph lines and 142 miles of telephone lines in operation during the year.

Telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the Eastern Telegraph Company in Port Louis. There is also an Admiralty Wireless Telegraph Station erected during the war as a war station and utilised since the Armistice for commercial traffic.

Telephonic communication constituted and owned by the Oriental Telephone Company has been gradually increasing and at the close of the year there were 6 public exchanges open, with a total of 850 subscribers.

Steamships

Mails are regularly received and despatched by steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company, Castle Line, Clan Line and Messageries Maritimes Company. Since the war, these services have been irregular and uncertain.

Communication with Rodrignes is maintained by H.M.C.S. *Secunder* and with the other Dependencies by sailing vessels at regular intervals.

Roads and Bridges

The road system of the Colony consists of main roads under the control of the Director of Public Works and branch roads under local District Boards. The main roads with a total mileage of 441.3 miles were maintained at a cost of Rs. 215,068, or at an average rate of Rs. 488 per mile. The branch roads comprising some 150 miles were maintained at a cost of Rs. 42,259 or an average rate of Rs. 281 per mile.

Improvements continue to be made in the main roads by the system of rolling the surfaces of the roads. Over 5 miles of surface were so treated during the year.

A sum of Rs. 29,665 was also spent by the Public Works Department in reconstructing timber bridges in reinforced concrete. One large bridge, 3 spans of 35 feet, and 3 smaller bridges, spans 12 feet, 11 feet and 10 ft. 6 in., were so dealt with. The introduction of reinforced concrete for bridges has proved succcessful, and the policy will eventually result in a considerable saving, because if teak had continued to be employed, with the abnormally high prices prevailing, the annual outlay would have been no less than Rs. 60,000, exclusive of labour, transport to site and other charges which represent Rs. 50,000 approximately.

IRRIGATION

The revenue derived from water delivered for irrigation from La Ferme reservoir amounted to Rs. 52,910, compared with Rs. 49,352 in the previous year. It is estimated that 1,000 additional arpents of irrigable land will be ready for development when the sanctioned programme has been completed.

Surveys and investigations for La Nicolière project, which had almost ceased during the War, were revived and measures are being taken to raise, by means of a local loan, the funds required for the execution of the scheme which will benefit the Northern Districts of the island.

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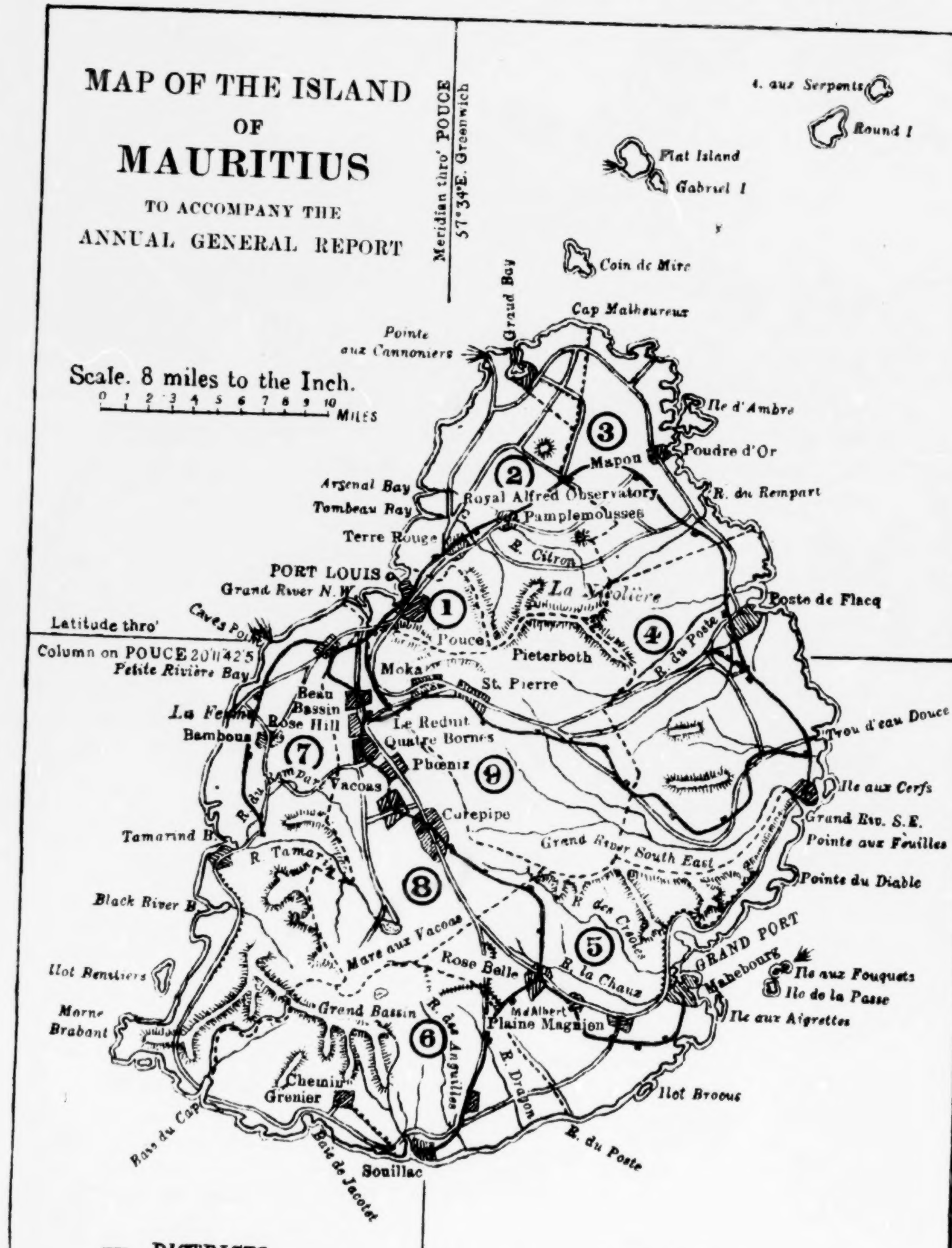
L. KŒNIG,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Port Louis,
20th October, 1920.



MAP OF THE ISLAND
OF
MAURITIUS
TO ACCOMPANY THE
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°34'E. Greenwich
I. aux Serpents
Round I
Flat Island
Gabriel I
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
Royal Alfred Observatory
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
La Nicolière
Poste de Flacq
Caves Point
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42"S
Pouce
Pieterboth
R. du Poste
Petite Rivière Bay
Moka
St. Pierre
La Ferme
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Bambous
Quatre Bornes
Trou d'eau Douce
Phœnix
R. du Rempart
Vacoas
Ile aux Cerfs
Curepipe
Grand Riv. S.E.
Tamarind B.
Grand River South East
Pointe aux Feuilles
R. Tamarin
Pointe du Diable
Black River B
R. des Creoles
Mare aux Vacoas
GRAND PORT
Ilot Benitiers
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Morne Brabant
Grand Bassin
Mt Albert
Plaine Magnien
Ile aux Aigrettes
R. des Anguilles
R. Dragon
Chemin Grenier
Ilot Brocus
Bras du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
R. du Poste
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COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919
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1035	Barbados	1918–1919
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1037	St. Vincent	1918–1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei..	,,
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	,,
1044	Bermuda	,,
1045	Basutoland	1919–1920
1046	Cyprus	,,
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1052	Zanzibar	1919
1053	Gambia	,,
1054	Uganda	1918–1919
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1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1058	Ashanti	1919
1059	Bahamas	1919–1920
1060	British Solomon Islands..	,,
1061	Seychelles..	1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

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REPORT FOR 1920.

(For Report for 1919 see No. 1062.)

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ERRATA.

Page 2 line 4, for " maximum " read " minimum."

Page 7 Tobacco, line 5, after " imported " read " has."

Page 8, Sources of Imports last table, for " Principal Imports from United States " read " Principal Imports from United Kingdom."

Page 9, last paragraph, before " risen " read " has."

Page 11. Exports percentage figures for 1920 should read—

United Kingdom	77·7
India	7·6
France	4·7
Other Countries	10.0

Page 17. Posts and Telegraphs, line 13, after " Armistice for " read " commercial."

Steamships, line 3, after " and " read " Messageries."

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MAURITIUS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1920

SITUATION AND AREA

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles East of Madagascar, between latitude 19°50′ and 20°31′ South, and on longitude 57°48′ East of Greenwich. Its extreme length is 39 miles, its breadth 28 miles ; and its area covers 720 square miles = 460,800 acres. The density of population is very high being estimated at 507 persons per square mile for the whole island.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of 50,300. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, has 19,500 inhabitants.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° South Latitude. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and a population of 6,573, is 350 miles to the East of Mauritius, while lesser islands of importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

HISTORY

Mauritius is said to have been first discovered by the Portuguese in the first years of the sixteenth century, on one of their voyages to India. Pedro Mascarenhas, the commander of the fleet, called the Island Cerné and conferred his own name on its neighbour to the West (now Réunion). This celebrated navigator is still honoured in the designation Mascarenes given to the three islands Réunion, Mauritius and the third (added to the group by its later Dutch discoverers as Diego Ruys islands) which is now Rodriguez.

There is no record of any settlement during the Portuguese occupation which lasted nearly a century, and the Island only served as a point of call for repair and supply. No trace of human habitation was found when on the 18th of September 1598 the Dutch Admiral Wybrand van Warwyck annexed the Island to Holland calling it Mauritius after Prince Maurice of Nassau the then Stadtholder.

The Dutch made various attempts at colonisation but were discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise and finally abandoned the Island in 1710. In 1715 the French established themselves and annexed the Island under the name of Isle de France. In 1719 it was granted by charter to the French East India Company and the Colony continued under the rule of the Company till 1764 when it was again transferred to the French Crown. The Island was lost to the French after an occupation of nearly a hundred years and came under British rule, on the 10th December 1810. By the Treaty of Paris, 1814, the Isle of France was ceded to Great Britain in full sovereignty and the ancient name of Mauritius was restored.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical but owing to the high elevation of the central plateau, a large part of the island enjoys a temperate and bracing climate. The average temperature of this highland region is about 80° Fah. (26.6° C) and the maximum about 50 Fah. (10° C). The low lying coastal region has naturally a higher average temperature ranging from 90° F. (32° C) to 70° F. (21° C).

Mauritius lies in the track of cyclones, the critical months being December to April. Of late years the Colony has been spared severe visitations.

The rainfall is irregular and varies according to locality. In the central portion of the Island an average yearly rainfall of 175 inches is recorded whereas regions where there is the lowest rainfall receive less than 40 inches. The rainfall of the coastal districts varies between 25 and 30 inches.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The prosperity which Mauritius experienced during the war has continued during 1920 and the prices realized for the main product of the Colony exceeded expectations. In order to appreciate what these prices have meant to the producers it must be borne in mind that while the average value of the sugar shipped for the five years before the war was about 40 millions of rupees, the value of the last sugar crop has exceeded 225 millions. During and since the war practically the whole of the exportable sugar has been purchased by the Impérial Government and the payments made to Mauritius by the Imperial Government since the beginning of the purchase have been no less a sum than £48,147,000 or in other words, roughly the equivalent of the value of the total exports for twenty years on pre-war standards.

War conditions have also brought about a phenomenal rise in land value. Prices as high as Rs 3,000 per acre have been paid for cane land and prices from Rs 2,000 upwards are common. A good deal of land has changed hands at these prices. Although it is too early yet to form a definite idea of what may be expected with regard to the produce of the present crop, there are signs that a limit has been set to buying land at war values.

Meanwhile, a special Fund has been created, amounting to nearly £ 950,000, from the proceeds of a special export duty on sugar levied on the crop of 1920–21 for the improvement of the sanitation of the colony and for development generally.

The enhanced cost of supplies and the upward tendency of prices of all commodities have continued and the increased cost of living has led to a general increase of wages. In the Public Service additions were made to salaries on varying percentages but generally on the basis of a 30 per cent. permanent increase.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

At the Census of May 21, 1921, the Civilian population was returned as 376,108 (194,070 males and 182,838 females) giving an increase of 7,317 on the previous Census Enumeration in 1911.

The Military stationed in the Colony were returned as 206 and the foreign shipping in the Harbour of Port Louis as 859 making a total population of 377,173.

There were 2,126 marriages, as compared with 1,563 in 1919, an increase of 563.

The births in 1920 numbered 12791 (6,440 males and 6,351 females) being 470 less than in the previous year. The number corresponds to a rate of 35.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which is slightly below the rate of the previous year.

The deaths were 11,773 (6,188 males and 5,585 females) and correspond to a rate of 32.3 per 1,000 which is somewhat lower than the average rate of the last six years.

The death-rate among children under 12 months was 156.3 per 1,000 births, as against 188.9 in the previous year. The rate among children below the age of 5 years in proportion to the total number of deaths was 316.6 to 1,000, as compared with 205.7 to 1000 in the previous year. Crêches have been established for the children of the poor in Port Louis under Government and private control.

The most prevalent disease in the Colony is malaria. Anti-malaria and anti-mosquito measures were continued during the year.

A preliminary survey as to the extent of hookworm infection in the Island was made during the year under the auspices of the International Health Board (Rockfeller Foundation), and the disease was found very prevalent throughout the Island.

PUBLIC GENERAL HOSPITALS

The aggregate accommodation is 1,046 beds.

The total number of cases treated in Government hospitals was 22,872.

The daily average number of inmates was 62.5. There were 1,074 deaths.

The number of patients who attended the dispensaries during the year was 65,302 as against 78,546 in the previous year.

ASYLUMS

The total number of patients under treatment in the Lunatic Asylum on 31st December 1920 was 456; the daily average number resident was 442.20; 131 patients were admitted; 90 were discharged and 32 died. All types of insanity were represented.

At the Leper Asylum there were 43 patients on 31st December 1920 and 15 were admitted during the year. During the year, 12 were discharged, and 6 died.

POOR RELIEF

1,122 paupers, as compared with 1,496 in 1919, received institutional relief during the year. 2,505 paupers (303 males and 2,202 females) received outdoor relief, against 2,840 in 1919.

During the epidemic of Influenza it was necessary largely to increase the number of pensioners and to give special assistance or increase the amount of the pensions in many cases not only in Port Louis but elsewhere. With the rise in prices of necessaries which has seriously affected old age pensioners and widows dependant on their pensions for subsistence, it was found almost impossible to reduce the pensions again to their former level and the new pensions are likely to become permanent.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The total number of offences reported to the Police was 19,930 in connection with which 12,098 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the magistrates. These figures compared with those of 1919 show :—

A slight increase in serious crime against the person.

A considerable decrease in offences against property, especially in praedial larceny.

A considerable increase in minor offences especially for drunkenness ; 1,098 persons were charged for this offence in 1920 against 686 in 1919—an increase of 56%.

PRISONS

The number of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment was 2,971 of whom 2,830 were males and 141 females. In the previous year the number was 3,647 (3,459 males and 188 females).

The number of prisoners under detention on 31st December 1920 was 534 as against 741 on the same date of the previous year.

The number of offences against Prison discipline was 1,071, as compared with 980 in 1919. The general health of the prisoners was satisfactory.

The number of juvenile offenders was 132 as against 169 in the previous twelve months.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

The Revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June 1920 amounted to Rs. 18,605,595 exceeding the revenue of the preceding financial year, which was the highest on record, by Rs. 4,792,526.

The Expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 19,422,903 being Rs. 817,308, in excess of the revenue. The expenditure included Rs. 2,545,000 advanced in previous years for Railway re-equipment.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as given below :—

Year	Revenue	Expenditure
1915–16 ...	Rs. 12,975,041	Rs. 11,490,946
1916–17 ...	13,611,473	11,816,141
1917–18 ...	12,607,384	12,015,394
1918–19 ...	13,813,069	14,711,349
1919–20 ...	18,605,595	19,422,903

Assets and Liabilities

The balance sheet of the Colony on the 30th June 1920 showed a net surplus of assets over liabilities of Rs. 6,255,484.

This surplus after deducting Rs. 1,582,946 spent on irrigation works at La Ferme which will be charged to next year's expenditure and Rs. 106,150 spent on La Nicolière Irrigation Works which will be covered by a loan was reduced to Rs. 4,566,388.

Public Debt

At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at £ 1,243,690 as compared with £ 1,249,990 at 30th June 1919. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £ 414,087 as compared with £ 431,633 at 30th June 1919.

Currency and Banking

The currency of the Colony consists of

(1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :—
  (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents.
  (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.
(2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.
(3) The Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5 and R. 1.
(4) Indian currency notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs 5.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 10,215,903 compared with Rs. 8,197,200 in 1918-19. The average amount of silver held amounted to Rs. 2,436,667 as compared with Rs. 3,097,000, in 1918-19. The investment and depreciation funds on 30th June 1920 amounted to Rs 4,854,251 and Rs. 598,226 respectively.

Government Savings Banks are established in nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June 1920 was 33,625 with deposits amounting to Rs. 4,171,644. The Savings Banks are largely make use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June there were 13,925 depositors with Rs. 1,753,469 to their credit.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent.

The private banks are the Mauritius Commercial Bank (paid-up capital Rs. 2,000,000), the Mercantile Bank of India (paid-up capital £ 562,500) and a branch of the National Bank of South Africa.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

Annual Progress of Trade

The total volume of trade for 1920 has been the highest on record, being estimated at Rs. 213,868,458, representing an increase Rs. 39,025,113 over the preceding year when the highest figures were recorded.

The comparative values of imports and exports for the last five years are as follows :—

Year	Imports		Exports	Total
1916	Rs. 53,615,754	- - -	Rs. 72,682,170	Rs. 126,297,924
1917	42,094,708	- - -	58,319,728	100,414,436
1918	42,921,250	- - -	58,652,480	98,573,730
1919	47,039,024	- - -	127,806,321	174,843,345
1920	86,371,153	- - -	127,497,305	213,868,458

IMPORTS.

There has been a considerable increase in the value of goods imported in 1920 as compared with 1919. In comparing the figures of the present with past years due consideration must be given to the changes in the relative value of the rupee which have actually taken place during the period under review. Whilst the published figures have been given previous to July, 1919, in the normal sterling equivalent of Rs. 15 to the £1, those for the three months July to October 1918 have been converted at Rs. 12 to the £1, and after that date and for the whole year 1920, at the rate of Rs. 10 to the £1.

The imports during 1920, despite the additional cost due to increased prices and freights, are valued at Rs. 86,371,153, an increase of over 39 million rupees over 1919.

Increases in the actual quantity of goods received occur under the following items: Rice shows an increase of 20,000 tons over 1919: the diminished import of the previous year accounts for much of this increase; metal manufactures, chiefly galvanized iron sheets, 1492 tons in 1920 as against 352 tons in 1919, manures and fertilizers, wines and spirits, motor cars, of which the numbers imported rose from 34 in 1919 to 292 in 1920.

Rice.—Rice is by far the largest importation representing about 25% of the total import trade. The following are the importations for the last three years:—

	Tons	Value
1918	59,723	Rs. 15,307,708
1919	43,826	10,499,803
1920	64,432	24,204,358

In 1920 45,000 tons came from Burmah, 12,000 tons from Saigon and 6,000 tons from Madagascar.

Manures and Fertilizers.—The second largest item in order of value is manures and chemicals for the preparation of manures. The total value under this heading was Rs. 7,345,198 in 1920 as compared with Rs. 4,537,469 in 1919.

Machinery—.Machinery occupies the third place in the value of commercial imports, showing increases of 4 million rupees over the figures for 1918 and 1919. Of these imports machinery imported for local industries and mechanical transport shows increases of Rs 3,714,000 and Rs. 3,343,000 over the figures of the two preceding years.

Sewing machines and typewriters.—Importations in these lines deserve mention and the following will show the quantities imported during the past three years:

	Sewing Machines	Typewriters
1918	488	12
1919	343	26
1920	1503	72

Wheat-flour.—There was a considerable increase in the importation of this article of diet. The quantity imported in 1920 increased by 3,845 tons and the value by Rs. 1,694,772 over the previous year. On a total of about 10,640 tons, 5,200 came from Australia and 4,300 tons from India.

The imports during the last three years were :—

		Tons			Value
1918	- - -	2,385	- - -	Rs.	921,837
1919	- - -	6,800	- - -		2,582,160
1920	- - -	10,645	- - -		4,276,932

Cotton manufactures.—The total value of cotton manufactures imported last year rose to Rs. 3,780,000, an increase of Rs. 1,354,000 over 1918 and Rs. 1,475,000 over 1919.

The following table shows the quantity in metres of cotton piece goods imported during 1918, 1919 and 1920 :

		Grey and White		Printed
1918	- - -	3,144,698	- - -	2,194,936
1919	- - -	1,951,282	- - -	1,658,131
1920	- - -	2,516,269	- - -	3,781,294

Coals.—Coals, coke and patent fuel imported in 1920 amounted to Rs. 3,677,000 in value against Rs. 3,017,000 in 1919 and Rs. 1,914,000 in 1918, and the quantity of coal imported shows increases of 15,000 and 31,000 tons over the two preceding years. South Africa supplied almost all the coals.

Bags, Gunny.—Imports of bags, gunny (for the sugar export) represent an increase in value as compared with the previous year of Rs. 407,390. The number of gunny bags imported in each of the last three last three years is as follows :—

1918	- - -	2,284,800
1919	- - -	3,376,400
1920	- - -	3,902,800

Tobacco.—The total value of tobacco imported in 1920 was Rs. 2,341,123 showing an increase of Rs. 1,099,622 or 88 per cent over the previous year.

While the consumption of manufactured tobacco appears to be fairly stable, the quantity of cigarettes imported hss increased enormously, being nearly five times that of the preceding year. The following are the figures :

1920	- - -	156,946 kilos.
1919	- - -	31,738
	- - -	
an increase of	- - -	125,208 kilos.

Most of the cigarettes imported come from the United Kingdom. A similar increase showing the abundance of money in the island occurs in the quantity of champagne imported, the annual consumption of which rose from 6,770 bottles in 1918 to 22,251 bottles in 1920.

Motor Cars.—The number of motor cars imported rose from 34 in 1919 to 292 in 1920 valued at over one million rupees.

Specie. Large quantities were imported in 1920. The total quantity of specie is shown at Rs. 9,811,787. No coins were imported in any two of the previous years.

Imports for Home consumption.—The value of imports for home consumption was Rs. 93,949,715. In addition, goods valued at Rs. 2,236,615. were re-exported.

Sources of Imports.—The following countries are the principal sources of supply ; percentages of values are given for each :

	1916 value Rs.1000	per cent.	1917 value Rs.1000	per cent.	1918 value Rs.1000	per cent.	1919 value Rs.1000	per cent.	1920 value Rs. 1000	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	15,903	29.7	10,939	26.	27,016	16.3	11,423	24.3	23,771	27.5
India	22,476	41.9	17,107	40.6	4,401	56,9	14,433	30.7	28,297	32 8
Other parts of the British Empire.	3,310	6,1	4,943	11.8	5,722	13.3	8,956	19	11,209	12.6
Foreign Countries ...	11,927	22.2	9,106	21.6	5,782	13.5	12,225	26	23,094	26.8
Total	53,616	100	42,095	100	42,921	100	47,037	100	86,371	100

It will be seen from the above statement that the United Kingdom's share of Mauritius import trade is very satisfactory and has not been affected by the war. The largest imports from the United Kingdom are in manufactured articles of every description and there is evidence from the following table that importations from the United Kingdom, which had greatly diminished during the war, show encouraging signs of restoration.

Total value in Rupees of imports from United Kingdom :

1916	- - -	Rs. 16,208,222
1917	- - -	11,043,426
1918	- - -	7,016,235
1919	- - -	11,422,848
1920	- - -	23,827,889

The increase is most marked when it is remembered that the figure of 23 million for 1920 is arrived at by converting at the rate of Rs. 10 to the £ 1. Had the rate been calculated at Rs. 15, as in 1916, the total value of imports from the United Kingdom would have been more than double the 1916 value.

As compared with 1919, most of the principal imports show increases both in quantity and value :—

Principal Imports from United States	1919		1920	
	Quantities	Value in Rs.	Quantity	Value in Rs.
		Rs.		Rs.
Cotton, coloured metres ...	1,105,359	667,853	2,643,828	1,571,369
Hardware ...	---	352,047	---	830,362
Iron Sheets (galvd) Kil ...	344,902	160,873	1,283,790	778,218
Machinery for local industry ..	532,631	689,861	2,193,335	2,389,008
Machinery for Tramways ...	---	8,026	---	1,614,655
Manures, Ammonia Sulphate for.	5,169,624	2,496,332	8,013,855	3,435,313
Tobacco, Cigarettes and Cigars...	5,916	71,598	56,409	939,861
Wollen, Mixed metres ...	14,587	66,361	119,249	289,825

As compared with 1916, iron goods (including machinery) and tobacco cigars and cigarettes show considerable increases both in quantity and value, as follows :

Imports from United Kingdom	Year	Quantity in Kil.	Value in Rs.
Iron sheets (galvanized) - - -	1916	513,131	238,871
	1920	1,283,790	778,218
Machinery for local industry	1916	1,234,106	1,141,886
	1920	2,193,335	2,389,008
Tobacco cigars and cigarettes	1916	2,730	33,005
	1920	56,409	939,861

Some items however show increases in value but decreases in quantity compared with 1916 due to inflated prices. Thus :—

	Year	Quantity	Value in Rs.
Cotton coloured - - -	1916	5,308,835 met.	1,366,960
	1920	2,643,828	1,571,369
Manures ammonia sulphate for	1916	10,140 tons	3,174,805
	1920	8,014 ,,	3,435,313

India. The largest share of the import trade is held by India and a considerable portion of the amount comes under the section of " Food and Drink, " especially grains, oils, seeds and spices. India has also supplied us last year with Rs. 9,758,738 bullion and specie.

The following statement shows the extent of trade with India in each of the years from 1916 to 1920 :

Total value in rupees of imports from India exclusive of specie.

1916 - - -	Rs 22,476,049
1917 - - -	17,107,403
1918 - - -	24,401,249
1919 - - -	14,432,827
1920 - - -	28,246,629

It is of interest to note that whereas large decreases occur in the most important classes of imports from India as compared with 1916, the value of these imports have risen in the reverse order thus —

Principal Imports from India	Year	Quantity	Value in Rs.
Bags, gunny - - -	1916	No. 5,233,000	2,436,945
	1920	3,902,800	3,265,687
Corn, Dholl - - -	1916	Kil. 4,989,988	842,182
	1920	3,072,573	1,006,897
Corn, Rice - - -	1916	68,777,909	12,304,957
	1920	15,599,021	15,149,683
Oil, Mustard - - -	1916	1,022,005	615,657
	1209	713,810	766,130

This table clearly indicates the general rise in value of some of the most indispensable commodities, for those who live largely on goods imported from India.

Other parts of the British Empire.: South Africa shows a considerable increase, the value of importations being Rs. 6,359,243 as compared with Rs. 5,972,640 in 1919; Australia coming next with Rs. 2,927,193 as compared with Rs. 2,202,661 in 1919. South Africa still heads the list of countries from which coal and wines are imported into Mauritius. French wines however show considerable increases over the war figures, but the consumption is not such as to affect the South African products.

The chief import from Australia was flour. Singapore appears next on the list with a total of Rs. 1,063,973 as compared with Rs. 423,621 for the previous year.

Ceylon occupies the next place, with a total of Rs. 203,897 out of which Rs. 179,795 represents the value of tea exported to Mauritius.

Foreign Countries. Saigon heads the list chiefly due to increased shipments of rice the value of which is given as Rs. 6,812,504 out of a total of Rs. 6,814,059. France shows a noticeable increase, Rs. 4,486,291 as compared with Rs. 1,616,090 in the previous year; Madagascar occupies the next place with Rs. 4,349,787, as compared with Rs. 2,898,617 in 1919; then the United States of America the total value of goods supplied amounting to Rs. 2,508,904 as against Rs. 2,419,451 in 1919.

Shipments of bullocks from Madagascar show striking increases thus:—

Cows and Oxen	For food	For other purposes	Total
1918	1119	...	1.119
1919	3125	...	3.125
1920	5925	3822	9.747

The United States are chiefly represented by motor-cars; they are also, with Sumatra, the chief suppliers of petroleum and petrol spirits.

The trade with other foreign countries is thus represented. Reunion Island stands first for manufactured tobacco; Sweden for matches; Holland for margarine and Portugal for provisions preserved. Japan supplies about 30% of the imports of matches and has continued to supply imitation goods and toys. Imports from China are chiefly rice and lard.

The imports from Belgium were valued at Rs. 327,214, whilst German goods only represent in value Rs. 45,703.

EXPORTS

The following table gives the direction of the export trade, with percentage of value taken by each country :—

	1916 value Rs. 1000	per cent.	1917 value Rs. 1000	per. cent.	1918 value Rs. 1000	per cent.	1919 value Rs. 1000	per cent.	1920 value Rs. 1000	per cent.
United Kingdom ...	24,140	33.2	31,487	54.	21,258	38.2	96,362	75.4	96,656	77
India	11,657	15.2	6,726	11.9	25,864	46.5	12,479	9.8	9,646	7.6
France	34,511	47.5	15,874	27.2	1	...	8,960	7.0	6,106	4.7
Other Countries ...	2,974	4.1	4,031	6.9	8,530	15.3	10,605	7.8	13,109	100
Total... ...	72,682	100	55,320	100	58,653	100	127,806	100	127,497	100

The value of local products and manufactures exported during 1920 amounted to Rs. 125,270,690 and the value of re-exports to Rs. 2,236,615.

The Mauritius products and manufactures exported in order of value are as follows :—

		Quantity	Value in Rupees
Sugar	tons	182,465	124,633,854
Alœ fibre	,,	874	248,440
Rum	litres	58,416	26,354
Hides and Skins		—	15,120
Vanilla	kilos	142	1,400
Machinery	,,	—	92,630
Coconut oil	litres	138,113	108,783
Shells tortoise		—	35,922
Postal parcels		—	31,830

Nearly the whole export trade is represented by sugar.

The approximate value and quantity of Mauritius Sugar exported in each of the years 1912 to 1920 is shown in the following table :—

Year	Quantity in kilog.	Value in Rupees
1912	206,066,889	35,237,438
1913	187,771,850	30,700,697
1914	269,372,102	57,874,421
1915	225,439,526	54,105,494
1916	230,559,715	69,309,970
1917	190,820,657	54,539,232
1918	183,221,889	53,882,002
1919	302,826,129	125,103,201
1920	182,464,726	124,633,854

The total value of the sugar crop 1920–21 will be about Rs. 230,000,000 and the quantity shipped up to 31st December represents a little less than half of this amount.

SHIPPING

FOREIGN TRADE

The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year 1920 was 371 with a net tonnage of 716,758, an increase of 56 vessels and 78,133 tons as compared with 1919.

There were 194 arrivals of 375,624 tons and 177 departures of **341,134** tons, of which 80.3 per cent were British as summarised below :—

	Number	Tons
British steamers entered	111	263,469
do. cleared	104	231,441
British sailing vessels entered	44	14,305
do. cleared	31	13,468
Total British	118	530,611
Foreign steamers entered	31	17,851
do cleared	34	88,117
Foreign sailing vessels entered	...	...
do cleared	...	...
Total number and Tons	371	716,758

COASTING TRADE

The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year 1921 was 35 with a tonnage of 11,961, an increase of 2 vessels and 4227 tons as compared with 1919.

There were 18 arrivals of 7147 tons and 17 departures of 6,911, all of which were British.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

The only important crop grown in Mauritius is sugar. There are 170,000 acres, about 35 per cent. of the total area of the Colony, at present under cane cultivation.

The total acreage of estates with factories (of which there are 54 at work) is estimated at 55,000 acres. Of the remainder 38,000 acres are cultivated as estates of over 100 acres without factory and 76,000 by personal proprietors, mostly Indian.

During the year additional areas have been brought under cultivation estimated to amount to at least 2,000 acres. This increase has occurred chiefly in the district of Black River where new areas have been opened under the La Ferme Irrigation Scheme.

ALOE FIBRE

Aloe fibre is produced mainly from the leaves of Fourcroya Gigantea (Mauritius hemp), a plant which grows wild all over the Colony. The area under aloe is estimated as about 20,000 acres. 2,000 tons of fibre are produced annually but the market has been very limited since the war.

A certain area has been put under Sisal for which considerable areas of land is well adapted.

COCONUTS

Coconut plantations are receiving attention in the coastal belt and there are about 800 acres under cultivation in Mauritius. There are no oil mills in the Colony itself but the cultivation of the nuts and extraction of oil etc., constitutes the principal industry of the small islands forming the dependencies of Mauritius.

The exports from these islands in 1920 amounted to:—

Coconut oil	964,708 litres	valued at Rs.	196,622
Copra ...	425 tons	„	73,811
Poonac ...	630 „	„	15,865

As the demand for oils and fats is practically unlimited this industry offers considerable scope for developement.

TOBACCO

Tobacco of the Reunion type grows well in the Colony and a government factory has been recently opened in Port Louis. The produce meets with a ready sale and there appears to be a possibility of opening up a profitable industry for the supply of local requirements.

OTHER CROPS

Exports of vanilla are negligible. In 1920 a little over 3,000 kilos were exported of a value of about Rs. 4,200.

Locally grown tea is consumed on a large scale in this Colony but there is little likelihood of an export trade being built up.

Cocoa grows well and a small amount of chocolate is manufactured locally.

Citrus fruits, especially limes and lemons, are attracting special attention.

Tropical fruits grow freely near the coast but no attempt has been made so far to establish a fruit preserving or jam making industry.

FOOD CROPS

Maize, manioc, sweet potatoes, ground nuts &c., are grown but owing to the high prices received for sugar and cane the efforts to increase the production of food crops have been considerably discounted. It is estimated that, at the end of 1920, the area under cultivation in food crops and vegetables did not exceed 7,000 acres which is far short of what is required.

LIVE STOCK

An important advance was recorded during the year by the inauguration of the Mauritius Stock Breeders' Association to improve the local breed.

SALT INDUSTRY

There are four salines at present operating in Mauritius from which the total production averages about 9,811 tons per annum. The salines consist of a series of basins into which sea water is admitted and concentrated by the heat of the sun. As the solution becomes more concentrated, it is run into successive basins and in the last of these crystallisation takes place.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

The Director of Agriculture reports as follows: Co-operative Credit Societies were first established in Mauritius in 1913 and their working is regulated under Ordinance 4 of that year. The plan on which these Societies are worked follows closely that which has been established in India; the system may now be regarded as firmly established in the Colony and is proving itself thoroughly well adapted to the requirements of a considerable number of the small planters. At the end of 1920, 32 Societies had been registered and were without exception working satisfactorily. On June 30th 1920, the total amount of Working Capital to the credit of the Societies was Rs. 365,857 of which Rs. 129,919 represented Share Capital and Rs. 66,219 Reserve Fund. The total membership of the Societies on the same date was 1,171. During the latter part of the year, considerable additions were made to the number of Societies and to the total membership, six new Societies being registered between August and December 1919. The result is largely due to increased appreciation of the advantages of the system amongst small planters.

INDUSTRIES—(EXCLUSIVE OF AGRICULTURE)

(a) Nature of Industry	Approximate amount of persons employed	Raw material used	Approximate output Quantity	Annual Value
				Rs.
1. Engineering ...	4,500	...		2,000,000
2. Bakeries	800	Wheat Flour	3,200 T.	2,000,000
3. Docks (landing Shipping etc.)	1,700	...	...	1,000,000
4. Fisheries	1,500	Sea fish	1,000 T.	500,000
5. Lime Burning ...	650	Coral	16,000 T.	330,000
6. Distilleries ...	30	Molasses	1,700,000 lit.	300,000
7. Electric light and Power Supply	70	Hydraulic Power	...	230,000
8. Salt	50	Sea water	1,700 T.	170,000
9. Leather Tanning	30	Hides of some 8,000 oxen		170,000
10. Ice making ...	...	...	900 T.	125,000
11. Oil (ground nuts)	...	...	50,000 lit.	100,000
12. Vinegar making ..	...	Rum	34,000 lit.	10,000

Among minor Industries may be mentioned biscuits, aerated water, manure, furniture, charcoal, pottery, alœ ropes, vacoas bags etc.

Distilleries.—The manufacture of industrial alcohol on a large scale is likely to increase. At present alcohol is produced mainly for consumption as Rum. The raw material used is the molasses produced in the cane sugar industry.

LEGISLATION

59 Ordinances were passed during the year 1920 of which the following are the more important of those which are likely to be of interest outside the colony :—

The Treaty of Peace Ordinance, 1920, (No. 8) which adapts to the circumstances of the Colony the provisions of the Treaty of Peace Order, 1919.

The Pension Law Amendment Ordinance 1920 (No. 10) which makes service in Mauritius continous with service in the following Colonies for pension purposes : Seychelles, Trinidad, the Leeward islands, Jamaica.

The Profiteering Ordinance 1920 (No. 22) which is adapted from the Imperial Act 1919 with certain modifications.

The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance 1920 (No. 40) which was introduced for the purpose of recognizing the certificates of competency of Master and Mates, issued in Seychelles.

The Profiteering (Additional Powers) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1920 (No. 52), articles 2 and 3 of which amend Ordinance No. 22 of 1920: article 2 by enabling the Local Committee to disregard the fact of successive sales, when the consequence of such sales has been an undue inflation of price; article 3, by making it an offence on the part of a person against whom a complaint has been lodged, to refuse to sell to the complainant or to certain other persons connected with the complaint. The other articles deal with unreasonable rents, to the investigation and control of which the jurisdiction of the Local Committee is extended.

Those provisions are mainly borrowed from the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interests (War Restrictions) Act 1915 (5 & 6 Geo. 5 Ch. 97) and from a South Africa Bill entitled "The Rents Act, 1920" published in the "Union Gazette Extraordinary" of the 30th March, 1920.

The Maintenance Orders (Facilities or Enforcement) Ordinance, 1920. No. 58) which reproduces the provisions of the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920.

EDUCATION

At the close of the year there were 147 primary schools in the Colony, 56 Government, and 91 denominational schools assisted by Government grants, of which 67 were Roman Catholics, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterians, 1 Hindoo and 2 Mahomedans.

The average attendance was 15,919 compared with 14,326 in 1919. The attendance of Indian children increased considerably from the previous year and now totals 12,599 giving an average of 80 pupils per school.

During the year 254 candidates competed for the Boys' Scholarship Examination which gives admission to the Royal College. Of these 211 failed in the preliminary test and of the others 27 passed. Six scholarships and six exhibitions were awarded.

There were 128 students for the four Girls' Scholarships, of whom 18 passed. 261 students (99 men and 162 women) entered for Teachers' certificates during the year 8 of whom (2 men and 6 women) passed. 40 First class certificates were granted.

Technical instruction in woodwork.—The average number of pupils on roll in the Port Louis Technical school was 30 and the number attending the Primary School classes was 115. The average attendance per day was 21 and 50 respectively.

Manual training as a class subject continues to be popular in the five country schools where such classes exist. Good work was fairly general and over 180 boys received instruction in this subject.

Agricultural instruction is given by a scheme of school gardens conducted in connection with the Government schools. The number of schools possessing gardens was 31—18 Government and 13 Aided schools.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Eleven secondary schools received grants from Government during the year. Of these schools five are for boys only, the others admitting both boys and girls.

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College.

During the year 105 new boys joined the Royal College and the highest number of pupils on the College roll was reached in 1920 with a total of 324.

There are two scholarships offered annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Cambridge University Examination Syndicate, of the value of £1,000 each, tenable for four or five years, with £75 passage allowance to or from England. The holders may join any University in the British Empire or study at any scientific or technical institution in the United Kingdom.

From 1st January 1920 those scholarship allowances were temporarily increased by 30 per cent.

The following statement gives the results of the Senior Cambridge Local Examinations for the last four years :—

Examination	Entries	Absentees	Candidates sitting for examination	Candidates sitting for full certificate	Passes	Candidates sitting for supplementary certificate	Passes
July 1917 ...	25	...	25	14	6	11	5
Decem. 1917... ...	94	9	85	71	26	14	5
July 1918 ...	34	2	32	22	13	10	5
Decem. 1918... ...	80	9	71	56	22	15	5
July 1919	45	14	31	23	5	8	3
Decem. 1919... ...	88	6	82	72	36	10	2
July 1920	76	18	58	47	24	11	11
Decem. 1920	117	22	95	82	29	13	11

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

RAILWAYS

The total length of the Mauritius Government Railway is 120 miles, exclusive of the Bois Chéri light railway of about 10 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The revenue derived during the year was Rs. 3,830,024 against Rs. 2,980,830 in 1919 or an increase of Rs. 849,194 as compared with the preceding year. This figure does not include Government traffic which amounts to Rs. 380,598.

The receipts for passenger traffic showed an increase of Rs. 613,714 compared with last year. As regards goods traffic the tonnage conveyed was 603,592 tons as compared with 524,978 tons in the previous year.

The working expenses for the year amounted to Rs. 3,614,423 as against Rs. 3,523,520 in the preceding year.

The capital cost was Rs. 32,984,153 at 31 December 1920.

The results of the year's working is as follows :

Receipts	Rs. 3,687,147
Working expenses ...	3,614,423

BOIS CHERI

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from the Savanne branch. The total goods traffic carried in 1920 amounted to 32,520 tons of which 29,624 tons were sugar cane, as against a total traffic of 21,498 tons and 18,644 tons of sugar cane in 1919. The actual working expenses for 1920 were Rs. 56,486, the earnings Rs. 17,165 and the work done for Government Departments was valued at Rs. 2,078.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS

At the end of the year there were 60 post offices open in the island, of which 57 were also telegraph offices.

The total revenue of the Department was Rs. 371,098 and the total expenditure Rs. 273,508, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 97,590. The sale of stamped postal matter amounted to Rs. 229,893 against Rs. 172,633 in the previous year.

There were 665 miles of Government telegraph lines and 147 miles of telephone lines in operation during the year.

Telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the Eastern Telegraph Company in Port Louis. There is also an Admiralty Wireless Telegraph Station erected during the war as a war station and utilised since the Armistice for cammercial traffic.

Telephonic communication constituted and owned by the Oriental Telephone Company has been gradually increasing and at the close of the year there were 6 public exchanges open, with 1,526 miles of wire.

STEAMSHIPS

Mails are regularly received and despatched by steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company, Castle Line, Clan Line and Msssageries Maritimes Company.

Communication with Rodrigues is maintained by H.M.C.S. *Secunder* and with the other Dependencies by sailing vessels at regular intervals.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The road system of the Colony consists of main roads under the control of the Director of Public Works and branch roads under local District Boards. The main roads with a total mileage of 442 miles were maintained at a cost of Rs. 367,682, or at an average rate of Rs. 832 per mile. The branch roads comprising some 150 miles were maintained at a cost of Rs. 35,799 or an average rate of Rs. 240 per mile.

Improvements continue to be made in the main roads by the system of rolling the surface of the roads. Over 5½ miles of surface were so treated during the year.

A sum of Rs. 61,500 was also spent by the Public Works Department in reconstructing three small timber bridges in reinforced concrete.

IRRIGATION

The revenue derived from water delivered for irrigation from La Ferme reservoir amounted to Rs. 61,500, compared with Rs. 44,100 in the previous financial year. During the year additional areas under the Reservoir have been brought under cane cultivation estimated to amount to 600 acres. The total area of irrigable land under this reservoir is about 3,000 acres.

In connection with the scheme for the larger project at La Nicolière progress was delayed by lack of labour. The main dam was started and the construction of the culvert for taking the water across the dam was also taken in hand.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER BOOKS OF REFERENCE CONCERNING MAURITITIUS

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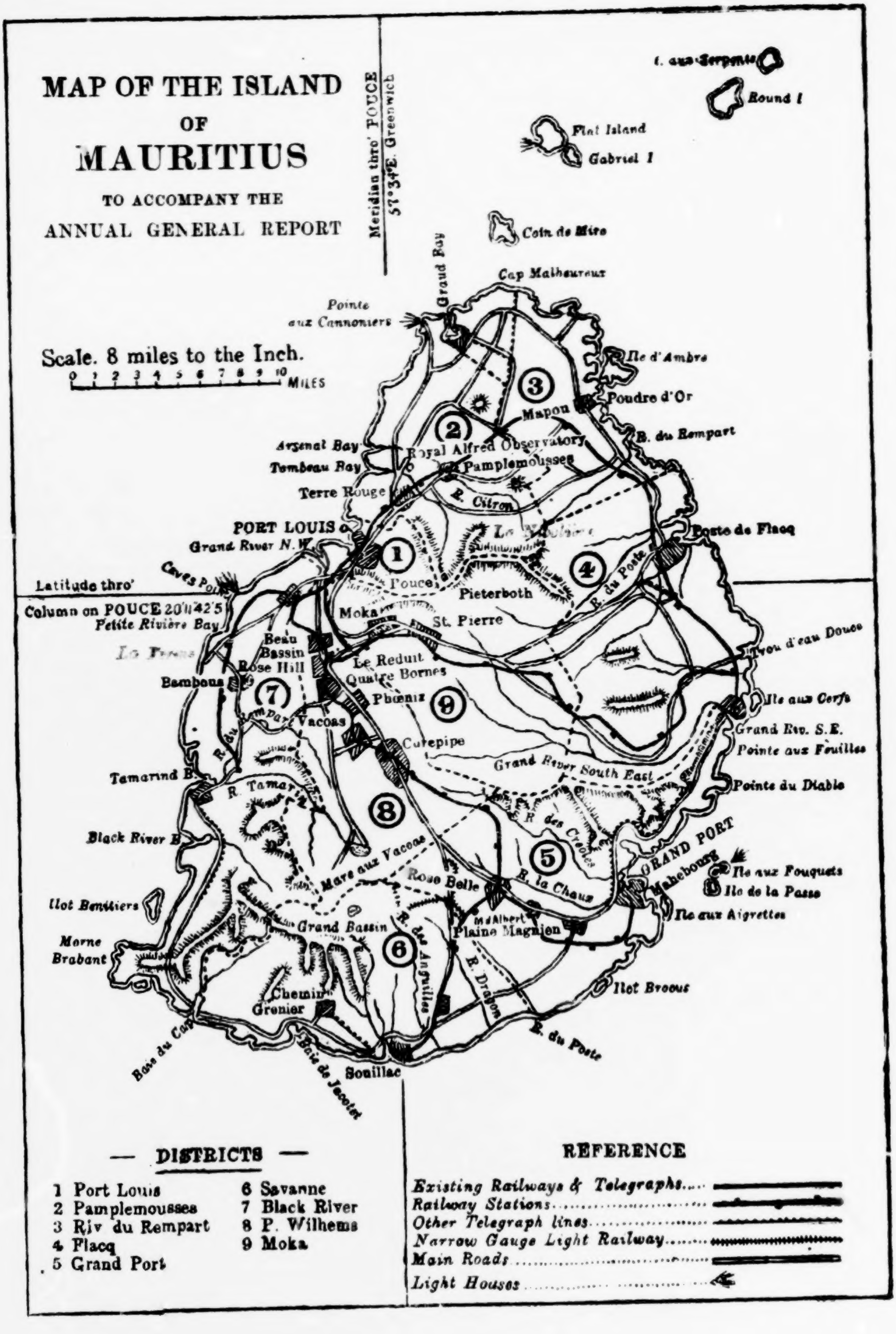
L. KŒNIG,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Port Louis,
1st October 1921.


MAP OF THE ISLAND
OF
MAURITIUS
TO ACCOMPANY THE
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT
Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
Meridian thro' POUCE
57°34'E. Greenwich
Latitude thro'
Column on POUCE 20°11'42'S
I. aux Serpents
Round I
Flat Island
Gabriel I
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
B. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Petite Rivière Bay
Poste de Flacq
R. du Poste
Pouce
Pieterboth
Moka
St. Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Phœnix
Bambous
Vacoas
Curepipe
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Pointe du Diable
Grand River South East
Tamarind B.
R. Tamarin
Black River B
R. du Rempart
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ile aux Aigrettes
Mare aux Vacoas
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Ilot Benitiers
Morne Brabant
Grand Bassin
Mt Albert
Plaine Magnien
R. des Anguilles
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
R. du Poste
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
— DISTRICTS —
1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka
REFERENCE
Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	,,
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	,,
1090	Sierra Leone	1920
1091	Zanzibar	,,
1092	Cayman Islands	1918–1919
1093	Cyprus	1920
1094	St. Vincent	,,
1095	Bahamas	1920–1921
1096	Nyasaland	1920
1097	Weihaiwei	,,
1098	Nigeria	,,
1099	New Hebrides	,,
1100	Somaliland	,,
1101	Straits Settlements	,,
1102	Swaziland	1920–1921
1103	Trinidad and Tobago	1920
1104	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1105	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1106	Seychelles	,,
1107	Ashanti	,,
1108	Hong Kong	,,
1109	British Guiana	,,
1110	British Honduras	1919
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	1920–1921
1114	Nigeria	1921

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1149.

MAURITIUS.

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REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1115.)

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MAURITIUS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1921

SITUATION AND AREA

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles East of Madagascar, between latitude 19°50′ and 20°31′ South, and on longtitude 57°48′ East of Greenwich. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ord. 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its greatest breadth 29 miles; and its area covers 720 square miles=460,808 acres. The density of population is very high being a little over 500 persons per square mile for the whole island.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of 50,300. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, situated at the highest part of the central plateau, has 19,500 inhabitants. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phœnix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Beau Bassin are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in country districts are Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq and Pamplemousses.

The Island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours Réunion and Rodrigues and certainly more stable. (J. S. Gardiner).

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° South Latitude. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and a population of 6,584—(3,301 males, 3,283 females) is 350 miles to the East of Mauritius, while lesser islands of importance comprise Agaléga, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the census of May, 1921, the population of the Lesser Dependencies was ascertained to be 1810—males 1,038, females 772.

HISTORY

Mauritius is said to have been first discovered by the Portuguese in the first years of the sixteenth century probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527 when the island is shown on an official map under the name of *Santa Apollonia*, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Réunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Dom Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island *Itha da Cirnos*, or *Swan Island*, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any settlement during the Portuguese occupation which lasted nearly a century, and the Island only served as a point of call for repair and supply.

The Island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South Eastern Port to which the Commander, Wybrandt Van Warwick, gave his own name. He took possession of the Island for his Government, named it Mauritius, in honour of Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days after he set sail leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton, of the *Pearl*, visited the Island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt towards colonisation was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsy Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the " Compagnie Neerlandaise des Indes," landed at Warwick-Haven or South-Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores and dwelling houses were built, at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the " 13 Cantons " close by. These were followed by other settlers who established themselves in the neighbourhood, where Mahebourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the Island was abandoned, to be again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally and which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1644 were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper, and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the Island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French vessel *Le Chasseur*, arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the Island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it Isle de France. Settlement however was only to be effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fougerai, commanding the *Triton* of St. Malo, resumed possession for the Compagnie des Indes Orientales, after landing at Isle aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Reunion, who had come to settle, and from this time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735 Mahé de Labourdonnais, succeeded M. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the Colony. He left the Island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions however soon became difficult for the settlers owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the "Compagnie des Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the West Indies, and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling house of "Mon Plaisir," and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French Revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobin leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected and nearly all links with the mother country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French privateers using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade gained for the island its reputation still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared in 1810 for a vigorous attack and after a memorable fight Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule, on the 10th December, 1810.

The cession of the Isle de France and its dependencies to Great Britain having been confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, the Island, under its old name of Mauritius, definitively passed in 1814 under British rule and since then it has remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical but, owing to the high elevation of the central plateau, a large part of the island enjoys a temperate and even bracing climate. The average temperature of this highland region is about 60° Fah. (15.5° C) and the maximum about 80° Fah. (26.6° C). The low-lying coastal region has naturally a higher average temperature ranging from 90° Fah. (32°C) to 70° Fah. (21°C).

Mauritius lies in the track of cyclones, of which there is the greatest risk during the months of December to April. On March 11, 1921, a cyclone passed within 100 miles North of Mauritius causing appreciable damage to the plantations.

The rainfall is irregular and varies according to the locality and elevation. In the central portion of the Island an average yearly rainfall of 175 inches is recorded, whereas regions where there is the lowest rainfall receive less than 40 inches. The rainfall of the coastal districts varies between 25 and 30 inches.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The year 1921 was prosperous as regards finance and trade. Despite the rapid fall in the prices of sugar, there was no restriction of consumption by the public and imported goods continued to pour into the Colony. The volume and value of imported trade constitute a record, the total value of the trade amounting to over 105 million rupees, being an increase of nearly 20 millions in excess of the preceding year. The Revenue figures also created a new record. Further details will be found under other headings of this report.

The chief difficulty encountered during the year was the shortage of labour, both skilled and unskilled. As a result, progress was much retarded in the carrying on of public works, while planters experienced great difficulties in the reaping of the crop and also in the performance of cultural operations. Wages rose practically 100 per cent. between 1914 and 1921 and have maintained that level since.

The cost of living continued to be abnormally high and was severely felt by almost all classes of the population. The rise in prices of all essential articles is 120 per cent. and the decrease in the value of the rupee plays an important part in connection with the prices of imported articles.

During the year the Colony obtained the services of the eminent sanitarian Dr. Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., who spent six months in the island and gave most valuable information and advice on the problems of sanitation. It is hoped that when effect has been given to his recommendations there will be a great improvement in the general standard of health and sanitary organisation.

Among other matters which received attention are questions of water supply and sewerage; and arrangements were made to to secure the services of an expert to advise in the matter. Mr. E. L. Mansergh, senior partner of the firm of Messrs. James Mansergh & Sons, who was selected for this task, visited the island in September and October. His report has only just been received and deals with the water supply of Port Louis, the water supply of the Plaines Wilhems towns with Moka and St. Pierre, the sewerage and sewage disposal in Port Louis.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The estimated population of the Colony on the 20th May, 1921, date of the taking of the Census, was 365,375. The ascertained population was 376,680 showing an increase of 6,287 on the previous Census Enumeration in 1911 and of 11,305 between the censused and estimated population.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 13,123 and 15,159, respectively.

The birth-rate in the General Population was 39.7 and in the Indian population 37.5 per mille.

The death-rates per 1,000 in the two populations for 1921 were 42.6 and 39.3.

The highest death rate for 1921 is shown in Port Louis and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems. The number of deaths due to malaria and malarial cachexia (highest death-producing factors in Mauritius) is 3,564 against 3,628 the year before. The proportion to total deaths is 23.5%. The next high causes of death are pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia 2,067 in 1921 against 1109 in 1920, and influenza 1,563 in 1921 against 334 in 1920.

There were 291 deaths from plague. The epidemic started in May, reaching its maximum in November and finishing at the end of December. In the whole island 375 cases were recorded. The largest number of cases was, as usual, in Port Louis (318). The percentage of deaths was 79.2.

Enteric fever accounted for 288 cases and caused 28 deaths, giving a mortality rate of 35 per cent.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) gives a ratio of 176.7 per thousand births against 156.3 in 1920. There were 1,623 still-births registered during the year, corresponding to a rate of 113.0 per thousand live-births, against 107.0 in 1920. The Department has made a good start with the work of training the necessary staff of midwives and also with general maternity work.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The following statement shows in a tabular form the number of cases treated in the public hospitals and at the dispensaries for the last five years:—

	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	Average
Hospital admissions ...	21,311	22,845	26,820	22.132	19,127	22,447.0
Dispensaries	58,323	57,025	78,546	65,302	60,671	63,973.2
Outdoor cases ...	5,312	5,517	5,300	4,225	5,066	5,084.0
	84,946	85,387	110,666	91,659	84.864	91,504.2

These figures show a decrease as regards hospital admissions and dispensary cases for 1921 compared with 1920, while a small increase is noticeable under the outdoor cases. The total number of cases is however less than that for 1920 and for the five-year period 1917–21.

ASYLUMS

The total number of persons certified insane on 31st December 1921 was 773, or 32 more than the year before. This represents a ratio of insane to total population of 1 in 486 or 20.54 per 10,000.

The admissions into the Lunatic Asylum numbered 153. They are classified into: first admissions 81, second admissions 12, readmission from probation 40, readmission from Barkly Asylum Lunatic Branch Wards 2, and 18 admitted on interim order but found not insane after examination by Commissioners in Lunacy.

The number of inmates left on 31st December was 486 (246 males and 240 females) at the Lunatic Asylum, and 79 (55 males and 24 females) in the Lunatic Branch wards.

At the Leper Asylum there were 43 patients when the year began (males 30. females 13). There were 15 admissions during the year (12 males and 3 females), 11 deaths and 10 discharges. There remained 37 lepers at the end of the year. A new Leper

Colony is being erected a few miles out of Port Louis and when completed the law compelling compulsory segregation of lepers will be brought into use.

POOR RELIEF

Exclusive of the pauper cases treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries 1,017 paupers, as compared with 1,121 in 1920, received institutional relief during 1921 at the Barkly Asylum and different religious institutions.

2,435 paupers received pecuniary out-door relief permanently or temporarily, during 1921, against 2,505 in 1920.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS

There were 3,698 persons committed to prison during the year, being 605 less than in the previous year. Of the total 3,576 were males and 122 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December 1921 was 562 as against 534 in the preceding year.

There were 8 deaths among prisoners during the year. 5 prisoners were subjected to corporal punishment. There was no execution. The number of juvenile offenders was 94 as against 192 in the previous twelve months.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The cases reported to the Police numbered 20,793 as against 19,930 for 1920, in connection with which 12,814 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned by the magistrate. 17 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 11 in 1920.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

The Revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June 1921 amounted to Rs. 40,168,209, being Rs. 21,562,614 in excess of the revenue of the preceding year, which was the highest on record.

The Expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 24,729,540, leaving a surplus of Rs. 15,438,670 on the year's transactions.

The Revenue of the year amounted to Rs. 40,168,209 inclusive of a transfer entry of Rs. 13,377,986 arising out of the proceeds of the special export tax of Rs. 40 per ton of sugar which was authorized under Ordinance No. 36 of 1920, to be applied to various developments and improvements, and of Rs. 92,797 being interest on investments of such proceeds.

The actual increase in 1920-21 as compared with the previous year may be put at over eight millions.

The Expenditure amounted to Rs. 24,729,540 inclusive of Rs. 16,192 spent on Dr. Balfour's mission to Mauritius, to be met out of the Improvement and Development Fund.

The net surplus on the year's transactions of Rs. 15,438,670 added to Rs. 6,255,484, the surplus on 30th June 1920, gave a surplus at 30th June 1921 of Rs. 21,694.154, which is inclusive of Rs. 13,154,591 representing the capital of the Improvement and Development Fund at that date.

REVENUE

Nearly all heads of Revenue shewed substantial increases due to the large purchasing power of the community. All classes of imports are affected by this, but especially the more expensive articles of apparel, spirits, wines and tobacco. Owing to the unexpectedly large imports and the increased cost of most commodities, customs receipts exceeded the estimates by Rs. 2,588,000.

EXPENDITURE

Of the actual expenditure Rs. 5,006,931 were paid in personal emoluments and Rs. 19,305,195 under other charges. The corresponding figures for 1919-20 were personal emoluments Rs. 5,017,021 and other charges Rs. 13,940,972.

Nearly all heads of expenditure shewed an increase.

PUBLIC DEBT

At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at £1,273,024 as compared with £1,243,690 at 30th June 1920. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £456,159 as compared with £414,087 at 30th June 1920.

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The currency of the Colony consists of

(1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :—
    (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents and 5 cents.
    (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.
(2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.
(3) Nickel change 50 and 25 cents.
(4) The Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5 and R. 1.
(5) Indian currency notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 14,635,100 compared with Rs. 10,215,903 in 1919-20.

The average amount of silver held amounted to Rs. 6,873,260 as compared with Rs. 2,436,667 the average for 1919-20.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund), which stood at Rs. 4,854,250 on 1st July, 1920, were increased to Rs. 7,854,250 during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 598,226.92 to Rs. 689,131.50. The Revenue (Interest on investments less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs. 181,232.12 and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a surplus of Rs. 689,231.50. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June 1921 the surplus would be reduced to Rs. 626,707.50.

Government Savings Banks are established in nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June 1921 was 34,969 with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,436,602. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June there were 14,424 depositors with Rs. 2,425,941 to their credit.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent.

The private banks are The Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India and a branch of the National Bank of South Africa.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE

The value of the trade for 1921, omitting specie, has been the highest on record, being estimated at Rs 262,994,802, representing an increase Rs 49,126,344 over the preceding year when the highest figures were recorded.

The comparative values or imports and exports for the last five years are as follows :—

Year	Imports Rs.	Exports Rs.	Total Rs.
1917	42,094,708	58,319,728	100,414,436
1918	42,921,250	58,652,480	98,573,730
1919	47,037,024	127,806,321	174,843,345
1920	86,371,153	127,497,305	213,868,458
1921	105,744,980	157,249,822	262,994,802

The value of the re-exports was Rs. 2,112,692.

Rs. 21,371,270 worth of specie was imported during the year of which Rs. 21,234,920 were notes and chiefly Indian notes.

Compared with the mean of the five preceding years, the trade of 1921 shows an increase of Rs. 120,179,385 whilst comparison with the pre-war average shows an increase of over 194 million rupees. In other words, it may be said that the trade value in 1921 increased four-fold from what it was before the war.

This considerable increase may be chiefly attributed to the following causes :—

(a) High prices of articles, as compared with pre-war rates.

(b) Increased quantities of yarns, textiles, apparel, timber &c. imported to renew the stock used up during war-years when there was a slackness in trade.

(c) Abnormal quantities of machinery imported including motor cars and motor lorries.

(d) Materials of all sorts ordered by Government for the Public Works and Railway Departments.

(e) Large quantities of articles of luxury imported owing to the exceptional prosperity of the Colony due to the high prices obtained for sugar of the 1920–1921 crop.

With regard to the Export trade, the great increase in value reflects the very high market prices for the 1920–21 sugar crop, the greater part of which was shipped in 1921. The influence of the low prices in the second half of the year on the crop 1921–22—a small amount of which was exported during the period—did not affect the export trade to a large extent, and was not sufficiently strong to reduce it to the level of any of the previous years.

IMPORTS

Most of the principal imports show increases both in quantity and value. The United Kingdom takes first place with a total of Rs. 40,563,000.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom are cotton goods, machinery, hardware and soap ; and in round figures the value of these imports has risen from 7 million rupees in 1918 to 11 millions in 1919, 24 millions in 1920 and 40 millions in 1921.

India comes next in importance followed by France as suppliers of goods to Mauritius. The value of articles imported from India amounted to 22 million rupees in 1921 against 28 millions in 1920. The decrease is mainly due to the fall in the price of rice. The usual importation of grain, gunny bags, various oils and saltpetre remained stable.

France shows a considerable increase, the value of importations during the last four years being :

1918 ...	Rs. 963,692	1920 ...	Rs. 4,486,291
1919 ...	1,616,090	1921 ...	11,939,070

France is the principal source of supply for haberdashery, drugs, perfumery, olive oil, tyres and indigo.

Imports from the Union of South Africa rose from Rs. 2,635,709 in 1916 to Rs 6,660,398 in 1921. The chief imports are coals (representing 50% of the trade), wines, salted fish, oats and maize.

The trade with the United States also shows a noticeable increase, the figures for 1921 being Rs. 7,246,151 as against Rs. 2,808,904 in 1920, the principal imports being motor cars, petroleum and tobacco.

The number of motor cars imported rose from 26 in 1918 to 420 in 1921, valued at nearly two million rupees, 336 cars being of American makes valued at Rs. 1,381,250.

Manufactured articles are the most important item of the import trade. Foodstuffs, drink and tobacco form the next largest class of imports.

The imports of machinery and implements rose from about half a million rupees in 1918 to over 12 millions in 1921.

EXPORTS

Sugar.—The value of Sugar exported in 1921 reached a total it had never reached in any past year. This is due to a large amount of the crop 1920–21, which obtained such exceptional prices, having been shipped in the early months of 1921.

The following table shows the sugar exports for the last six years :–

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
Kilos ...	230,559,715	190,820,657	183,221,889	302,826,129	182,424,726	229,224,689
Rupees ...	69,309,970	54,539,232	53,882,002	125,103,201	124,633,854	154,592,301

Other Domestic Exports.—Other exports than sugar are not of any considerable importance. Aloe fibre heads the list with Rs. 100,234 in 1921, as compared with Rs. 248,140 in 1920.

The quantity of Aloe fibre exported during each of the last six years is shown below :—

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
Kilos ...	1,460,102	1,213,736	390,671	2,176,521	874,241	287,106

Machinery appears for Rs. 161,505 (as compared with Rs. 92,630 in 1920) as a domestic export—but this can scarcely be considered as a local product. Other exports are rum, vanilla, undressed skins, coconut oil, &c.

SHIPPING

The following statement shows the number of vessels which entered and left the harbour during the last three years:—

Year	Number of Vessels Inwards	Number of Vessels Outwards
1919	179	177
1920	217	202
1921	229	234

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1921 was 896,482 tons; steamers 868,535 tons and sailing vessels 27,947 tons.

In the coastal trade with the Dependencies some 38 calls were made, with an aggregate of 13, 603 tons.

The following steamship lines called at Port Louis although services are irregular :—Union Castle Steamship Company, Limited ; British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited ; Messageries Maritimes ; Clan Line ; Ellerman-Harrison Line and the Compagnie Havraise Pèninsulaire.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

The industries of the island are entirely agricultural ; there is no mineral wealth of any importance. The whole interests of the Colony are bound up in the sugar industry and practically the whole of the land suitable for growing sugar cane is put under that crop. Acreage at present under cane is about 179,000 acres or above one-third of the total area of the Colony and the average production for the past five years nearly a quarter of a million tons. With the exception of British India, Mauritius is thus the largest sugar exporter among the British possessions. Altogether there are 54 sugar factories ranging in productive capacity from 1,500 tons to 15,000 tons, the majority of which are modern factories, the standard of equipment being constantly improved.

A striking feature of the Mauritian industry in recent years has been the rapid increase in the area cultivated by Indians who are a preponderating element in the population, forming over two-thirds of the total.

At the end of 1920 the area cultivated by Indians was estimated to be 77,250 arpents (80,200 acres) or nearly 45% of the total cane cultivation, the figure having almost doubled since 1909. In 1921 an appreciable increase took place but exact figures are not yet available.

Agricultural labour is almost exclusively Indian in origin and is derived from importations of indentured Indian labour which commenced after the abolition of slavery in 1835 and continued until 1910, in which year indentured immigration from India was prohibited. According to the last Census there were remaining on the 31st December, 1921, 20,455 time-expired immigrants settled in the Colony, divided into 14,341 males and 6,114 females. The total number of labourers, including both immigrants and creoles, serving under written contract of service on estates was 23,054 at 31st December 1921 and of that number 1,303 were engaged with small planters.

The average Indian estate population is estimated at 27,390 labourers, and labour is also recruited from the small Indian planters who willingly engage for wages. The last report of the

Director of Agriculture gives the following explanation of the shortage of labour on Estates :—

"As the result of unprecedented prices paid for canes last year," says the Director "a large number of small planters who, as a rule, worked as day labourers, found themselves in a position to dictate their terms to employers. These men, being no longer under the pressure of necessity, hired themselves out with considerable reluctance and at very high prices, thereby causing a dearth of hands and a greatly enhanced rate of wages.

"The following table gives an idea of wages currently paid to day labourers and the cost of agricultural operations during the year :—

Day labourers	...Rs. 2.00—	Rs. 3.00	
Female labourers	... 1.00—	1.50	
Clearing land	... 150.00—	400.00—	per arpent
" Fosseyage "	... 50.00—	100.00	do.
Manuring	... 10.00—	20.00	do.
Weeding	... 50.00—	80.00	do.
Cutting canes	... 25.00—	50.00	do.

"The result is seen everywhere in a marked lowering of the standard of cultivation adopted."

The wages are so much higher than is required to meet the cost of living that all increases are reflected in increased absenteeism. The report looks to the further increase of labour-saving machinery, both in the factories and more especially in the methods of cultivation, to provide a solution of the labour problem, which, in Mauritius, as in other parts of the world, is coming into prominence now that the tide of prosperity has turned.

The Sugar Planters Syndicate which was formed last year to enable the planters to transact their sales with the Royal Commission on Sugar Supply was reconstituted this year under Ordinance No. 7 of 1921 ; practically all planters adhering thereto. The Royal Commission having ceased operations the Syndicate disposed of the local sugars to private buyers on a co-operative basis.

In 1919 the record year, the exports of sugar reached 302,826 tons, valued at Rs. 125,104,000. The quantity fell in 1920 to 182,465 tons but the value was Rs. 124,634,000.

The gross value of the 1921 crop is estimated to have been Rs. 154,592,000 for 229,224 tons exported.

The countries to which the bulk of Mauritius sugar is exported are the United Kingdom, India and British South Africa.

SUBSIDIARY INDUSTRIES

The introduction of agricultural industries other than cane, so as to reduce the economic dependence of the Colony on a single industry, continues to receive attention ; but owing to the superior attraction of sugar it is hard to arouse real interest in subsidiary cultivations. The great drop in the price of sugar has however caused some improvement in the position and revival of interest in the various minor cultivations commonly carried out in the Colony.

ALOE FIBRE

Aloe fibre is produced mainly from the leaves of Fourcroeya Gigantea (Mauritius hemp), a plant which grows wild all over the island and ranks second amongst the domestic products of the Colony. The area under aloe is estimated at about 20,000 acres.

The production has been practically at a standstill since the war but there is evidence of business activity in this trade.

A certain area has been put under Sisal for which considerable areas of land are well adapted.

COCONUTS

Coconut plantations are receiving attention in the coastal belt and there are about 800 acres under cultivation in Mauritius. There are no oil mills in the Colony itself but coconut growing constitutes the principal industry of the small islands forming the dependencies of Mauritius and their total production of copra for the year 1921 amounted to 463,040 kilos, of which 196,040 were exported through Mauritius.

The extension of coconut growing in Rodrigues is receiving consideration.

TOBACCO

Tobacco of the Reunion type grows well in all parts of the colony and the acreage under this crop is rapidly extending. The soils appear well adapted for this tobacco which is heavy and strong.

An experimental Tobacco factory has been inaugurated by the Department of Agriculture at Port Louis and is now regularly turning out limited quantities of tobacco for local consumption and the produce meets with a ready sale.

OTHER CROPS

Vanilla.—This crop is cultivated on a limited scale in the Colony but its export is negligible.

Tea.—The local tea industry is on the decline and locally grown tea is unable to compete with the imported article.

Food Crop.—There is absence of progress in the cultivation of food crops. Maize is a well established crop but the development of the local industry is being adversely affected by importations of South African maize.

LIVE STOCK

There is a small stock raising industry which has increased and improved of recent years partly by reason of systematic Government efforts to foster development, while recently attempts of some importance have been made both through Government and private agency to improve the breeds of dairy cattle, and the conditions under which milk is produced.

An important development which took place during the year was the decision taken by the Government to inaugurate a Government Dairy on Crown land at Curepipe.

The Stock Farm at Barkly Asylum Beau Bassin continues to show excellent progress.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

The Director of Agriculture reports as follows :

" The Co-operative Credit Societies movement has made steady progress during the year. A considerable number of new shareholders have been admitted and four new Societies registered during the year 1921. On December 31st 1921, 34 Societies were in operation ; the total membership on June 30th 1921 amounted to 3,504 while the total working capital standing to their credit on the same date amounted to Rs. 445,792, an increase of Rs. 79,935 compared with the corresponding position of June 30th 1920.

"As has been mentioned in previous reports, the plan on which these Societies are worked is modelled on and closely follows that which exists in India. The movement is now firmly established in the Colony and the operations of the societies themselves leave little to be desired. The present position may be taken as abundant demonstration of the soundness of the recommendation which led to the establishment of the movement in the Colony."

Other industries.—There are large engineering works in various parts of the Colony principally engaged in the readjustment and repair of Sugar machinery. Apart from manufacturing industries concerned with the preparation of local produce there are few minor industries in Mauritius and it cannot be said that there are any signs of their number increasing in the near future.

The following table will be found of interest :—

INDUSTRIES—(EXCLUSIVE OF AGRICULTURE)

Nature of Industry	Number of establishments or manufactories	Approximate number of persons employed	Raw material used	Approximate output	
				Quantity	Annual Value
					Rs.
1. Engineering works	5	1,600	...	...	2,000.000
2. Bakeries... ...	63	300	Wheat Flour	3,200 T.	2,000,000
3. Docks (landing Shipping etc.)	4	1,700	...	...	1,000,000
4. Fisheries	...	1,500	Sea Fish	1,000 T.	500,000
5. Lime Burning ...	56	500	Coral	16,000 T	330,000
6. Distilleries ...	3	30	Molasses	1,700,000 lit.	300.000
7. Electric light and Power Supply	3	150	Hydraulic Power	...	230,000
8. Salt	3	200	Sea water	1,700 T.	170,000
9 Leather Tanning ...	2	30	Hides of some 8,000 oxen	...	170,000
10. Ice making ...	...	...	...	900 T.	125,000
11. Oil (ground nuts)		...	...	50,000 lit.	100,000
12. Vinegar making ...	...	...	Rum	34,000 lit.	10,000

Among minor industries may be mentioned biscuits, aerated water, manure, furniture, charcoal, pottery, aloe ropes, vacoas bags etc. Boot making is beginning to assume an industrial character.

Distilleries.—At present alcohol is produced mainly for consumption as Rum and the output was approximately 2 million litres. The raw material used is the molasses produced in the cane sugar industry.

The following which is extracted from the report of the Department of Agriculture shows that the manufacture of industrial alcohol is receiving increased attention :—

"The majority of the molasses produced in the Colony is at present used as a fertiliser. Of late years, increased attention has been devoted to the possibilities of alcohol for power purposes. A number of attempts have previously been made to utilise alcohol and mixtures of alcohol and ether as a substitute for motor spirit, but so far, for various reasons, they have not been attended with a very great amount of success.

"During the year, an important development was inaugurated in this direction by one of the largest estates in the north of the Colony where a distillery and etherification plant are in course of erection. The new installation is designed to turn out 5,000 litres of alcohol daily and it is intended that the plant should be exclusively devoted to the production of power alcohol and to manufacture a mixture of alcohol and ether similar to the preparation known as 'Natalite.' It is hoped that the plant will be at work in the course of 1922."

FORESTS

Public Departments were supplied during the year with 2,500 cords of firewood valued at Rs. 28,558, and 5,036 cubic feet of timber valued at Rs. 13,276. The total value of these supplies was thus Rs. 41,834 as against Rs. 53,072 for the previous year.

The revenue derived from sales to the public on account of timber, fuel and minor forest produce during the year was Rs. 143,202 against Rs. 141,922 during 1920, and the miscellaneous revenue Rs. 83,056 against Rs. 75,607.

FISHERIES

The fishing industry is one of some importance but the methods in use and the business in general still need organisation. The catch is entirely for local consumption and the fish market is poorly supplied with fresh fish, compared with the actual demand.

EDUCATION

At the close of the year there were 147 primary schools in the Colony, 56 Government, and 91 denominational schools assisted by Government grants, of which 67 were Roman Catholics, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterians, 1 Hindoo and 2 Mahomedans.

The average attendance was 18,362 compared with 15,919 in 1920. The attendance of Indian children increased considerably from the previous year and now totals 14,276 (boys 12,565, girls 1,711).

The number of girls being educated in Primary Schools is 8,830 out of a total of 28,600 pupils—about one-third. The average attendance is only 54 per cent. of the number on roll but varies considerably in different districts being 68 per cent. in Plaines Wilhems and 53 per cent. in Black River. As Education is not compulsory it is a very difficult matter to encourage boys and girls, especially the latter, to attend schools, and parents of Indian children do not care to send girls to schools, and in no case beyond 9 or 10 years of age; most of the girls attend mixed schools where boys also attend.

The attendance for the last three years is as follows:—

1919	1920	1921
6,674 ...	... 7,992 ...	... 8,830

During the year 279 candidates competed for the Boys' Scholarship Examination which gives admission to the Royal College. Of these 217 failed in the preliminary test and of the others 25 passed. Six scholarships and six exhibitions were awarded. There were 121 students for the four Girls' Scholarships, of whom 22 passed.

315 students (113 men and 192 women) entered for Teachers' Examinations during the year 85 of whom (25 men and 60 women) passed. 18 First Class certificates were granted.

A large proportion of the teaching staff in the schools possesses only a Monitor's or Vth or VIth Standard certificate. This is more particularly noticeable among women teachers where the proportion is 70% of the total in Government Schools and 80% in Aided Schools.

It is hoped that with the new training school for teachers both in the Secondary and in the Primary schools which it is proposed to establish and the provision made for increased salaries a great improvement in the general work of the schools in the Colony will follow.

Agricultural instruction is given by a scheme of school gardens conducted in connection with the Primary schools. The number of schools possessing gardens was 28, viz., 17 Government and 11 Aided schools.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

No particular development is to be signalled under this heading during the past year.

The number of Secondary Schools in the Colony was 12. The total number on roll was 722 boys and 439 girls, while the average attendance was 555 and 385 respectively, compared with 636 boys and 492 girls on roll for the previous year with average attendance of 506 and 391.

The passes in the Cambridge Local Examinations for December 1920 were :

	Boys	Girls
Juniors	5	2
Seniors	9	9

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College.

75 new pupils joined the Royal College and the highest number of pupils on the College roll was reached in 1921 with a total of 346.

There are two scholarships offered annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Cambridge University Examination Syndicate, of the value of £1,000 each, tenable for four or five years, with £75 passage allowance to or from England. The holders may join any University in the British Empire or study at any scientific or technical institution in the United Kingdom.

From 1st January 1920 those scholarship allowances were temporarily increased by 30 per cent.

In the Senior Cambridge Local Examinations of December, 1920, 40 boys gained the Senior Certificate, 4 gained Honours and 16 qualified for entrance into the English Scholarship class.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Department was faced with difficulties owing to the competition for the available supply of labour skilled and unskilled and very little of an extensive programme of Public Works could be fulfilled duing the year.

As regards buildings the main items carried out were a gymnasium for the Royal College, a new Police Station at Rose Belle, a new female ward for the Moka Hospital and the erection of a 6-ton crane to relieve the congestion on the Fountain Quay. Victoria Hospital was practically completed during the year. A start was made with the erection of a tuberculous ward at the Civil Hospital and an enlargement of the Printing Office.

In addition to these, special repairs and improvements were carried out to the General Post Office and the Government House Port Louis. Plans were also prepared for the erection of a Training College for teachers at Curepipe and a road bridge over Grand River N.W.

IRRIGATION WORKS

The usual works connected with the maintenance and repair of the irrigation reservoir and channels at La Ferme were carried out satisfactorily. The dam was finally completed in October.

The revenue decided from water in irrigation from La Ferme reservoir amounted to Rs. 71,600 compared with Rs. 61,500 during the previous year.

Good progress was made with the main dam and feeder channel at La Nicolière.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

RAILWAYS

The total length of the Mauritius Government Railway is 120 miles exclusive of the Bois Chéri Light Railway of about 24 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet 8½ inches. No extensions have been undertaken.

The receipts during the year were Rs. 4,142,264 against Rs. 3,834,695 in 1920 or an increase of Rs. 307,569.

This figure does not include Government traffic which amounts to Rs. 390,580.

The receipts for passenger traffic showed an increase of Rs. 431,074 compared with last year. As regards goods traffic the tonnage conveyed was 581,134 tons as compared with 603,592 tons in the previous year.

The working expenses for the year amounted to Rs. 6,365,875, as against Rs. 3,614,423 in the preceding year.

The capital cost was Rs. 33,684,811 at 31st December 1921.

Working expenses passed even the previous high rations and the results of the year's working are as follows :

Receipts	Rs. 4,142,264
Working expenses	6,365,875
Deficit ...	Rs. 2,223,611

The heavier working expenses are principally due to wages concessions and to the cost of materials.

BOIS CHERI LIGHT RAILWAY

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from the Savanne branch. The total goods traffic carried in 1921 amounted to 15,555 tons, of which 11,536 tons were sugar canes, as against a total traffic of 32,520 tons and 29,624 tons of sugar canes in 1920.

The actual working expenses for 1921 were Rs. 61,324, the earnings Rs. 17,531 and the work done for Government Departments was valued at Rs. 2,130.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

With regard to communications the Colony is well served by road communications. Altogether there are 593 miles of road open for traffic. The Public Works Department are responsible for the maintenance of about 443 miles, the remainder being maintained by the Townships and District Boards. The responsibility for maintenance is a heavy one, for many of the roads, bridges and culverts were built for light traffic only and the development of motor transport has put upon many of these roads a strain which they were not primarily intended to bear.

The total number of motor vehicles licensed is 1766—cars 1470, lorries 83, motor cycles 213.

POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES

The total revenue from the Post Office in 1921 amounted to Rs. 404, 100 being 33,000 more than that collected in 1920. The net expenditure amounted to Rs. 316,784. The balance of revenue over expenditure was Rs. 87,316.

The Mauritius Wireless Station was closed by the Admiralty in July but was re-opened towards the close of the year, Government paying all the expenses involved.

TELEPHONES

Telephonic communication constituted and owned by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited, has been gradually increasing and at the close of the year there were seven public exchanges open, with 1,762 miles of wire. Important improvements are in hand, including the substitution of underground for aerial wires for the trunk lines, as well as for subscribers' lines in the congested areas, and switchboards of modern design for the larger exchanges.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER BOOKS OF REFERENCE CONCERNING MAURITIUS

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- Scientific Series.
- Statistical Series.
- Leaflet Series.

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„ : Le Patois Créole Mauricien (Mauritius).
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„ : L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921).
Hart, Robert Edward : Les Volontaires Mauriciens aux Armées (Mauritius, 1919.)

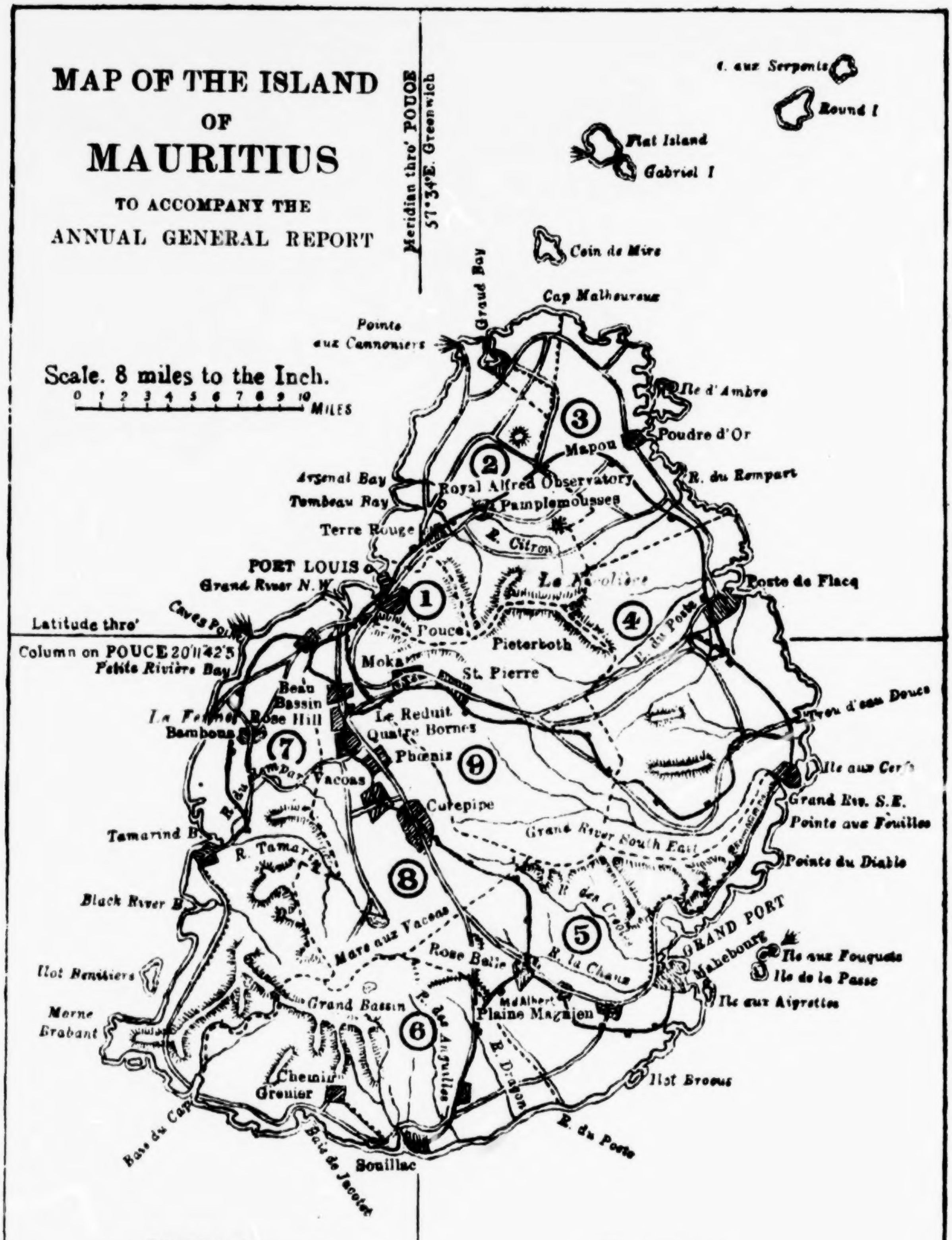
L. KŒNIG,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Port Louis,
1st October 1922.

MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.


Meridian thro' POUCE 57°34'E. Greenwich
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
I. aux Serpents
Round I
Flat Island
Gabriel I
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Tombeau Bay
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Le Nouvelière
Poste de Flacq
Caves Point
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42"S
Petite Rivière Bay
Pouce
Pieterboth
R. du Poste
Moka
St. Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
La Ferme
Bambous
Phœnix
Vacoas
Curepipe
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Grand River South East
Tamarind B.
R. Tamarin
Pointe du Diable
Black River B.
R. des Créoles
GRAND PORT
Mare aux Vacoas
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ilot Benitiers
Grand Bassin
Plaine Magnien
Ile aux Aigrettes
Morne Brabant
R. des Anguilles
R. Dragon
Chemin Grenier
Ilot Brocus
Baie du Cap
R. du Poste
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
1
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7
8
9

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs	▬
Railway Stations	▬●▬
Other Telegraph lines	═
Narrow Gauge Light Railway	┼┼┼
Main Roads	═
Light Houses	✱

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	,,
1117	Cyprus	1921
1118	Weihaiwei	,,
1119	Gold Coast	1920
1120	Gambia	,,
1121	Gambia	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1920–1921
1123	British Guiana	1921
1124	Grenada	,,
1125	Zanzibar	,,
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1127	Gibraltar	,,
1128	St. Vincent	,,
1129	St. Helena	,,
1130	Fiji	,,
1131	Basutoland..	1921–1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921–1922
1134	Barbados	,,
1135	Trinidad	1921
1136	British Honduras	,,
1137	Ceylon	,,
1138	Swaziland	,,
1139	Hongkong	,,
1140	Straits Settlements	,,
1141	St. Lucia	,,
1142	Ashanti	,,
1143	Jamaica	,,
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921–1922
1146	Seychelles	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1921–1922

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute.	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent..	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the Northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1179.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1149.)

PRINTED IN MAURITIUS.

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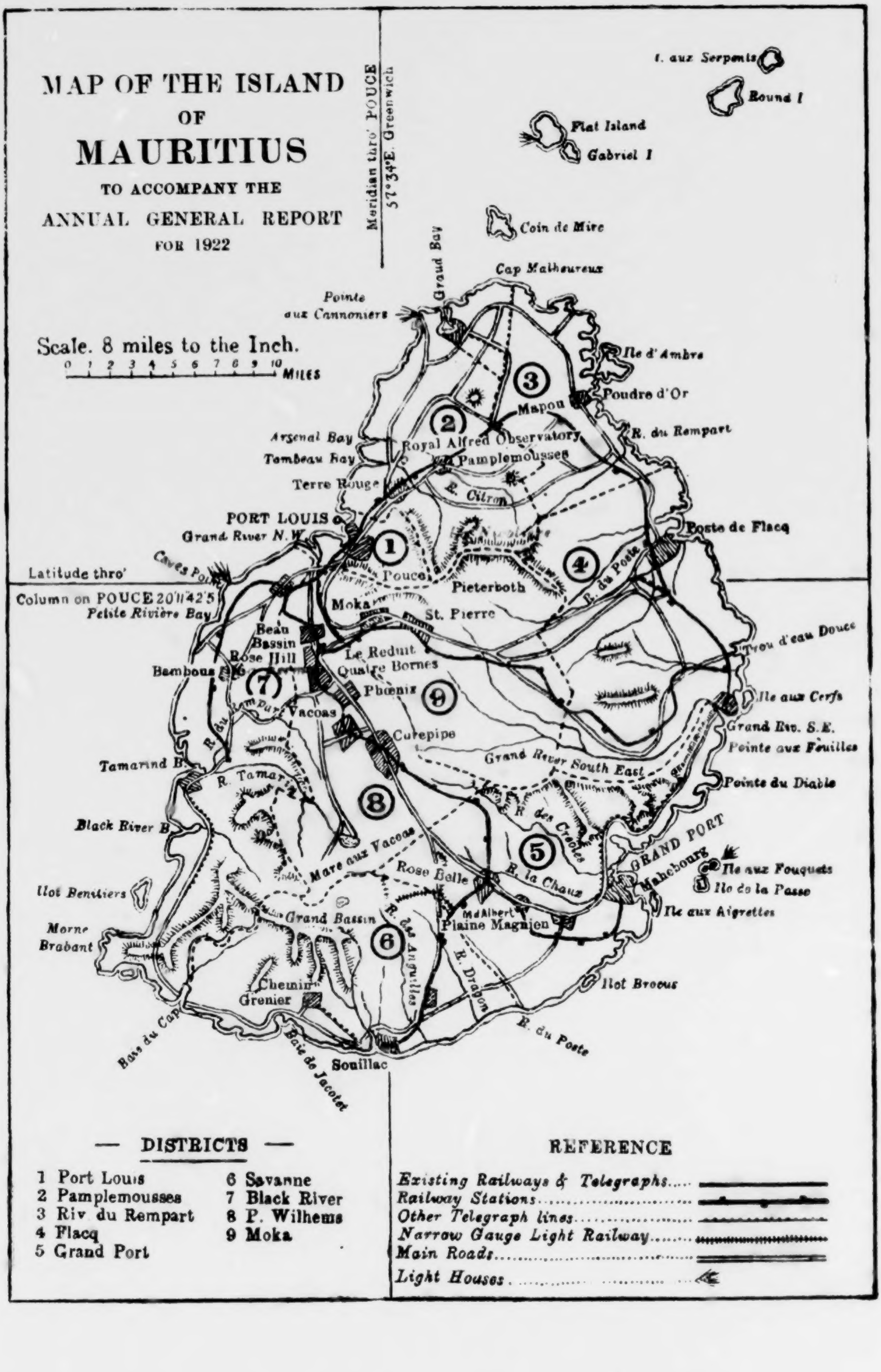
28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; York Street, Manchester;
1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; or 120 George Street,
Edinburgh.

1923.

Price 1s. 0d. net.



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1922

Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

Meridian thro' POUCE 57°34'E. Greenwich
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
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Cap Malheureux
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Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Phœnix
Bambous
Vacoas
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Curepipe
Grand River South East
Tamarind B.
R. Tamarin
Pointe du Diable
Black River B.
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
Mare aux Vacoas
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Ile aux Aigrettes
Ilot Benitiers
Md Albert
Plaine Magnien
Grand Bassin
Morne Brabant
R. des Anguilles
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
R. du Poste
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MAURITIUS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1922

SITUATION AND AREA

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles East of Madagascar, between 57°18′ and 57°48′ E. long., and 19°50′ and 20°31′ S. lat. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ordinance 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its extreme breadth 29 miles; and its area covers 720 square miles = 460,800 acres. The density of population is very high, being about 500 persons per square mile for the whole island.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of about 50,300. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital, which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, situated at the highest part of the central plateau, has about 19,500 inhabitants. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phœnix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Beau Bassin are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in country districts are Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq and Pamplemousses.

The Island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours Réunion and Rodrigues and certainly more stable. (J. S. Gardiner).

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° S. Lat. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and a population of 6,847—(3,403 males, 3,444 females) is 350 miles to the East of Mauritius, while lesser islands of some importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the Census of May, 1921, the population of the Lesser Dependencies was ascertained to be 1810—(1,038 males, 772 females).

HISTORY

Mauritius is said to have been first discovered by the Portuguese in the beginning of the sixteenth century—probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527, when the island is shown on an official map under the name of *Santa Apollonia*, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Réunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Dom Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island *Itha da Cirnos*, or *Swan Island*, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any permanent settlement by the Portuguese who, for nearly a century, only used the Island as a port of call for repairs and supplies.

The Island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South Eastern Port to which the Commander, Admiral Wybrandt Van Warwyk, gave his own name. He took possession of the Island on behalf of his Government and named it Mauritius, in honour of the Statholder, Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days he set sail leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton, of the *Pearl*, visited the Island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt at colonisation was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsy Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the "Compagnie Neerlandaise des Indes," landed at Warwick-Haven or South Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores and dwelling houses were built at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the "13 Cantons" close by. These were followed by other settlers who established themselves in the neighbourhood, where Mahebourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the Island was abandoned, to be again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally and which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1644 were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper, and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the Island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French vessel *Le Chasseur*, arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the Island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it "Isle de France." Settlement, however, was only to be effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fougerai, commanding the *Triton* of St. Malo, resumed possession for the "Compagnie des Indes Orientales," after landing at Isle aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Réunion, who had come to settle, and from this time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735, Mahé de Labourdonnais succeeded M. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the Island. He left the Island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions, however, soon became difficult for the settlers owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the "Compagnie des Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the West Indies, and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling house of "Mon Plaisir," and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French Revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobin leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected and nearly all links with the mother country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French privateers using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade gained for the island its reputation still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared for a vigorous attack in 1810 and, after a memorable fight, Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule, on the 3rd December, 1810.

The cession of the Isle de France and its dependencies to Great Britain having been confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, the Island, under its old name of Mauritius, definitely passed in 1814 under British rule and since then it has remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical but, owing to the high elevation of the central plateau, a large part of the island enjoys a temperate and even bracing climate. The average temperature of this highland region is about 60° Fah. (15.5°C) and the maximum about 80° Fah. (26.6°C). The low-lying coastal region has naturally a higher average temperature ranging from 90° Fah. (32°C) to 70° Fah. (21°C).

Mauritius lies in the track of cyclones, which are liable to occur during the months of December to April. There has been no very severe cyclone since 1892.

The rainfall is irregular and varies according to the locality and elevation. In the central portion of the Island an average yearly rainfall of 175 inches is recorded, whereas regions where there is the lowest rainfall receive less than 40 inches. The rainfall of the coastal districts varies between 25 and 30 inches.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The year 1922 was on the whole a normal year as regards trade, and the inflated figures of the two previous years were not reached. The year's transactions show an excess of expenditure over revenue amounting to Rs. 747,664, thus reducing the surplus balances to Rs. 20,946,490; there are clear indications that the temporary wave of exceptional prosperity has now passed.

Labour difficulties were generally less acute, and the various harvesting and milling operations were carried on under better conditions than were at first anticipated.

After protracted negotiations with the Government of India, the temporary resumption of emigration to the Colony on a very moderate scale, has now been authorized and it is hoped that some at least of the expected labourers will be available shortly.

The good results of the legislative enactments recently passed to restrict the use of liquor are now being felt. In spite of extra vigilance on the part of the Police, there has been a marked reduction in the number of cases of drunkenness and of offences due to alcoholism while the physical and moral welfare of the labouring classes has already been affected to an appreciable extent by the benevolent effects of the radical measures which it was found necessary to take.

Dr. Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., who visited the island in 1921, has now completed his final Report on the result of his investigations in Mauritius, and his recommendations are being gradually and vigorously carried into effect.

In spite of great difficulties encountered at the start of the campaign undertaken last year under the auspices of the International Health Board, Rockefeller Foundation, for the relief and control of hook worm disease in Mauritius, the soil sanitation work has made real progress owing to the pressing recommendations and unsparing efforts of Dr. G. G. Hampton, Director of the newly created Department of Ankylostomiasis, a branch of the Medical and Health Department.

The water supplied to the town of Port Louis from Grand River North West is far from satisfactory, and it is proposed to provide the capital with Mare-aux-Vacoas water as recommended by Mr. E. Mansergh, of Messrs. James Mansergh & Sons, who visited the island in September-October, 1921. But the construction of the necessary works will take some considerable time to complete, and in the meantime a chlorination plant with filter beds is being put up in accordance with Mr. Mansergh's advice, to purify the Grand River water.

The works in connection with the Port Louis sewerage and the sewage disposal are being continued on the lines recommended by Mr. Mansergh.

The recommendations contained in Messrs Coode, Fitzmaurice, Wilson and Mitchell's Report on Port Louis Harbour have been approved generally. To carry out these suggestions, the services of a fully qualified Engineer have been engaged, and Mr. H. C. M. Austen, A.M.I.C.E., the newly appointed Harbour Engineer, arrived in the Colony on the 7th July last and is now engaged on preliminary work in this connection.

His Excellency Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., Governor of Mauritius, on the eve of the expiration of his term of office, left the Colony on leave of absence on the 8th May, 1922, and returned on the 3rd March, 1923, His Majesty the King having been pleased to extend His Excellency's term of office for a further period of eighteen months.

Mr. E. B. Denham, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government of Mauritius during Sir Hesketh Bell's absence.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st December 1922 was 377,594, or an increase of 1,109 on last Census figures (May 20, 1921).

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 13,955 and 12,967, respectively.

The birth-rate in the General Population was 39.9 and in the Indian population 35.9 per mille, as against 39.7 and 37.5 respectively, for the previous year.

The death-rates per 1,000 in the two populations for 1922 were 35.5 and 33.3, as against 42.6 and 39.3 respectively for 1921.

The highest death-rate for 1922 is shown in Port Louis and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems. The number of deaths due to malaria and malarial cachexia (highest death-producing factors in Mauritius) is 3,526 against 3,564 the year before. The proportion to total deaths is 27.2%. The next high causes of death are pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia 1,538 in 1922 as against 2,069 in 1921, and diseases of early infancy 1,002 in 1922 as against 1,068 in 1921.

There were 98 cases of plague during the year, of which 75 proved fatal; the figures for 1921 being 375 and 297 respectively. The largest number of cases was, as usual, in Port Louis (65). The percentage of deaths was 78.5.

There were 224 cases of Enteric fever registered in the Island as against 288 in the previous year.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) gives a ratio of 147.9 per thousand births against 176.7 in 1921. There were 1,678 still-births registered during the year, corresponding to a rate of 120.3 per thousand live-births, as against 113.0 in 1921.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The following statement shows in a tabular form the number of cases treated in the public hospitals and at the dispensaries for the last five years :—

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	Average
Hospital admissions	22,845	26,820	22,132	19,127	19,337	22,052.2
Dispensaries ...	57,025	78,546	65,302	60,671	85,638	69,436.4
Outdoor cases ...	5,517	5,300	4,225	5,066	6,491	5,319.8
	85,387	110,666	91,659	84,864	111,466	96,808.4

These figures show an increase as regards hospital admissions, dispensary cases and outdoor cases for 1922 as compared with 1921. The total number of cases is also greater than that for 1921 and for the average of the five-year period 1918–22.

ASYLUMS

The total number of persons certified insane on 31st December 1922 was 742, or 31 less than the year before. This represents a ratio of insane to total population of 1 in 510 or 19.6 per 10,000.

The admissions into the Lunatic Asylum numbered 175. They are classified into : first admissions 89, second admissions 8, readmission from probation 31, readmission from Barkly Asylum

Lunatic Branch Wards and Victoria Hospital 21, 25 admitted on interim order but found not insane after examination by Commissioners in Lunacy and 1 released.

The number of inmates left on 31st December was 486 (250 males and 236 females) at the Lunatic Asylum, and 74 (47 males and 27 females) in the Lunatic Branch wards.

At the Leper Asylum there were 37 patients at the beginning of the year (males 24, females 13). There were 12 admissions during the year (10 males and 2 females), 6 deaths and 7 discharges. There remained 36 lepers (24 men and 12 women) at the end of the year. The construction of the new Leper Asylum is nearing completion and the law relative to compulsory segregation of lepers will soon be brought into operation.

POOR RELIEF

Exclusive of the pauper cases treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries 900 paupers, as compared with 1,017 in 1921, received institutional relief during 1922 at the Barkly Asylum and different religious institutions.

2,330 paupers received pecuniary out-door relief permanently or temporarily, during 1922, as against 2,435 in 1921.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS

There were 2,501 persons committed to prison during the year, being 1,075 less than in the previous year. Of the total 2,422 were males and 79 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December 1922 was 434 as against 562 in the preceding year.

There were 14 deaths among prisoners during the year. 12 prisoners were subjected to corporal punishment. There was no execution. The number of juvenile offenders was 79 as against 94 in the previous year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The cases reported to the Police numbered 19,108 as against 20,793 for 1921, in connection with which 11,645 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magisterial Courts. 29 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 17 in 1921.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1922, amounted to Rs. 25,599,994 which is Rs. 1,187,800 in excess of the *normal* revenue of the preceding year, the total revenue of which however amounted to Rs. 40,168,210 including Rs. 15,756,016 on account of the special export taxes on sugar collected under Ordinances 36 and 37 of 1920 for general improvements, etc.

The total revenue for the year 1921–22 exceeded the average *normal* revenue for the preceding five years by Rs. 8,751,726.

The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 26,347,658, leaving a net deficit of Rs. 747,664 on the year's transactions and reducing the surplus balances on 30th June, 1922, to Rs. 20,946,490 which is inclusive of Rs. 13,784,640 on account of the Mauritius Improvement and Development Fund at that date.

Of the total expenditure for 1921–22, Rs. 5,612,370 were spent on personal emoluments and Rs. 20,735,288 under other charges. The corresponding figures for 1920–21 were : personal emoluments Rs. 5,006,931 and other charges Rs. 19,722,609.

The increase of Rs. 605,439 under personal emoluments is mainly due to the final revision of salaries recommended by the Salaries Commission and approved by the Secretary of State.

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years :—

Year		Revenue		Expenditure
1917–18	...	13,566,420	...	12,732,153
1918–19	...	13,813,070	...	14,711,349
1919–20	...	18,605,596	...	19,422,903
1920–21	...	40,168,210*	...	24,729,540
1921–22	...	25,599,994	...	26,347,658

PUBLIC DEBT

At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at £1,269,124 as compared with £1,273,024 at 30th June 1921. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £585,860 as compared with £460,239 at 30th June 1921.

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The currency of the Colony consists of

- (1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :—
  - (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents and 5 cents.
  - (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.
- (2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.
- (3) Nickel coins : 4 and 8 annas of India.
- (4) The Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5 and R. 1.
- (5) Indian currency notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 20,360,013 as compared with Rs. 14,635,100 in 1920–21.

The average amount of silver held amounted to Rs. 10,005,494 as compared with Rs. 6,873,260 the average for 1920–21.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund),which stood at Rs. 7,854,250 on 1st July, 1921, were increased to Rs. 9,879,250 during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 689,131.50 to Rs. 770,857.76. The Revenue (Interest on investments less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs. 321,451.52 and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a surplus of Rs. 770,857. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June 1922, the surplus would be increased to Rs. 806,198.

Government Savings Banks are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June 1922 was 36,001 as against 34,969 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,815,782 as against Rs. 5,436,602 in the preceding year. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June, 1922, there were 14,356 depositors with Rs. 2,700,479 to their credit, as against 14,424 depositors with Rs. 2,425,941 to their credit in the preceding year.

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* Includes Rs. 13,377,987 and Rs. 2,378,029 collected under Ordinances Nos. 36 and 37 of 1920, respectively (special export taxes on Sugar for general improvements, etc.)

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent.

The private banks are The Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India and a branch of the National Bank of South Africa.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE

The value of the trade for 1922, exclusive of Dependencies and omitting specie, was Rs. 168,146,150, showing a decrease of Rs. 94,848,652 on the preceding year when the highest figures were recorded.

The comparative values of imports and exports for the last five years are as follows:—

Year	Imports Rs.	Exports Rs.	Total Rs.
1918	42,921,250	55,652,480	98,573,730
1919	47,037,024	127,806,321	174,843,345
1920	86,371,153	127,497,305	213,868,458
1921	105,744,980	157,249,822	262,994,802
1922	77,039,447	91,106,703	168,146,150

The value of the re-exports was Rs 2,006,411.

Rs. 340,425 worth of specie was imported during the year, and Rs. 11,280,897 (of which Rs. 9,745,672 in Indian notes) were exported.

The trade value in 1922 is nearly equal to the average value for the five preceding years, viz: Rs 170,138,954, and is about 2½ times the trade value in 1913 (before the war), namely Rs. 68,899,377.

The fall in trade, as compared with 1921, is due chiefly to the following causes:—

(*a*) Lower prices obtained for sugar, as compared with the exceptional prices of the previous year;

(*b*) Reduction in the importation of many articles which, having been exhausted during war years, were ordered in very large quantities in 1921;

(*c*) Decrease in the quantity of machinery imported to replace hand labour on sugar estates and elsewhere, and of motor lorries and cars to supplement the growing insufficiency of the railways and carts—most of the necessary machinery etc. having already been imported in 1921;

(*d*) Less articles of luxury consumed, owing to altered circumstances;

(*e*) Fall in the use of chemicals for manures, owing to the low price of sugar canes.

The decrease in the value of the Export trade is due to the lower prices obtained for sugar.

IMPORTS

The steady increase in the value of imports from the United Kingdom from 7 million rupees in 1918 to 11 million rupees in 1919, 24 in 1920 and 41 in 1921 was not maintained in 1922, when the total value of the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to Rs. 22,662,048 only.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were cotton goods, machinery, coal, hardware, soap and cigarettes.

India comes first in importance followed by Great Britain and France as suppliers of goods to Mauritius. The value of articles imported from India amounted to over 24 million rupees in 1922 as against 22 in 1921. Rice was mainly responsible for this increase, the figures being about 15¾ million rupees for 1922 as against 8¾ for the previous year. The principal imports from India were grain, gunny bags, various oils, saltpetre, cotton piece goods, seeds and spices.

France shows a decrease of Rs. 4,409,333 as compared with 1921, the value of importations during the last five years being :

1918 ...	Rs. 963,692	1920 ...	Rs. 4,486,291
1919 ...	1,616,090	1921 ...	11,939,070
		1922 ...	7,529,737

France is the principal source of supply for haberdashery, brimstone, cabinetware, perfumery, olive oil, indigo, wines in cases, claret in casks and tyres.

Imports from the Union of South Africa fell from Rs. 6,660,398 in 1921 to Rs. 3,634,576 in 1922, the value of coals imported having fallen from Rs. 3,065,888 in 1921 to Rs. 477,036 in 1922. The chief imports were coals, wines, salted fish, oats and maize.

The trade with the United States also shows a noticeable decrease, the figures for 1922 being Rs. 2,810,687 as against Rs. 7,275,079 in 1921, the principal imports being motor cars, petroleum and tobacco.

88 motor cars of American makes valued at Rs. 345,458 were imported in 1922 as against 336 valued at Rs. 1,381,253 in the previous year, but the numbers in both cases were far greater than those imported from any other country.

Foodstuffs, drink and tobacco formed the most important class of the import trade, having risen from Rs. 29,959,798 in 1921 to Rs. 36,675,594 in 1922; while manufactured articles, the next largest class of imports, fell from Rs. 62,651,011 in 1921 to Rs. 32,419,619 in 1922.

The imports of machinery and implements fell from over 12 million rupees in 1921 to 5½ million rupees in 1922.

EXPORTS

Sugar.—The quantity of sugar exported in 1922 exceeded that of the 5 previous years except 1919, but the amount realised was smaller than those for the last 2 years owing to the lower prices obtained.

The following table shows the sugar exports for the last six years :—

	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilos ...	190,820,657	183,221,889	302,826,129	182,464,726	220,224,689	292,744,249
Rupees ...	54,539,232	53,882,002	125,103,201	124,633,851	154,592,301	88,454,321

Other Domestic Exports.—Other exports than sugar are not of any considerable importance. Aloe fibre heads the list with Rs. 385,754 in 1922, as compared with Rs. 100,234 in 1921.

The quantity and value of aloe fibre exported during each of the last six years are shown below :—

	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilos ...	1,213,736	390,671	2,176,521	874,241	287,106	1,007,296
Rupees ...	121,631	140,135	782,285	248,140	100,231	385,754

Other exports are copra, rum, vanilla, undressed skins, coconut oil, &c.

SHIPPING

The following statement shows the number of vessels which entered and left the harbour during the last three years :—

Year		NUMBER OF VESSELS Inwards		Outwards
—		—		—
1920	...	217	...	202
1921	...	229	...	234
1922	...	226	...	225

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1922 was 908,997 tons : steamers 866,289 tons and sailing vessels 42,708 tons.

In the coastal trade with the Dependencies some 37 calls were made, with an aggregate of 16,873 tons.

The following steamship lines called at Port Louis although services are irregular and uncertain :—Union Castle Steamship Company, Limited ; British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited ; Messageries Maritimes ; Clan Line ; Ellerman-Harrison Line and the Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

The industries of the island are entirely agricultural ; there is no mineral wealth of any importance. The whole interests of the Colony are bound up in the sugar industry and practically the whole of the land suitable for growing sugar cane is put under that crop. The area at present under cane cultivation is about 174,000 acres or above one-third of the total area of the Colony and the average production for the past five years nearly a quarter of a million tons. With the exception of British India, Mauritius is thus the largest sugar exporter among the British possessions. Altogether there are 52 sugar factories ranging in productive capacity from 1,500 tons to 15,000 tons the majority of which are modern factories, the standard of equipment being constantly improved.

A striking feature of the sugar industry in recent years has been the rapid increase in the area cultivated by Indians who are a preponderating element in the population, forming over two-thirds of the total.

At the end of 1921 the area cultivated by Indians was estimated to be 79,000 arpents (82,400 acres) or nearly 46% of the total cane cultivation, the figure having almost doubled since 1909. In 1922 however there has been an estimated decrease of about 2,000 acres of land cultivated by the Indians due to lower prices of sugar.

Agricultural labour is almost exclusively Indian in origin and is derived from importations of indentured Indian labour which commenced after the abolition of slavery in 1835 and continued until 1910, when indentured immigration from India was prohibited. There were remaining on the 31st December 1922, 19,392 immigrants settled in the Colony, divided into 13,667 males and 5,725 females. The total number of labourers, including both immigrants and creoles, serving under written contract on estates was 18,660 on 31st December 1922 and 6,082 were engaged under verbal contract.

The Indian population on Estates was estimated at 56,351 on 31st December 1922—*i.e.* 22,522 men, 15,034 women and 18,795 children.

The low quotations for sugar, coupled with the high cost of labour, have led to a reduction of about 5,000 acres in the total area under cane cultivation. In facing the labour problem considerable attention was paid to mechanical cultivation, and a number of farm tractors of various types were introduced into the Colony.

The Sugar Planters Syndicate, which was formed in 1920 and was reconstituted under Ordinance No. 7 of 1921, disposed of the local sugars to private buyers on a co-operative basis.

In 1919, the record year, the exports of sugar reached 302,826 tons, valued at Rs. 125,103,000. The quantity fell in 1920 to 182,465 tons but the value was Rs. 124,634,000. The value of the 1921 crop was Rs. 154,592,000 for 229,225 tons exported, the figures for 1922 being Rs. 88,454,000 for 292,744 tons.

The countries to which the bulk of Mauritius sugar is exported are the United Kingdom and India.

SUBSIDIARY INDUSTRIES

The introduction of agricultural industries other than sugar cane, so as to reduce the economic dependence of the Colony on a single industry, continues to receive attention, and the fall in the price of sugar has aroused real interest in various minor cultivations.

ALOE FIBRE

Aloe fibre is produced mainly from the leaves of Furcrœya Gigantea (Mauritius hemp), a plant which grows wild all over the island, and ranks second amongst the domestic products of the Colony. The area under aloe is estimated at about 20,000 acres.

The high prices obtained for aloe fibre at the commencement of 1922, viz: about Rs. 600 per ton, were not maintained for long and, by the middle of the year, had fallen to Rs. 350 per ton—i.e. a figure only slightly above the cost of production.

The advisability of substituting Sisal for Furcrœya is under consideration. The Government Sisal plantation at Plaine Lauzun has been extended up to a total area of 60 acres, while a private plantation of about 300 acres has been established in the North of the Island.

COCONUTS

No extensions of any great importance occurred in connection with coconut plantations during the year, although there appears to be considerable scope for developments in relation to this industry in certain parts of the Island.

The copra production from the Lesser Dependencies amounted to about 500 tons.

TOBACCO

Efforts to develop the tobacco industry have been continued under the auspices of the Government during the year, and a system of permits for the cultivation of tobacco without payment of tax was continued and extended, resulting at the end of the year in a threefold increase over the area planted in previous years.

The Government Tobacco Factory continued its operations during the year and new machinery in connection therewith was imported from England.

OTHER CROPS

Vanilla.—No developments in relation to vanilla have to be recorded during the year.

Tea.—The local tea industry is on the decline and locally grown tea is unable to compete with the imported article.

Food Crops.—The estimated area under food crops was 8,500 arpents, or an increase of about 3,500 arpents as compared with the previous year. Importations of South African maize continue to affect adversely the local industry, which can hardly be expected to stabilize itself under these circumstances.

LIVE STOCK

The local stock raising industry has been very unfavourably influenced by the importation of cattle on a large scale from Madagascar at very low prices.

The Stock Farm of the Department of Agriculture has been maintained during the year and a sale of stock was held in November 1922.

Importations of Afrikander cattle from South Africa and of Sindhi cattle from India were approved during the year and steps taken to order the animals.

The experimental Dairy at Curepipe, for the stocking of which 25 grade Friesland cows were imported from South Africa, can now supply pure milk to Victoria Hospital at Quatre Bornes, and to Civil Hospital at Port Louis.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

The Co-operative Credit Societies movement continued steadily during the year, when a number of new shareholders were admitted and 2 new Societies registered.

On December 31st, 1922, there were 36 Societies and the total membership on June 30th, 1922, amounted to 3,641, while the total working capital on the same date amounted to Rs. 494,896, or an increase of Rs. 49,104 as compared with the year ended June 30th, 1921.

Other industries.—There are large engineering works in various parts of the Colony principally engaged in the readjustment and repair of sugar machinery. Apart from manufacturing industries concerned with the preparation of local produce there are few minor industries in Mauritius and it cannot be said that there are any signs of their number increasing in the near future.

The following table will be found of interest:

INDUSTRIES—(EXCLUSIVE OF AGRICULTURE)

Nature of Industry	Number of establishments or manufactories	Approximate number of persons employed	Raw material used	Approximate output	
				Quantity	Annual Value
					Rs.
1. Engineering works	5	1,600	...	...	2,000,000
2. Bakeries ...	65	300	Wheat Flour	3,000 T.	2,500,000
3. Docks (landing, shipping etc.)	4	1,700	...	...	1,000,000
4. Fisheries	...	1,500	Sea Fish	1,200 T.	500,000
5. Lime Burning ...	56	500	Coral	600 T.	20,000
6. Distilleries ...	3	30	Molasses	1,750,000 lit.	500,000
7. Electric Light and Power Supply	3	150	Hydraulic Power	...	......
8. Salt	3	200	Sea water	1,500 T.	150,000
9. Leather Tanning...	2	30	Hides of some 8,000 oxen	...	170,000
10. Ice making ...	...	...	...	900 T.	125,000
11. Oil (ground nuts)	...	...	...	50,000 lit.	100,000
12. Vinegar making ...	...	...	Rum	29,191 lit.	10,000

Among minor industries may be mentioned biscuits, aerated water, furniture, charcoal, bricks, tiles, pottery, aloe ropes, vacoa bags and boot making.

Distilleries.—At present alcohol is produced mainly for consumption as Rum and the output was approximately 1,750,000 litres as against 1,688,000 litres in the previous year. The raw material used is the molasses produce in the cane sugar industry.

The erection of a large distillery and etherification plant at St. Antoine Estate, in the North of the Island, was completed during the year. It is intended that this distillery shall produce power alcohol of the Natalite type for consumption in internal combustion engines. By the end of the year the plant had not commenced operations, but the results of this experiment are awaited with considerable interest since, if it be successful, it will be capable of seriously affecting the economy of the sugar industry.

FORESTS

Public Departments were supplied during the year with 2,879 cords of firewood worth Rs. 31,483, and 7,586 cubic feet of timber valued at Rs. 18,048. The total value of these supplies was thus Rs. 49,531 as against Rs. 41,834 for the previous year.

The revenue derived from sales to the public on account of timber, fuel and minor forest produce during the year was Rs.227,007 as against Rs. 143,202 during 1921, and the miscellaneous revenue Rs. 194 against Rs. 831 in 1921.

FISHERIES

The fishing industry is one of some importance but the methods in use and the business in general still need organisation. The catch is entirely for local consumption and the fish market is poorly supplied with fresh fish, compared with the actual demand.

LEGISLATION

During the year 1922, 41 Ordinances were passed of which the following are the most important of those which are likely to be of interest outside the Colony :—

The Labour Ordinance, 1922 (No. 12), the main object of which is to repeal the penal clauses of the Labour Ordinance of 1878; the only clauses of a penal nature which have been retained are for offences not connected with work.

In order to compel employers to carry out certain of their duties to their servants, e. g. in providing hospitals, provision is made for the withdrawal of the hospital certificate, and, if necessary, the removal of the servants from the estate at fault. Further, all employers are under obligation to provide medical care for their servants.

Contracts of service are to be subject to the Civil Law of the Colony, and all disputes and actions in damages with regard to a breach of contract fall within the jurisdiction of the Stipendiary Magistrate.

Immigrants on their arrival in Mauritius will, in all respects, be free men with complete freedom of contract, and any Immigrant may on reasonable grounds be repatriated to India.

The Liquor Ordinance, 1922 (No. 16), which enables Government to deal with the question of intoxicating liquor as a whole. Intoxicating drugs are not included as provision has already been made for them under existing legislation.

The Licenses (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1922 (No. 17), which introduces a number of amendments in the Licensing Laws in so far as they deal with intoxicating liquor. The passing of the Liquor Ordinance, 1922, necessitated changes in the Licensing Ordinances so as to render the whole law uniform and consistent.

The Distilleries Amendment Ordinance, 1922 (No. 18), which assists in carrying into effect the policy of Government to render intoxicating liquor weaker, dearer and more difficult to obtain.

The Maintenance (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance, 1922 (No. 20), which amends the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance, 1920 (No. 58 of 1920), in providing for the extension of such Ordinance to any other Colony or Dominion which might be willing to enter into reciprocal relations with Mauritius in the matter.

The Opium (Amendment) Ordinance, 1922 (No. 21, the object of which is:—

(a) to render illegal the importation or exportation of raw opium ;

(b) to impose penalties on persons found in possession of prepared opium ; and

(c) to prohibit opium smoking altogether except in the case of persons undergoing treatment for the opium habit.

Opium smoking is an offence under the Ordinance, but an exception is made in favour of patients undergoing treatment, under the control of the Director of the Medical and Health Department, for the opium habit.

The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance, 1922 (No. 23), which amends article 12 of Ordinance No. 19 of 1910 and so brings foreign steamers proceeding to sea with more than twelve passengers from any port in the Colony or in the Dependencies to any other port whatsoever, within the scope of Article 13 of that Ordinance.

The Reciprocal Enforcement of British Judgments Ordinance, 1922 (No. 24), which embodies the provisions of Part II of the Administration of Justice Act, 1920. (10 and 11 Geo. V, C. 81).

The Destruction of Mosquitoes Ordinance, 1922 (No. 25), which makes better provision for the destruction of mosquitoes.

The Gun Ordinance 1922 (No. 36), the main idea of which is to require that a permit shall be obtained in all cases for possessing, carrying or dealing in guns and that a small licence shall be paid by permit holders, no charge being made for the permit.

The Profiteering (Amendment) Ordinance, 1922 (No. 40). In view of the frequency of appeals to the Supreme Court on the question of the kind of goods which could be said to be in common use by the public, it was considered advisable to follow the English Profiteering Act, 1919 [9 & 10 Geo. V, C. 66 section 1 (7)], in placing the matter in the hands of the Executive. This has been effected by article 2 of the Ordinance, the Governor in Executive Council being made to occupy the position of the Board of Trade in England.

Articles 3 and 4 render more drastic the punishment for the offence of profiteering. The taking out of a licence being a condition precedent to every form of trading in the Colony (Licenses Consolidating Ordinance, 1915, article 26), it was thought that these clauses might exercise a very effective check.

EDUCATION

At the close of the year there were 149 primary schools in the Colony: 56 Government, and 93 denominational schools assisted by Government grants, of which 67 were Roman Catholics, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterians, 3 Hindoo and 2 Mahomedans. The average attendance was 20,112 as compared with 18,362 in 1921. The attendance of Indian children was 15,842 (boys 13,538, girls 2,304), an increase of 1,566 as compared with the previous year.

The total number of girls being educated in Primary Schools was 9,274 as against 8,830 in 1921.

During the year 217 candidates competed for the Boys' Scholarship Examination which gives admission to the Royal College. Of these 17 only passed. Six scholarships and six exhibitions were awarded. There were 118 students for the four Girls' Scholarships, of whom 16 passed.

393 candidates (176 men and 217 women) entered for Teachers' Examinations during the year, 77 of whom (33 men and 44 women) passed. 6 First Class certificates were granted.

The number of candidates was greater than in the previous year, but the results were less satisfactory, especially as regards the Monitors' Examination at which 46 candidates only out of 304 succeeded in securing a pass.

The number of School Gardens, which are now under the entire supervision of the Department of Agriculture, has been reduced from 28 to 17 as it was found that some were not being properly managed by the Head Teachers, while in others the ground proved quite unsuitable.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The number of Secondary Schools in the Colony was 9, or 3 less than in 1921. The total number on roll was 637 boys and 605 girls, while the average attendance was 521 and 472 respectively, as compared with 722 boys and 439 girls on roll for the previous year with average attendance of 555 and 385 respectively.

The passes in the Cambridge Local Examinations for December 1922 were :

	Boys	Girls
Juniors	8	7
Seniors	Nil	7

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College ; the year opened with 401 pupils on the roll and on 31st December, 1922, the number stood at 425, the highest figure ever reached. The applications for admission to the Royal College are increasing to such an extent that steps will soon have to be taken to face the problem.

In March, 1922, the erection of the Royal College gymnasium was completed, and physical culture has since formed part of the regular school curriculum.

There are two scholarships offered annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Cambridge University Examination Syndicate, of the value of £1,000 each, tenable for four or five years, with £75 passage allowance to or from England. The holders may join any University in the British Empire or study at any scientific or technical institution in the United Kingdom.

From 1st January 1920 those scholarship allowances were temporarily increased by 30 per cent.

In the Senior Cambridge Local Examinations of December, 1922, 17 boys from the Royal College gained the Senior Certificate, one of whom obtained 3rd class honours.

PUBLIC WORKS

The following are the principal works carried out in 1922 :—

Fixing of overhead runways at the Customs Department for the rapid handling of goods.

Fixing of a new light at Flat Island Lighthouse.

Continuation of construction of cottages for the working classes at Cassis and at the foot of Signal Mountain.

The Tuberculous ward at the Civil Hospital was completed and the Dispensary at the same place was enlarged. Besides these, general repairs were also effected to this hospital.

The construction of Victoria Hospital and of the Royal College Gymnasium was completed.

A War Memorial was erected at the Royal College at Curepipe.

New roofs were fitted to Block A, stores and workshops, Beau Bassin Prisons.

The construction of a Leper Asylum at Powder Mills was nearing completion on 31st December 1922.

Large repairs were effected to Long Mountain Hospital and Cannoniers' Point Quarantine Station.

The erection of an Industrial School at Cassis and of a Training College at Curepipe was much advanced, especially the former.

IRRIGATION WORKS

La Ferme.—The usual works connected with the maintenance of the Irrigation reservoir and channels at La Ferme were carried out satisfactorily. The revenue collected from sale of water for irrigation purposes from La Ferme reservoir amounted to Rs. 78,750 as compared with Rs. 71,600 in 1921.

La Nicolière.—The earthwork of the dam was completed for the first 700 feet. The flank dam was nearly completed. The construction of feeder channels was pushed on vigorously and a great portion was completed.

Midlands Reservoir.—Surveys were carried out to decide on the final alignment of the dam. A further study of the site has shewn that it will be possible, by bringing down the alignment about 1,000 feet, to have a much larger reservoir. This will save the building of an additional reservoir at Merlo and a substantial saving will be effected.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

RAILWAYS

The total length of the Mauritius Government Railway is 120 miles exclusive of the Bois Chéri Light Railway of about 24 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet 8½ inches. No extensions have been undertaken.

The receipts during the year were Rs. 4,213,586 as against Rs. 4,049,247 in 1921, or an increase of Rs. 164,339.

These figures do not include Government traffic which amounted to Rs. 437,207 and Rs. 390,580 in 1922 and 1921 respectively.

The receipts for passenger traffic showed an increase of Rs. 13,059 as compared with 1921. As regards goods traffic the tonnage conveyed was 693,237 tons as compared with 581,134 tons in the previous year, with a corresponding increase of Rs. 152,249 in the earnings.

The working expenses for the year amounted to Rs. 5,633,530 as against Rs. 6,365,875 in the preceding year, or a decrease of Rs. 732,345.

The capital expenditure was Rs. 32,477,381 at 31st December 1922.

The total expenditure, including new works, in 1922 was		Rs. 7,669,693
The earnings during the year were		4,213,586
showing a loss of		Rs. 3,456,107
If to this figure be added :—		
The interest on the Railway Debt	Rs. 381,917	
The Sinking Fund	99,030	
Pensions to retired officials	68,081	
		549,028
		Rs. 4,005,135
and the value of traffic on account of Government Departments (which is not included in the earnings shown above) be deducted		437,207
the total loss to the Colony was		Rs. 3,567,928

Arrangements have now been made for treating the Mauritius Railways as a commercial undertaking, and for keeping the Railway revenue and expenditure separated from those of the Colony. The Railway rates have been recently increased to an appreciable extent and it is hoped that, with the additional revenue to be thus obtained and the gradual formation of a Railway Renewals Fund, the finances of that department will soon be placed on a sound and proper footing.

BOIS CHERI LIGHT RAILWAY

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from the Savanne branch. The total goods traffic carried in 1922 amounted to 28,077 tons, of which 25,588 tons were sugar canes, as against a total traffic of 15,555 tons including 11,536 tons of sugar canes in 1921.

The actual working expenses for 1922 were Rs. 67,988 and the total earnings Rs. 23,989, including Rs. 3,271 on account of work done for Government Departments.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The Colony is well served by road communications, there being altogether 700 miles of road open for traffic. The care and maintenance of the streets of Port Louis, which were formerly under the control of the Municipality, have now passed under the charge of the Public Works Department who are responsible for the upkeep of about 550 miles, the remainder being maintained by the Township and District Boards. The responsibility for maintenance is a heavy one, for many of the roads, bridges and culverts were built for light traffic only and the development of motor transport has put upon many of these roads a strain which they were not primarily intended to bear.

The total number of motor vehicles licensed on 31st December, 1922, was 2,111—cars 1,733, lorries 139, motor cycles 239.

In Port Louis the principal thoroughfares, where there is a heavy traffic, are being reconstructed with tar macadam and tarco is being used for this work.

The bridges are being kept in a proper state of repairs and the old timber bridges in Port Louis are being gradually reconstructed in ferro-concrete. Ten of these were rebuilt during the year, also a good number of small bridges under 20′ span.

POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES

The total revenue from the Post Office in 1922 amounted to Rs. 422,806 being 18,706 more than that of the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 307,619, showing a decrease of Rs. 9,165 as compared with 1921. The excess of revenue over expenditure was Rs. 115,187 as against Rs. 87,316 in 1921.

The Royal Naval Wireless Telegraph Station at Rose Belle was closed by the Admiralty on June 30, 1922, but has now been taken over by the Mauritius Government. The Station will be provided with less powerful machinery and will be re-opened at an early date. A temporary wireless station on the Tug *Labourdonnais* was opened for public correspondence on August 1, 1922.

TELEPHONES

Telephonic communication constituted and owned by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited, has been gradually increasing and at the close of the year there were seven public exchanges open, with 1,762 miles of wire. Important improvements are in hand, including the substitution of underground for aerial wires for the trunk lines, as well as for subscribers' lines in the congested areas, and switchboards of modern design for the larger exchanges. These works are nearing completion and the cables and switchboards will be brought into commission during 1923.

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H. LALOUETTE,

Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Port Louis,

20th August, 1923.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1142	Ashanti	1921
1143	Jamaica	,,
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921–1922
1146	Seychelles	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1921–1922
1149	Mauritius	1921
1150	Sierra Leone	,,
1151	Uganda	,,
1152	Somaliland	,,
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate (April–December)	,,
1154	Gold Coast	,,
1155	Nigeria	1922
1156	Nyasaland	1921
1157	Falkland Islands	,,
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	,,
1160	Gambia	,,
1161	New Hebrides	1921 & 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	,,
1164	St. Helena	,,
1165	Sierra Leone	,,
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1167	Bermuda	,,
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	,,
1173	Gibraltar	,,
1174	British Guiana	,,
1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	,,
1177	St. Vincent	1922
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1922–1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute.	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the Northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1234.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1179.)

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1925.

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MAURITIUS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1923

SITUATION AND AREA

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles East of Madagascar, between 57°18′ and 57°48′ E. long., and 19°50′ and 20°31′ S. lat. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ordinance 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its extreme breadth 29 miles; and its area covers 720 square miles = 460,800 acres. The density of population is very high, being a little over 500 persons per square mile for the whole Island.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of about 50,000. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital, which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, situated at the highest part of the central plateau, has about 20,000 inhabitants. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phœnix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Beau Bassin are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in country districts are Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq and Pamplemousses.

The island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours, Réunion and Rodrigues, and certainly more stable. (J. S. Gardiner).

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° S. lat. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and a population of 6,924—(3,441 males, 3,483 females), is 350 miles to the East of Mauritius, while lesser islands of some importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the Census of May, 1921, the population of the Lesser Dependencies was ascertained to be 1,810—(1,038 males, 772 females).

HISTORY

Mauritius is said to have been first discovered by the Portuguese in the beginning of the sixteenth century—probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527, when the island is shown on an official map under the name of *Santa Apollonia*, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Réunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Dom Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island *Itha da Cirnos*, or *Swan Island*, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any permanent settlement by the Portuguese who, for nearly a century, only used the Island as a port of call for repairs and supplies.

The Island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South Eastern Port to which the Commander, Admiral Wybrandt Van Warwyk, gave his own name. He took possession of the Island on behalf of his Government and named it Mauritius, in honour of the Statholder, Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days he set sail leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton, of the *Pearl*, visited the Island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt at colonisation was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsy Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the "Compagnie Neerlandaise des Indes," landed at Warwick-Haven or South Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores and dwelling houses were built at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the "13 Cantons" close by. These were followed by other settlers who established themselves in the neighbourhood, where Mahebourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the Island was abandoned, and was again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally and which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1644 were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper, and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the Island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French vessel *Le Chasseur*, arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the Island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it "Isle de France." Settlement, however, was only effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fougerai, commanding the *Triton* of St. Malo, resumed possession for the "Compagnie des Indes Orientales," after landing at Isle aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Réunion, who had come to settle, and from that time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735, Mahé de Labourdonnais succeeded M. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the Island. He left the Island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions, however, soon became difficult for the settlers owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the "Compagnie des Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the West Indies, and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling house of "Mon Plaisir," and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French Revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobin leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected and nearly all links with the mother country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French Privateers using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade gained for the Island its reputation still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared for a vigorous attack in 1810 and, after a memorable fight, Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule, on on the 3rd December, 1810.

The cession of the Isle de France and its dependencies to Great Britain having been confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, the Island, under its old name of Mauritius, definitely passed in 1814 under British rule and since then it has remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical but, owing to the high elevation of the central plateau, a large part of the island enjoys a temperate and even bracing climate. The average temperature of this highland region is about 60° Fah. (15.5°C) and the maximum about 80° Fah. (26.6°C). The low-lying coastal region has naturally a higher average temperature ranging from 90° Fah. (32°C) to 70° Fah. (21°C).

Mauritius lies in the track of cyclones, which are liable to occur during the months of December to April. There has been no very severe cyclone since 1892.

The rainfall is irregular and varies according to the locality and elevation. In the central portion of the Island an average yearly rainfall of 175 inches is recorded, whereas regions where there is the lowest rainfall receive less than 40 inches. The rainfall of the coastal districts varies between 25 and 30 inches.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The year 1923 was on the whole satisfactory as regards trade, and the surplus balances on the 30th June, 1923, amounted to Rs. 8,678,408, exclusive of the unexpended balance of the proceeds of the special tax raised under Ordinance No. 36 of 1920 for general improvements, etc., together with accrued interest, amounting to Rs. 13,784,640.

Weather conditions were unfavourable during the growing season of the sugar-cane and caused an appreciable reduction of the crop, the final production figures for the 1923-24 campaign having been 201,550 Metric tons (198,356 English tons).

Sugar prices were, in the mean, remunerative, the average nett sale price having been Rs. 13.86 per 50 kilogrammes. The conditions under which local sugars were marketed were no doubt greatly improved by the operations of the Planters' Sugar Syndicate.

Labour difficulties were greatly reduced by the considerable progress made in the use of farm tractors, and by the introduction of labourers from India.

Mr. E. B. Denham, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, was appointed Colonial Secretary of Kenya in August 1923 and was replaced by Mr. E. A. Grannum, C.M.G., Receiver General.

The speech with which His Excellency the Governor (Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G.,) opened the Session of the Legislature on the 10th June last gives a clear and complete account of the general condition of the Colony during the year 1923 and is here inserted:—

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT.

" It is once more my privilege to open a Session of this Legisla-" ture, and I am fortunate in being able to do so under circumstances " which point to a continuance of the prosperity and progress which " have characterised the history of the Colony in recent years.

" The twelve months which have elapsed since I last stood on " this dais have covered a period of general welfare and tranquillity. " With the exception of a gale of some severity, which passed over " the Island in January last and which did a moderate amount of " damage, climatic conditions have been all that could be desired " from the point of view of the agriculturalist.

Crop prospects.

"Though the sugar crop of 1923 was considerably " below the average the appearance of our plantations " to-day gives promise of one of the finest crops ever reaped in the " Colony.

" As the subject of *Health* is of the most vital importance to our " community, I will give that matter the first place in the short " review of the state of the Colony which I now propose to lay before " you.

Great improvement in health of Colony.

" The effects of the special measures which were " started three years ago to improve the general health " of the community are already manifesting themselves to a remark-" able degree. The progress is, indeed, far greater than we had

" dared to hope, and I venture to quote a few figures showing the
" steady amelioration of our vital statistics in recent years :—

	1919	*1920*	*1921*	*1922*	*1923*
" Mean Death-Rate for the whole island ...	35.5*	32.3	40.3	34.5	28.5
" Excess or otherwise, of Births over Deaths	−131*	+1,018	−799	+988	+3,101

" The improvement in the health of Port Louis is equally
" striking :—

	1919	*1920*	*1921*	*1922*	*1923*
" Mortality in Port Louis ...	2,605*	1,897	2,723	2,173	1,738

" The fact that the rainfall during 1923 was below the average
" may have had something to do with the reduction of diseases due to
" humidity, but there can be no doubt that the steady reduction of
" the mortality and the growth of the population, shown during the
" past three years, must be due, to a large degree, to the energetic
" measures which have been taken during that period to improve our
" sanitary conditions. We are strengthened in believing that such is
" the case when we note that during the first months of the present
" year the death-rate continues to show a steady reduction in spite of
" the fact that the rainfall has, in many parts of the island, been far
" above the average. We have, in fact, to go back 44 years to find a
" death-rate as low as that recorded for April last. I feel sure that
" credit will be ungrudgingly given to the Officers of the Medical
" and Health Department for their instrumentality in contributing
" to such satisfactory results.

Campaign against hook-worm.

" To the success of the campaign against ankylos-
" tomiasis, which has been conducted during the
" past two years, must also be ascribed much of the improved health
" among the people of those districts in which action has been taken.
" I know that the whole Colony is grateful to the International
" Health Board for the help that has been given to us in that
" connection, and I trust that there will be no relaxation, in the
" future, of the consistent and continuous efforts which are required
" to obtain lasting and radical results in this connection.

High rate of Infant Mortality.

"Notwithstanding the general improvement in the
" death-rate, infant-mortality is still terribly high.
" Children under five years of age accounted last year for one third
" of the total number of deaths, and this high proportion shows how
" very urgent is the need for the better care of maternity cases and
" of new-born infants. The Council will be invited to make special
" provision in that connection.

" The Legislature will also be asked to devote a considerable
" sum to the improvement of our hospital for Mental cases. A
" thorough re-organisation of the whole institution is required, so
" as to bring to those afflicted ones, who are detained there, in-
" creased comfort and greater hopes of recovery.

---

* After deduction of deaths due to the great epidemic of influenza.

Expenditure out of the "Improvement and Development Fund."

"The Improvement and Development Fund, which "was constituted three years ago, has provided the "means for carrying out a number of other measures "which are conducive to the general promotion of "health among our people. That Fund, which originally amounted "to about Rs. 14,000,000 still stands at almost the same figure, "although we have, in the interval, spent more than Rs. 2,500,000 "out of it. The money contributed by the sugar-planters was very "profitably invested and we have, so far, been able to do little more "than spend the income of the Fund. From that source, we have, "during the past two years, spent about Rs. 900,000 on the improvement of the water supplies in the country districts.

Improvement of water supplies.

"Twenty-four different localities now enjoy pure "water in lieu of the heavily polluted liquid which "their people used to be obliged to consume. Much still remains to "be done before adequate supplies of pure water are assured to the "whole population of the island, but there is good reason to hope "that this desirable consummation will in time be attained.

"The scheme for providing Port Louis with water from the "Mare-aux-Vacoas has been held in suspense pending a test of "results that may be obtained from the chlorination of the water "from the Grand River. The chlorinating plant is expected to be "ready for operations in two or three months' time, and we will then "be in a position to say whether it will be necessary or not to incur "the large outlay that would be entailed by bringing water from the "Mare-aux-Vacoas.

New Leper Asylum.

"I am happy to be able to record the fact that the "lepers have at last been transferred from their old and "inadequate quarters to an up-to-date Asylum at Pamplemousses. "Although the expenditure under this head has been considerable it "is a consolation to know that these unfortunate people are now "located in healthy and cheerful surroundings, where they can enjoy "such happiness as may be obtainable under their terrible affliction. "I take this opportunity of recording, once more, our heartfelt "thanks to those admirable Sisters of Charity who are devoting "their noble lives to these pitiful sufferers.

"The improved health of Port Louis is undoubtedly due to the "progressive measures that are being taken by the sanitary authorities "in various directions. The population is evidently becoming alive "to the benefits to be derived from the orderly disposal of house "refuse and the avoidance of conditions that are favourable to the "breeding of mosquitoes. There seems to be reason to believe that "the day is not far distant when Port Louis will be as healthy as any "other city of its size in the tropics. The tarring of some of the "main streets and the steady improvements in buildings are "contributing to make the capital gradually worthy of the Colony.

Improvement of the Harbour.

"Questions relating to the improvement of our "port occupied much of the attention of the last "Council, and a Resolution was finally adopted providing for "dredging the harbour to a depth of 32 feet and for the provision of

" certain deep-water quays. The total expenditure has been estimated " at about Rs. 4,000,000, and it is proposed that the money should be " provided by the Improvement and Development Fund. These " proposals have been submitted to the Secretary of State and are " awaiting his decision.

Workmen's dwellings.

" The solicitude of the Council for the improve- " ment of the conditions under which live the poorer " classes of Port Louis was clearly shown by the alacrity with which " it authorised a loan of a million rupees for the provision of " workmen's dwellings. This scheme is one which is very near my " heart, and it is, I am sure, a satisfaction to everyone to note the " rapidity with which the attractive suburb at Cassis is springing up. " The improved health of everyone living there is clearly manifest, " and applications for cottages are far in excess of our capacity to " meet them. The population of the village is already considerable, " and I hope to hear, in the days to come, that it has become ten " times as great. There is no truer saying that " a man lives up to or " down to the standard of his dwelling." The pretty gardens around " the cottages and the efforts of the occupants to rise to their " surroundings are evidences of the strong desire of our people to " attain a higher social status and especially to obtain improved " conditions for their children. Any judicious help given to them in " this direction will assuredly tend to the general welfare of the " Colony and to a happy community of interests between the various " classes of our population.

Industrial Schools.

" The Industrial School at Plaine Lauzun has " now been thoroughly established, and I trust that " Honourable Members will show their interest in this Institution by " visiting it now and then. Some fifty lads are now in training there " and are rapidly acquiring a knowledge of various trades of daily " utility. A handsome building containing offices and lecture rooms " has just been completed and arrangements are being made for " officers of the Public Works Department to give there, in the " evenings, lectures and instruction to artizans and others on a " number of professional subjects. The Technical School at Port " Louis, which was established four years ago, continues to produce " excellent results, and large numbers of boys from the primary " schools are attending it.

" An Industrial School has also recently been created at Beau " Bassin in the buildings of the Barkly Asylum, and is already " proving a marked success. The boys who used to form the so-called " ' Industrial School ' at Rose Hill have been drafted into this new " Institution, and anyone visiting the place will be most favourably " impressed by the improved physique and general condition of those " waifs and strays. This school is also giving technical instruction to " boys from the Primary Schools of Rose Hill and Beau Bassin.

Brick and Tile factory.

" The Brick and Tile Factory at Calebasses has " now thoroughly proved its value. An additional kiln " has recently been added, and the establishment is now able to " produce about 80,000 bricks a month. The greater part of them

" are now being used in the construction of dwellings in the Model
" Village, and it has already been clearly proved that building in
" bricks is the cheapest, coolest, and most suitable of all forms of
" construction. I venture to prophesy that the day is not far distant
" when the use of bricks will become general in Mauritius. With
" the arrival of the machinery which has been ordered for our
" brickfield the output will be greatly increased and the enterprise
" will then be in a position to accept orders from private parties.

Government dairy.

" It is with satisfaction that I am able to draw
" attention to the success that has attended the project
" for the establishment of a Government dairy at Curepipe. A
" handsome byre on modern lines has been erected, and 50 fine cows
" of the Holstein breed are now installed there. Notwithstanding
" all prognostications to the contrary the results of the dairy during
" the past 2½ years may, I think, be taken to prove conclusively that
" our highlands in the centre of the island are well fitted for the
" raising of cattle, and that milch-cows, under proper conditions,
" thrive remarkably well there. The quantity of milk of high quality
" that is being yielded by our cows is entirely satisfactory. The
" whole of the produce is now being utilised in the various hospitals
" and institutions. I venture to express the hope that this scheme
" will be largely extended so that an absolutely pure supply of milk
" may be secured for the use of infants and invalids at Curepipe
" and elsewhere.

Amendment of the Labour law.

" In order to meet the wishes of the Government
" of India, a most important measure, affecting the
" conditions of labour generally, was passed during the last session
" of this Council. All penal clauses in the Labour Law were repealed,
" and everything savouring of compulsion was removed. I am happy
" to say that, owing to the liberal spirit of the planters, this measure
" has been put into force with a minimum of friction, a fact which
" redounds greatly to the credit of all employers of labour in this
" Colony.

Prospects of the sugar industry through the reduction of the rate of Imperial Preference.

" We are thankful to be able to note that the main
" industry of the island continues to be in a very
" prosperous condition. The prices obtained for the
" last crops were highly satisfactory and good profits
" have been made. Signs are apparent, however, that
" less favourable circumstances may be ahead. The recent reduction
" of the preference in the Home markets, hitherto granted by the
" Imperial Government, is causing much anxiety in the minds of our
" planters. Fears are entertained that the product of this Colony
" may be gradually shut out from its natural market and that it will
" be unable to compete against foreign beet-sugar. It is felt that a
" recurrence of the old unfair conditions, under which the British
" sugar-producing Colonies struggled against bounty-fed beet-sugar
" until they were almost ruined, would be a disaster and it is
" earnestly hoped that a fair and adequate degree of help from the
" Mother Country will always be forthcoming.

Colony's offer of preference to the United Kingdom.

"In this connection I feel sure that the recent "decision of the Imperial authorities to reduce by more "than 50% the preferential rates on sugar will have no "effect on the intention of this Colony to give to certain British "industries the substantial degree of preference in customs duties "which was promised last year. A Bill to that effect will be among "the first to be presented to the Council at its next meeting, and "although its provisions may entail a substantial degree of loss to "the Revenue of this Colony, that loss will be cheerfully borne as "evidence of the desire of Mauritius to assist the industries in the "United Kingdom which are now struggling under difficulties "attributable to the Great War.

Resumption of Indian Immigration.

Great advantages offered.

"The year under review will be notable for the "fact that the immigration of labourers from India was "resumed after a lapse of fourteen years. The conditions offered by this Colony to Indian Immigrants "are so extraordinarily liberal that every objection "against the system which formerly prevailed in this connection has "been removed. Bonuses are given, free passages granted, family "life encouraged, and nothing in the shape of a contract is required. "Every immigrant on arriving here is as free as any other British "subject in the land and enjoys every civil and political privilege. "Work is guaranteed to them at the rates that are current throughout "the Colony, and everthing is done by the Protector of Immigrants "to safeguard their interests. Notwithstanding these remarkable "advantages only some 680 labourers with their families, numbering "altogether 1,236 souls, have arrived from India during the past "twelve months. It is greatly to be regretted that certain political "influences in India should, apparently, persist in dissuading people, "who are now struggling under adverse circumstances, from coming "to this country where hundreds of thousands of their compatriots "have already found wealth, education and political importance. "Negotiations with the Government of India for an extension of the "term during which emigration is to be permitted are still in "progress and will, I trust, shortly be concluded.

Irrigation schemes.

"Closely connected with the main industry of the "Colony are the important irrigation schemes which "have been in progress in recent years. The effects of the great "reservoir at La Ferme are adequately realising the anticipations on "which the project was based. The 'La Nicolière' scheme is "making excellent progress and it is hoped that a certain quantity "of water will be available for distribution next year. The Council "will be asked to authorise a further loan of one million rupees for "the continuation of the work, and it is believed that the original "estimated total cost of Rs. 4,000,000 will not be exceeded. Good "progress is also being made with the construction of a third great "reservoir at Midlands. When these important works shall have "been completed, a large area, which is now unfit for the production "of sugar cane, will be available for that purpose. I cannot pass "away from this subject of irrigation without paying a tribute to "the energy and capacity shown by Mr. de Segrais, the Director of "Public Works, in that connection.

"Important experiments in relation to the effects of irrigation "on our cane lands have been in progress for nearly three years at "Médine, and the deductions that may, before long, be derived, from "those experiments will certainly be of great interest to our sugar-"planters. The keenness shown in this and in many other directions "by the Director of Agriculture and his staff are cordially recognised.

Sugar Planters' Syndicate.

"A Bill was passed during the last Session to "continue the existence of the Sugar Planters' "Syndicate. This Association has abundantly proved its great value "to our leading industry, and enables the voice of sugar-growers of "Mauritius to be heard in the world's markets in a far more powerful "tone than when every planter made his own bargains individually. "I shall always be glad to think that I was not a stranger to the "inception of this very important scheme.

Phytalus Smithi.

"The 'Phytalus Smithi' continues to be a some-"what threatening cloud on the horizon of the sugar-"planter. No less than 43,000,000 of those pernicious little beetles "were captured last year by the organized bands employed for that "purpose, but, although increases of the pest have been noticed in "certain districts, there is every reason to believe that it will "continue to be satisfactorily kept in check.

Necessity for subsidiary industries.

"My desire to see the development of subsidiary "industries has never slackened during the eight years "that I have been in charge of the affairs of this island, "and as the moment of my departure is probably approaching, I feel "that I cannot too strongly reiterate the views that I have often "expressed in the past. So long as Mauritius depends, as she does "at present, entirely on one industry, the position of its people must "always be more or less precarious. Although we believe that, in "the event of less prosperous conditions in the sugar industry, much "could be done by way of concentration of factories and the greater "use of mechanical appliances, there can be no doubt that if the "island possessed other valuable industries besides sugar, the position "of its people would be far safer and more hopeful. It is for this "reason that the object of what is probably my "swan song" is to "adjure the capitalists of Mauritius to give their earnest attention "to various industries which appear to be suited to the conditions of "our island, and which have proved to be remunerative and success-"ful in countries where the conditions of soil and climate closely "resemble those of Mauritius. I know that efforts are, here and "there, being made to establish plantations of cocoanut and fibre, and "that some of these are already proving their success. But I feel "that these efforts are on far too small a scale to be of any avail in "the event of a serious fall in the value of sugar, and it is to be "feared that a long period of stress and difficulty may have to be "traversed before such industries could be of appreciable support to "the life of the Colony. I suggest that it is unwise to postpone "the necessary experiments and efforts until times of distress and "depression are actually upon us, and I venture to urge that now is "the time, when capital is abundant, to take the necessary steps to "safeguard the future. I cannot too strongly urge the

Mauritius hemp.

"advisability of extending without delay our "cultivations of fibre—be they of sisal or of the local "hemp—, and it is therefore, with entire willingness, that I shall, at "an early meeting of the Council, support a petition that has been "addressed to the Government by the aloe-fibre planters of the "Colony for a moderate amount of pecuniary assistance to enable "them to develop their industry.

Sisal fibre plantations.

"Despite the scanty encouragement that has been "given in certain quarters to the Government's "experiments in the cultivation of sisal, the prospects of the small "plantation at Cassis are, I believe, fairly promising. The land is "not as suitable as it might be, and the small area of the venture "precludes pecuniary profits. But the 'Corona' fibre-machine is "now being installed in the neighbourhood of the plantation, and "it is hoped that the presence of this factory, with its immense "possibilities, may encourage the owners of many thousands of "acres of adjacent lands, which are now producing nothing, to grow "sisal and to work the factory on a co-operative basis. It has been "proved in every tropical country that sisal can only be profitably "produced on large areas and unless this project be taken up in a "hopeful spirit by the adjacent owners of land it is foredoomed to "failure. I may say, in this connection, that there is hardly a "British territory, within the tropics, of which its Government has "not considered it wise to make considerable efforts and to spend "much money in trying to encourage the establishment of a sisal "industry. In some cases those experiments have failed, in others "they have proved to be a source of much wealth. I most sincerely "hope that the very small efforts made by my Government in that "direction may find themselves ultimately in the latter category.

Tobacco factory.

"Another of the minor industries which I "commend to the earnest attention of landowners is the production "of tobacco. The experimental efforts of the Government in that "direction, during the past four years, have been so successful that "a notable area of land is now devoted to the production of leaf. "The factory that is being managed by the Department of "Agriculture is now so well equipped that several tons of excellent "tobacco, equal in every way to the product imported from Réunion, "have been produced. Machine-made cigarettes are also now being "turned out. Unfortunately certain parties who are deeply interested "in maintaining the very profitable monopoly which they have "hitherto exercised as regards the sale of foreign tobacco, appear to "be bent on boycotting the product of Mauritius. Sales from the "Government Factory have practically ceased, and this budding "industry, which was so full of promise, is menaced with extinction. "The Council will be asked, at an early date, to take such measures "as will prevent so untoward a result. The magnitude of the "matter will be realised when I state that the imports of tobacco "from Réunion exceed 130,000 kilos a year, valued at about a "million and a half of rupees.

Rodrigues.

"The condition of our chief dependency, Rodrigues, continues to be highly satisfactory. It enjoys a phenomenally low death-rate and the population is increasing to such a degree that it is beginning to advance claims for direct representation in the Legislature. The recent establishment of a branch of the Department of Agriculture is likely to have an appreciable effect on the resources of the island and the prospects of stock-raising, especially as regards the breeding of mules and donkeys, are extremely promising.

Amendment of the Liquor laws.

"I regret to say that the effects of the Liquor Law, passed in 1922 and which were so promising at first, have recently been largely neutralised by the substitution of strongly alcoholised wines for the rum of local production. The excessive consumption of these objectionable wines reached such a stage that, at one of its last meetings, the Council passed a law raising very greatly the import duties on those liquors. In the same way that the consumption of rum has been greatly decreased by making it 'weaker, dearer and harder to get,' so do we now hope that the same measures will reduce to reasonable dimensions the excessive consumption of highly alcoholised wines. The Council will be invited, at an early meeting, to consider proposals for amending certain provisions of the existing liquor laws which need strengthening.

Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

"The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the forthcoming financial year have been framed, as usual, on prudent and conservâtive lines, and I commend them to the careful consideration of the Legislature.

Remarkable financial situation.

"The financial position of the Colony continues to be most satisfactory. Although the expenditure on special services and improvements during the past twelve months has been on a considerable scale, it has failed to keep pace with the expansion of the Revenue. Trade has evidently been highly satisfactory, and the Customs receipts have been far in excess of the estimate. So great has been this excess that the Revenue for 1923-24 will exceed the expenditure by nearly 2½ millions of rupees. The balance to the credit of the Colony at the conclusion of this financial year is therefore likely to approach Rs. 11,000,000 without taking into account more than thirteen millions of rupees which are still lying to the credit of the 'Improvement and Development Fund.'

Proposed reduction of taxation.

"It is not often that a Colonial Treasury can complain of being incommoded by its assets, but such is almost the case with us. In spite of liberal expenditure, on a large number of improvements, our surplus balances steadily increase. The moment has evidently arrived for relieving the community, in some degree, of the taxation to which it now submits, and it is with great satisfaction that I may announce to-day that the Secretary of State has authorised me

“ to invite the Council to repeal the law, passed in 1922, under which certain import duties were considerably increased. The degree of preference which it is proposed to grant to certain British manufacturers will also entail a substantial reduction of customs duties on various articles of common use. These measures are expected to entail a loss to the Revenue of about Rs. 550,000 per annum, and provision for this reduction has been made in the Draft Estimates. It appears to me and to my advisers that it would be prudent to postpone the consideration of any other proposals for the further reduction of taxation until the effects of the recent reduction of the advantages lately enjoyed in the English market by our main industry can be ascertained.

Railway Department.

“ The arrangement made last year, by which the accounts of the Railways were kept separately from those of the general administration, has been made definite. The total ordinary expenditure of the Railway department, in 1924–25, has been estimated at Rs. 4,377,293, and the revenue at Rs. 5,108,000. Out of the anticipated surplus, a ‘ Renewals Fund ’ will be formed, so that money may be available in the future for the proper maintenance and improvement of the system without necessitating sudden increases of rates. In the meantime, the Council will be asked to vote Rs. 646,971 from our accumulated surplus for the provision of additional rolling stock and other improvements which are urgently required. I trust that it may be possible at an early date to put into effect many of the recommendations which the recent Commission, appointed to enquire into the administration of the Railway Department, considered it advisable to make for the better working of the system.

Military Contribution.

“ Provision is made in the Draft Estimates for the usual scale of Military Contribution. Mauritius is one of the few British Colonies which enjoys the distinction of paying to the War Office a subsidy in consideration of the maintenance of a garrison of Imperial Troops. The contribution was arranged on the understanding that a considerable force would be stationed in the island, and the subsidy was based on a scale of 5½% of the Colony's Revenue.

Large payments to the Imperial Government.

“ With the growth of the financial operations of the Administration, the contribution has increased in proportion, and the percentage now amounts to a very large sum. These very important subsidies to the War Office have been paid annually by this Government with so little ostentation that few persons outside Mauritius appear to be aware of the fact that, during the past twenty years, this Colony has contributed directly to the British Exchequer a sum of more than eleven and a half millions of rupees (£766,666). I know that I am voicing the sentiments of the Colony when I say that none in Mauritius grudges this contribution to the Mother-Country and that it is given with patriotic sentiments. Nevertheless, there is a "growing feeling that the magnitude of the payment should not be "forgotten when the relations between Mauritius and the United "Kingdom happen to come under consideration. It is also thought "in many quarters that, in view of the disproportion of the payment "to the strength of the garrison, it would be more appropriate if "the contribution were to be divided between the Army and the "Navy.

Extension of Governor's term of office.

"In the course of the last session of the Council, "a Resolution was unanimously adopted, praying that "His Majesty the King might be pleased to extend for "a second time my term of office in this Colony. The members of "the Civil Service, by petition, did me the honour of making the "same request. No definite decision, so far as I am aware, appears "yet to have been arrived at on the matter, but whether my time in "this Colony is to be extended or whether I am soon to hand over "my office to a successor, I can assure the Council, the Civil Service, "and the whole population that I shall ever retain in my heart the "deepest feelings of regard and affection for this charming island in "which I have already spent more than eight years of my life.

"To the Members of this Council, to my colleagues of all ranks "in the Public Service, and to everyone who has given me their "helpful encouragement and loyal advice in the arduous work of "administration, I desire to tender my most earnest and grateful "thanks.

"On behalf of His Majesty the King, I now open this Session "of the Legislature."

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st December' 1923, was 381,678, or an increase of 4,084 on the previous years, figures and of 5,193 on last Census figures (May 20, 1921).

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 13,879 and 10,778, respectively.

The birth-rate in the General Population was 40.9 and in the Indian population 34.9 per mille, as against 39.9 and 35.9 respectively, for the previous year.

The death-rates per 1,000 in the two populations for 1923 were 29.6 and 28.1, as against 35.5 and 33.3 respectively for 1922.

The highest death-rate for 1923 is shown in Grand Port and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems. The mortality in 1923 was remarkably low. The death-rate for the whole Colony (28.5 per mille) is the lowest since 1891, and for Port Louis the rate (34.1 per mille) is the lowest since 1880. The number of deaths due to malaria and malarial cachexia (highest death-producing factors in Mauritius) was 1,979 as against 3,526 the year before. The proportion to total deaths is 18.3%. The next high causes of death are pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia—1,393 in 1923 as against 1,538 in 1922—and diseases of early infancy—1,026 in 1923 as against 1,002 in 1922.

There were 139 cases of plague during the year, of which 118 proved fatal; the figures for 1922 being 98 and 75 respectively. The largest number of cases was, as usual, in Port Louis (117). The percentage of deaths was 84.8.

There were 150 cases of Enteric fever registered in the Island as against 224 in the previous year.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) gives a ratio of 139.4 per thousand live-births, as against 147.9 in 1922. There were 1,557 still-births registered during the year, corresponding to a rate of 112.2 per thousand live-births, as against 120.3 in 1922.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The following statement shows in a tabular form the number of cases treated in the public hospitals and at the dispensaries for the last five years :—

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	Average
Hospital admissions	26,820	22,132	19,127	19,337	17,069	20,897.0
Dispensaries ...	78,546	65,302	60,671	85,638	53,225	68,676.4
Outdoor cases ...	5,300	4,225	5,066	6,491	12,032	6,622.8
	110,666	91,659	84,864	111,466	82,326	96,196.2

These figures show a decrease as regards hospital admissions and dispensary cases and an increase as regards outdoor cases for 1923 as compared with 1922. The total number of cases is much below that for 1922 and the average of the five-year period 1919–23.

ASYLUMS

The total number of persons certified insane on 31st December, 1923, was 708, or 34 less than the year before. This represents a ratio of insane to total population of 1 in 539 or 18.5 per 10,000.

The admissions into the Lunatic Asylum numbered 194. They are classified into: first admissions 88, second admissions 6, readmission from probation 38, readmission from Barkly Asylum Lunatic Branch Wards 31 and from Victoria Hospital 5 (including 2 from Lying-in-Ward), and 26 admitted on interim order but found not insane after examination by Commissioners in Lunacy.

The number of inmates left on 31st December, 1923, was 457 (253 males and 204 females) at the Lunatic Asylum, and 89 (47 males and 42 females) in the Lunatic Branch Wards.

At the Leper Asylum there were 37 patients at the beginning of the year (males 25, females 12). There were 16 admissions during the year (8 males and 8 females), 2 deaths and 14 discharges. There remained 37 lepers (21 men and 16 women) at the end of the year. The construction of the new Leper Asylum has now been completed, and the transfer of the lepers was effected on the 1st February, 1924. The law relative to compulsory segregation of lepers will be brought into operation at an early date.

POOR RELIEF

Exclusive of the pauper cases treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries 558 paupers, as compared with 900 in 1922, received institutional relief during 1923 at the Barkly Asylum and different religious institutions.

2.104 paupers received pecuniary out-door relief permanently or temporarily, during 1923, as against 2,330 in 1922.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS

There were 1,642 persons committed to prison during the year, being 859 less than in the previous year. Of the total 1,579 were males and 63 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December, 1923, was 358 as against 434 in the preceding year.

There were 8 deaths among prisoners during the year. 21 prisoners were subjected to corporal punishment. There was no execution. The number of juvenile offenders was 58 as against 79 in the previous year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The cases reported to the Police numbered 21,063 as against 19,108 for 1922 in connection with which 12,309 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magisterial Courts. 17 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 29 in 1922.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The total revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1923, amounted to Rs. 23,547,734, which is Rs. 2,052,260 below the revenue for the preceding year, but Rs. 4,348,280 above the average revenue for the preceding five years.

The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 22,031,176 (exclusive of the sum of Rs. 13,784,640 which has been definitely transferred from Surplus Balances to the special account " Mauritius Improvement and Development Fund ").

The Surplus Balances on the 30th June, 1922, amounted to Rs. 20,946,490, from which should be deducted the sum of Rs. 13,784,640 referred to in the preceding paragraph, thus leaving a balance of Rs. 7,161,850 which, added to the surplus of *normal* revenue over *normal* expenditure during the year, viz.: Rs. 1,516,558, brings the Surplus Balances on the 30th June, 1923, to Rs. 8,678,408.

Of the expenditure for 1922–23, Rs. 5,268,118 were spent on personal emoluments and Rs. 16,763,058 under other charges. The corresponding figures for 1921–22 were : personal emoluments Rs. 5,612,370 and other charges Rs. 20,735,288.

The decrease of Rs. 344,252 under personal emoluments is mainly due to the arrears of salaries as recommended by the Salaries Commission and approved by the Secretary of State having been paid in the year 1921–22.

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years :—

Year		Revenue		Expenditure
1918–19	...	Rs. 13,813,070	...	Rs. 14,711,349
1919–20	...	18,605,596	...	19,422,903
1920–21	...	40,168,210*	...	24,729,540
1921–22	...	25,599,994	...	26,347,658
1922–23	...	23,547,734	...	22,031,176 †

PUBLIC DEBT

At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at £ 1,265,724 as compared with £ 1,269,124 at 30th June, 1922. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £ 659,832 as compared with £ 585,860 at 30th June, 1922.

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :—
  (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents and 5 cents.
  (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.
(2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.
(3) Nickel coins : 4 and 8 annas of India.
(4) The Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5 and R. 1.
(5) Indian currency notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 19,175,588 as compared with Rs. 20,360,013 in 1921–22.

The average amount of silver held amounted to Rs. 9,296,338 as compared with Rs. 10,005,494 the average for 1921–22.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund), which stood at Rs. 9,879,250 on 1st July, 1922, remained the same during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 770,858 to Rs. 861,370. The Revenue (Interest on investments less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs. 418,948 and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a surplus of Rs. 861,370. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June 1923, the surplus would be increased to Rs. 934,531.

Government Savings Banks are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June 1923 was 36,103 as against 36,001 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,590,934 as against Rs. 5,815,782 in the preceding year. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June, 1923, there were 15,150 depositors with Rs. 2,982,994 to their credit, as against 14,356 depositors with Rs. 2,700,479 to their credit in the preceding year.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent.

The private Banks are The Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India and a branch of the National Bank of South Africa.

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* Includes Rs. 13,377,987 and Rs. 2,378,029 collected under Ordinances Nos. 36 and 37 of 1920, respectively (special export taxes on Sugar for general improvements, etc.)

† Exclusive of Rs. 13,784,640 transferred to the Mauritius Improvement and Development Fund.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE

The value of the trade for 1923, exclusive of Dependencies and omitting specie, was Rs. 146,677,496, showing a decrease of Rs. 21,468,654 on the preceding year.

The comparative values of imports and exports for 1913 and the last five years are as follows :—

Year	Imports	Exports	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1913	36,607,671	32,291,706	68,899,377
1919	47,037,024	127,806,321	174,843,345
1920	86,371,153	127,497,305	213,868,458
1921	105,744,980	157,249,822	262,994,802
1922	77,039,447	91,106,703	168,146,150
1923	76,835,565	69,841,931	146,677,496

The value of the re-exports was Rs. 2,141,350.

Rs. 3,200,508 worth of specie were imported during the year, and Rs. 9,453,462 were exported.

The trade value in 1923 was Rs. 37,007,801 below the average value for the five preceding years, viz : Rs. 183,685,297, but was more than twice the trade value in 1913 (before the war) by Rs. 8,878,742.

The fall in trade, as compared with 1922, was mainly due to a large reduction in the sugar exports owing to a smaller crop, the value of the imports for the two years being practically the same, although the quantity of goods imported in 1923 was slightly larger than in the previous year.

IMPORTS

Imported foodstuffs, drink and tobacco fell from Rs. 36,675,594 in 1922 to Rs. 34,174,018 in 1923; while manufactured articles rose from Rs. 32,419,619 in 1922 to Rs. 35,461,532 in 1923, but the imports of machinery and implements fell from 5½ million rupees in 1922 to 2¾ million rupees in 1923.

As in 1922, about two-thirds of the imports in 1923 came from the United Kingdom and India, the latter retaining its position at the head of the list of countries by a narrow margin. France maintained its position in the third place with a slight increase on the preceding year's figures.

The values of the imports from Madagascar, which is our principal source of supply for cattle, and from South Africa were nearly the same as in 1922, whilst increases are recorded from the United States of America, Japan and Germany. Large decreases are shown in the imports from Belgium and China.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were cotton and woollen goods, machinery, coal, hardware, soap and cigarettes ; and from India grain, gunny bags, various oils, saltpetre, cotton piece goods, seeds and spices.

France is the principal source of supply for haberdashery, brimstone, cabinetware, perfumery, olive oil, indigo, wines in cases, claret in casks and tyres.

The chief imports from the Union of South Africa were wines, salted fish, oats and maize. The value of coals imported from South Africa fell from Rs. 3,065,888 in 1921 to Rs. 477,036 in 1922, and to Rs. 189,065 in 1923.

The principal imports from the United States were petroleum, motor cars, and tobacco.

EXPORTS

Sugar.—The following table shows the sugar exports for the last six years :—

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Kilos ...	183,221,889	302,826,129	182,464,726	229,224,689	292,744,249	223,051,061
Rupees ...	53,882,002	125,103,201	124,633,854	154,592,301	88,454,321	67,227,562

Other Domestic Exports.—Other exports than sugar are not of any considerable importance. Copra and poonac head the list with Rs. 171,094 in 1923, as compared with Rs. 105,720 in 1922 ; aloe fibre coming next with Rs. 164,112 in 1923, as compared with Rs. 385,754 in 1922.

The quantity and value of aloe fibre exported during each of the last six years are shown below :—

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Kilos ...	390,671	2,176,521	874,241	287,106	1,007,296	599,554
Rupees ...	140,135	782,285	248,140	100,234	385,754	164,112

Other exports are rum, undressed skins, coconut oil, &c.

SHIPPING

The following statement shows the number of vessels which entered and left the harbour during the last three years :—

Year	Number of Vessels Inwards	Number of Vessels Outwards
1921	229	234
1922	226	225
1923	207	207

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1923 was 928,493 tons : steamers 918,448 tons and sailing vessels 10,045 tons.

In the coastal trade with the Dependencies some 38 calls were made, with an aggregate of 14,794 tons.

The following steamship lines called at Port Louis although services are irregular and uncertain :—Union Castle Steamship Company, Limited ; British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited ; Messageries Maritimes ; Clan Line ; Ellerman-Harrison Line and the Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

The industries of the island are entirely agricultural ; there is no mineral wealth of any importance. The whole interests of the Colony are bound up in the sugar industry and practically the whole of the land suitable for growing sugar cane is under that crop. The area at present under cane cultivation is about 171,000 acres or about one-third of the total area of the Colony and the average production for the past five years nearly a quarter of a million tons. With the exception of British India, Mauritius is thus the largest sugar producer among the British possessions. Altogether there are

50 sugar factories ranging in productive capacity from 1,500 tons to 15,000 tons, the majority of which are modern factories, the standard of equipment being constantly improved.

A striking feature of the sugar industry in recent years has been the rapid increase in the area cultivated by Indians who are a preponderating element in the population, forming over two-thirds of the total.

At the end of 1923 the area cultivated by Indians was estimated to be 73,600 arpents (76,760 acres) or nearly 45% of the total cane cultivation, the figure having almost doubled since 1909.

Agricultural labour is almost exclusively Indian in origin and is derived from importations of indentured Indian labour which commenced after the abolition of slavery in 1835 and continued until 1910, when indentured immigration from India was prohibited. Immigration was, however, resumed, subject to certain conditions and on a restricted scale, for a period of twelve months ending on 31st May, 1924; and negotiations with the Government of India for an extension of this period are still in progress.

There were on the 31st December 1923, 19,253 immigrants settled in the Colony, divided into 13,639 males and 5,614 females, and including 556 new immigrants (393 males, and 163 females). The total number of labourers, including both immigrants and creoles, serving under written or verbal contract on estates was 18,876 on 31st December 1923.

The Indian population on Estates was estimated at 48,239 on 31st December 1923—*i.e.* 19,063 men, 12,813 women and 16,363 children.

The low quotations for sugar, coupled with the high cost of labour, have led since 1921 to a reduction of about 5,000 acres in the total area under cane cultivation. In facing the labour problem considerable attention was paid to mechanical cultivation, and a number of farm tractors of various types continues to be introduced into the Colony.

The Sugar Planters Syndicate, which was formed in 1920 and was reconstituted under Ordinance No. 7 of 1921, disposed of the local sugars to private buyers on a co-operative basis.

In 1919, the record year, the exports of sugar reached 302,826 tons, valued at Rs. 125,103,000. The quantity fell in 1920 to 182,465 tons but the value was Rs. 124,634,000. The value of the sugar exported in 1921 was Rs. 154,592,000 for 229,225 tons exported, the figures for 1922 and 1923 being Rs. 88,454,000 for 292,744 tons, and Rs. 67,227,000 for 223,051 tons respectively.

The countries to which the bulk of Mauritius sugar is exported are the United Kingdom and, to a smaller extent, India.

SUBSIDIARY INDUSTRIES

The introduction of agricultural industries other than sugar cane, so as to reduce the economic dependence of the Colony on a single industry, continues to receive attention, and the fall in the price of sugar has aroused real interest in various minor cultivations.

ALOE FIBRE

Aloe fibre is produced mainly from the leaves of Furcrœya Gigantea (Mauritius hemp), a plant which grows wild all over the island, and ranked second amongst the domestic products of the Colony until the year 1923, when copra and poonac rose to the second place. The area under aloe is estimated at about 20,000 acres.

The high prices obtained for aloe fibre at the commencement of 1922, viz: about Rs. 600 per ton, were not maintained for long and, by the middle of that year, had fallen to Rs. 350 per ton—i.e. a figure only slightly above the cost of production. In 1923 market conditions were, on the whole, unfavourable.

The advisability of substituting Sisal for Furcrœya is still receiving consideration. The Government Sisal plantation at Plaine Lauzun has been extended up to a total area of 60 acres, while a private plantation of about 300 acres has been established in the North of the Island.

COCONUTS

No extensions of any great importance occurred in connection with coconut plantations during the year, although there appears to be considerable scope for developments in relation to this industry in certain parts of the Island.

The copra production from the Lesser Dependencies amounted to about 800 tons.

TOBACCO

Efforts to develop the tobacco industry have been continued under the auspices of the Government during the year, and the system of permits for the cultivation of tobacco without payment of tax was continued. At the end of the year 1923, 163 acres were under cultivation.

The Government Tobacco Factory continued its operations during the year and new machinery in connection therewith was imported from England.

OTHER CROPS

Vanilla.—No developments in relation to vanilla have to be recorded during the year.

Tea.—The local tea industry is on the decline and locally grown tea is unable to compete with the imported article.

Food Crops.—The estimated area under food crops was practically the same as in the previous year—i.e. about 8,500 arpents. Importations of South African maize continue to affect adversely the local industry, which can hardly be expected to stabilize itself under these circumstances.

LIVE STOCK

The local stock raising industry continues to be very unfavourably influenced by the importation of cattle on a large scale from Madagascar at very low prices.

The Stock Farm of the Department of Agriculture has been maintained during the year but no sale of stock was held in 1923.

The experimental Dairy at Curepipe has been increased and is now housed in a permanent building designed and equipped on the most modern lines. At the Dairy, milk is now being produced in accordance with the dictates of modern sanitary methods, and pure milk is being supplied to Victoria Hospital at Quatre Bornes, and to Civil Hospital at Port Louis. The Dairy now contains 50 Friesland cows.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

No particular progress has to be recorded during the year in connection with Co-operative Credit Societies.

On the 30th June, 1923, there were 36 Societies and the total membership amounted to 3,660, while the total working capital on the same date amounted to Rs. 442,873, or a decrease of Rs. 52,023 as compared with the year ended June 30th, 1922.

Other industries.—There are large engineering works in various parts of the Colony principally engaged in the readjustment and repair of sugar machinery. Apart from manufacturing industries concerned with the preparation of local produce there are few minor industries in Mauritius and it cannot be said that there are any signs of their number increasing in the near future.

The following table will be found of interest :

INDUSTRIES—(EXCLUSIVE OF AGRICULTURE)

Nature of Industry	Number of establishments or manufactories	Approximate number of persons employed	Raw material used	Approximate output	
				Quantity	Annual Value
					Rs.
1. Engineering works	5	1,600	...	...	2,000,000
2. Bakeries ...	65	300	Wheat Flour	3,000 T.	2,500,000
3. Docks, (landing, shipping, etc.)	4	1,700	...	...	1,000,000
4. Fisheries	...	1,500	Sea Fish	1,200 T.	500,000
5. Lime Burning ...	56	500	Coral	600 T.	20,000
6. Distilleries ...	3	30	Molasses	500,000 lit.	1,431,000
7. Electric Light and Power Supply	4	150	Hydraulic Power	...	......
8. Salt	3	200	Sea water	1,500 T.	150,000
9. Leather Tanning...	2	30	Hides of some 8,000 oxen	...	170,000
10. Ice making ...	...	...	...	900 T.	125,000
11. Oil (ground nuts)...	2	...	...	50,000 lit.	100,000
12. Vinegar making...	...	...	Rum	18,000 lit.	8,000

Among minor industries may be mentioned biscuits, aerated water, furniture, charcoal, bricks, tiles, pottery, aloe ropes, vacoa bags and boot making.

Distilleries.—At present alcohol is produced mainly for consumption as Rum and the output was approximately 500,000 litres as against 1,750,000 litres in the previous year. The raw material used is the molasses produced in the cane sugar industry.

Unexpected difficulties have prevented, so far, the working of the Distillery and Etherification plant at St. Antoine Estate.

FORESTS

Public Departments were supplied during the year with 2,743 cords of firewood worth Rs. 27,857, and 552 cubic feet of timber valued at Rs. 5,394. The total value of these supplies was thus Rs. 33,251 as against Rs. 49,531 for the previous year.

The revenue derived from sales to the public on account of timber, fuel and minor forest produce during the year was Rs.118,435 as against Rs. 227,007 during 1922, and the miscellaneous revenue Rs. 107 as against Rs. 194 in 1922.

FISHERIES

The fishing industry is one of some importance but the methods in use and the business in general still need organisation. The catch is entirely for local consumption and the fish market is poorly supplied with fresh fish, compared with the actual demand.

LEGISLATION

During the year 1923, 37 Ordinances were passed, of which the following are the most important of those which are likely to be of interest outside the Colony :—

The Gandia Ordinance, 1923, (No. 8), which prohibits the cultivation, importation, sale or possession of Gandia (*Cannabis Indica*), was introduced in consequence of a report from the Director of the Medical and Health Department that he was satisfied that, while the average number of male persons confined at any one time in the Lunatic Asylum was about 300, 99 admissions during the last 10 years were solely attributable to the consumption of this substance and that in 20% of all cases of insanity in males Gandia had been the exciting cause. The medicinal preparations specified in the Schedule are excepted as they appear in the British Pharmacopœia and are occasionally prescribed.

The Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 1923, (No. 13), which involves a number of changes of great importance to the Municipality, the principal being :—

(1) The abolition of the system of four wards and the return to the old " scrutin de liste " or single general roll for the whole of Port Louis ;

(2) The vesting in the Municipal Council of the power to elect its own Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the only restriction being that such appointment must be confirmed by the Governor ;

(3) The extension of the qualification of voters at Municipal elections to persons in receipt of a yearly salary of Rs. 1,200, and to guardians of minors who are owners of immoveable properties of the value of Rs. 500 ; and

(4) The disqualifying of certain classes of convicted persons and of persons who have allowed judgment debts to remain unsatisfied, from being elected or continuing to sit as councillors.

The Reciprocal Enforcement of British Judgments Ordinance, 1923, (No. 14), under which a judgment obtained in a Superior Court in the United Kingdom, or in any part of His Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom to which this Ordinance applies, may be registered in the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

The Treasury Bills Ordinance, 1923, (No. 20), which provides for the borrowing of money by the issue of Treasury Bills.

The Official Secrets Ordinance, 1923, (No. 22), which adapts to the Colony the Official Secrets Act, 1920, (10 & 11 Geo. 5 Ch. 75). It follows practically *verbatim* the lines of the English Act and of its Schedules except that Section 5 of the Act is omitted. This deals with the registration and regulation of persons carrying on the business of receiving postal packets. Such a business does not exist and is not likely to exist in the Colony.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Ordinance, 1923, (No. 24), the object of which is to help in checking cruelty to animals. By making half of the fine payable to the informer it was considered that more cases would be brought before the Magistrate.

The Veterinary Surgeons Ordinance, 1923, (No. 27), which regulates the practice of Veterinary Surgery. Previous to the passing of this Ordinance there was no law in Mauritius dealing with Veterinary Surgeons.

The Railway (Amendment) Ordinance, 1923, (No. 30), the object of which is similar to that of Ordinance No. 22 of 1880, viz : to render it more difficult for passengers to defraud the Railway. It follows the lines of the latter Ordinance, which it repeals, but is more drastic : a fine of Rs. 50 is introduced in article 3, and increased penalties are throughout enacted for second or subsequent offences.

EDUCATION

At the close of the year there were 151 primary schools in the Colony : 57 Government and 94 denominational schools assisted by Government grants, of which 66 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 4 Hindoo and 3 Mohammedan. The average attendance was 22,538 as compared with 20,112 in 1922. The attendance of Indian children was 16,398 (boys 13,863, girls 2,535), an increase of 556 as compared with the previous year.

The total number of girls being educated in Primary Schools was 9,733 as against 9,274 in 1922.

During the year 181 candidates competed for the Boys' Scholarship Examination which gives admission to the Royal College. Of these 33 only passed. Six scholarships and six exhibitions were awarded. There were 140 students for the four Girls' Scholarships, of whom 32 passed.

592 candidates (287 men and 305 women) entered for Teachers' Examinations during the year, 127 of whom (72 men and 55 women) passed. 5 First Class certificates were granted (2 to men and 3 to women).

The number of candidates was greater than in the previous year, but the results were very poor, especially as regards the Monitors' Examination at which 72 candidates only out of 467 succeeded in securing a pass.

The number of School Gardens, which are under the entire supervision of the Department of Agriculture, was 18, as against 17 in the previous year. The progress made in these schools was generally satisfactory.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The number of Secondary Schools in the Colony was 9, as in 1922. The total number on roll was 708 boys and 618 girls, while the average attendance was 657 and 581 respectively, as compared with 637 boys and 605 girls on roll for the previous year, with average attendance of 521 and 472 respectively.

In the Secondary Schools, exclusive of the Royal College, the passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations held during the year were as follows :—

	Boys	Girls
Juniors ...	8 ..	7
Seniors ...	... ...	10

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College ; the year opened with 500 pupils on the roll and on 31st December, 1923, the number stood at 450, the average attendance for the year being 469.

Since the erection of the Royal College gymnasium in the year 1922, physical culture has been forming part of the regular school curriculum.

There are two scholarships offered annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Cambridge University Examination Syndicate, of the value of £1,000 each, tenable for four or five years, with £75 passage allowance to or from England. The holders may join any University in the British Empire or study at any scientific or technical institution in the United Kingdom.

From 1st January 1920 those scholarship allowances were temporarily increased by 30 per cent.

73 boys from the Royal College sat for the full School Certificate Cambridge Local Examination and 29 passed, of whom 12 qualified for admission to the English Scholarship Class while 12 sat for the supplementary certificate and 7 passed, of whom 3 qualified.

After an interval of about 9 years, the London University Examinations were again held in Mauritius. In January 1923, 3 pupils and 3 Assistant Masters took the Matriculation Examination ; and 2 pupils and 2 Assistant Masters passed in the 1st Division, while 1 pupil passed in the 2nd Division. In July 1923, 3 Assistant Masters sat for the Intermediate Examination in Arts and Science ; of these 2 passed and 1 was referred in one subject.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Pending the completion of the buildings for the College of Agriculture, the house at Réduit formerly occupied by the Assistant Director was converted into temporary laboratories and class rooms for the teaching of Sugar Technology, Biology, Agriculture and Physics.

The preliminary works for building the College commenced in March 1923 and on the 11th July, 1923, the foundation stone was laid by Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., in presence of the Members of the Council of Government, the Board of Agriculture, and the Board of the Agricultural College. The site selected fronts the main road at Réduit and adjoins the existing head quarters of the Department of Agriculture.

Funds for the maintenance of the College are provided by means of an export tax on sugar of three cents of a rupee per 100 kilos exported, which is levied under Ordinance 2 of 1922 ; the proceeds of this tax are credited to a special fund from which the cost of working is defrayed.

It is proposed to award each year to a former student of the College of Agriculture a laureateship, entitling him to a travelling studentship of two years duration in selected subjects. Selected candidates for laureateships are required to follow courses of instruction prescribed and may, on the completion of their studies, be required to take up positions in the College of Agriculture as Lecturers or Assistant Lecturers on salaries previously fixed.

The first laureateship was awarded in 1922 to Mr. W. H. Edwards, for the purpose of studying Agricultural Entomology and Zoology. Mr. Edwards proceeded to England and was enrolled as a student of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. On the completion of his two years' study in England, his laureateship will be extended for a further period of three months to enable him to study entomological administration in South Africa.

The second laureateship was awarded to Mr. R. Lincoln, who proceeded to England in July 1923 to enrol himself as a student of the School of Agriculture of Cambridge University.

Messrs. Edwards and Lincoln will, it is anticipated, join the College Staff as Lecturers when their courses of training are complete.

PUBLIC WORKS

The following are the principal works carried out in 1923, in addition to maintenance and repairs.

The Leper Asylum at Powder Mills, the Training College at Curepipe and the Industrial School at Cassis have been completed.

Quarters for Postmasters have been erected at Long Mountain and Rivière des Anguilles.

A new Laboratory and Office at Moka Hospital, the Agricultural College at Reduit, a new Dispensary at Curepipe, and an experimental Dairy at Curepipe are under construction.

At Grand River South East and Poudre d'Or, new offices for the Inland Revenue Branch have been built; also a septic tank and filters at Engrais Cathan, Curepipe.

The construction of cottages for working classes at Plaine Lauzun and at the foot of Signal Mountain is being continued.

Large repairs and improvements have been effected to Long Mountain Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, Rose Belle Police and Curepipe District Court.

Pail and Pit Latrines have been constructed in most Government offices and buildings.

WATER WORKS

The hand pump at St. André, Pamplemousses, has been replaced by two pumps driven by oil engines.

Roches Noires Water Supply has been completed.

At "La Cave," large improvements have been made to the pumping plant.

The scheme for supplying water to Quartier Militaire and Providence Jauffret from Rivulet St. Martin has been completed.

The extension of Bambous Water Supply to Medine Railway Station, Medine Estate and La Mecque and the new branch from Mare d'Albert to Malakoff to supply l'Escalier have also been completed.

DRAINAGE WORKS

The construction of the 24" Outfall Sewer is being continued.

A concrete Tipping Chamber has been constructed to receive night soil from undrained portions of the town of Port Louis.

IRRIGATION WORKS

La Ferme.—Revenue collected from sale of water amounted to Rs. 55,900 as compared with Rs. 78,750 in 1922.

La Nicolière.—The earthwork on the main dam has been completed for the first 1,300 feet, the puddle trench excavated and filled all along. Progress on Feeder Channels has been continued and an aqueduct built on Ruisseau Jamblon sixty feet above the river bed, 5 spans of 50 feet on ferro concrete pillars.

Midlands.—The surveys being completed the necessary plans and designs have been prepared and work started on the construction of the dam. The works at the head of the Feeder Channel have been finished and the channel dug on a length of about one mile.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

RAILWAYS

The total length of the Mauritius Government Railway is 120 miles exclusive of the Bois Chéri Light Railway of about 24 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet 8½ inches. 2¼ miles of the line between Petite Rivière and Beau Bassin Stations have been doubled.

Arrangements have now been made for treating the Mauritius Railways as a commercial undertaking, and for keeping the Railway revenue and expenditure separated from those of the Colony ; and it has been decided that the report on the Railway Department should in future cover the financial year from July 1st to June 30th instead of the calendar year as in the past : hence the following figures for the half-year ending 30th June, 1923.

The receipts during the half-year January to June, 1923, were Rs. 1,867,601 as against Rs. 1,748,474 during the corresponding half-year of 1922, or an increase of Rs. 119,127.

These figures do not include Government traffic which amounted to Rs. 285,376 and Rs. 235,665 during the first half-year in 1923 and 1922 respectively.

The receipts for passenger traffic showed an increase of Rs. 92,429 as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1922. As regards goods traffic the tonnage conveyed was 209,633 tons as compared with 167,749 tons in the corresponding half-year of 1922, with a corresponding increase of Rs. 1,710 in the earnings.

The working expenses for the half-year January to June, 1923, amounted to Rs. 1,899,723, as against Rs. 3,216,971 in the corresponding half-year of 1922, or a decrease of Rs. 1,317,248.

The capital expenditure was Rs. 32,776,002 at 30th June, 1923.

The total expenditure for the half-year ending 30th June, 1923, was		Rs. 3,062,230
from which should be deducted the cost of new works chargeable to capital, amounting to		1,162,507
showing the working expenses to be ...		Rs. 1,899,723
The earnings including Government traffic for the same period were		2,152,977
showing a surplus of		Rs. 253,254
If the interest on the Railway Debt	Rs. 190,959	
„ the Sinking Fund	49,515	
„ Pensions to retired officials ...	31,754	
amounting to		Rs. 272,228
be taken into account, there is a deficit of...		Rs. 18,974

BOIS CHERI LIGHT RAILWAY

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from the Savanne branch. The total goods traffic carried from January to June, 1923, amounted to 871 tons, as against 1,447 tons in the corresponding half-year of 1922.

The actual working expenses for the half-year were Rs. 14,906 and the total earnings Rs. 1,036, including Rs. 69 on account of work done for Government Departments.

Proposals are under consideration for placing this line on a sound financial basis, and it is hoped that future returns will show an excess of Revenue over Expenditure.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The Colony is well served by road communications, there being altogether 700 miles of road opened for traffic, out of which 550 miles are under the charge of the Public Works Department, and the remainder maintained by the District Boards and Townships.

In spite of the heavy motor traffic, the roads have been kept in a very fair condition.

The tarring of roads is being extended and done as rapidly as possible, as it has proved very satisfactory.

The gradual reconstruction of timber bridges in ferro concrete is being continued.

Tombeau bridge was started in 1923 and is well advanced; it is nearly 200 feet long and there are 7 spans of 20 feet each.

The timber bridges in Port-Louis are also being reconstructed in ferro concrete, and it is expected that they will have been completely reconstructed by the end of 1924, thus requiring no further maintenance.

The total number of motor vehicles registered on 31st December, 1923, was 2,433—cars 1,991, lorries 197 and motor cycles 245.

POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES

The total revenue from the Post Office in 1923 amounted to Rs. 413,487, being Rs. 9,319 less than that of the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 295,176, showing a decrease of Rs. 12,143 as compared with 1922. The excess of revenue over expenditure was Rs. 118,011 as against Rs. 87,316 in 1922.

The Royal Naval Wireless Telegraph Station at Rose Belle was closed by the Admiralty on June 30, 1922, but has now been taken over by the Mauritius Government. The Station was re-opened on the 1st March, 1924.

TELEPHONES

Telephonic communication, constituted and owned by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company Limited, continues to increase and there are now seven public exchanges open to the public with 3,812 miles of wire (2,085 miles underground and 1,727 miles aerial), giving service to 1,130 subscribers. The system in vogue is Magneto, the switchboards at Port Louis and Curepipe being of the " Reverse Central Battery " variety.

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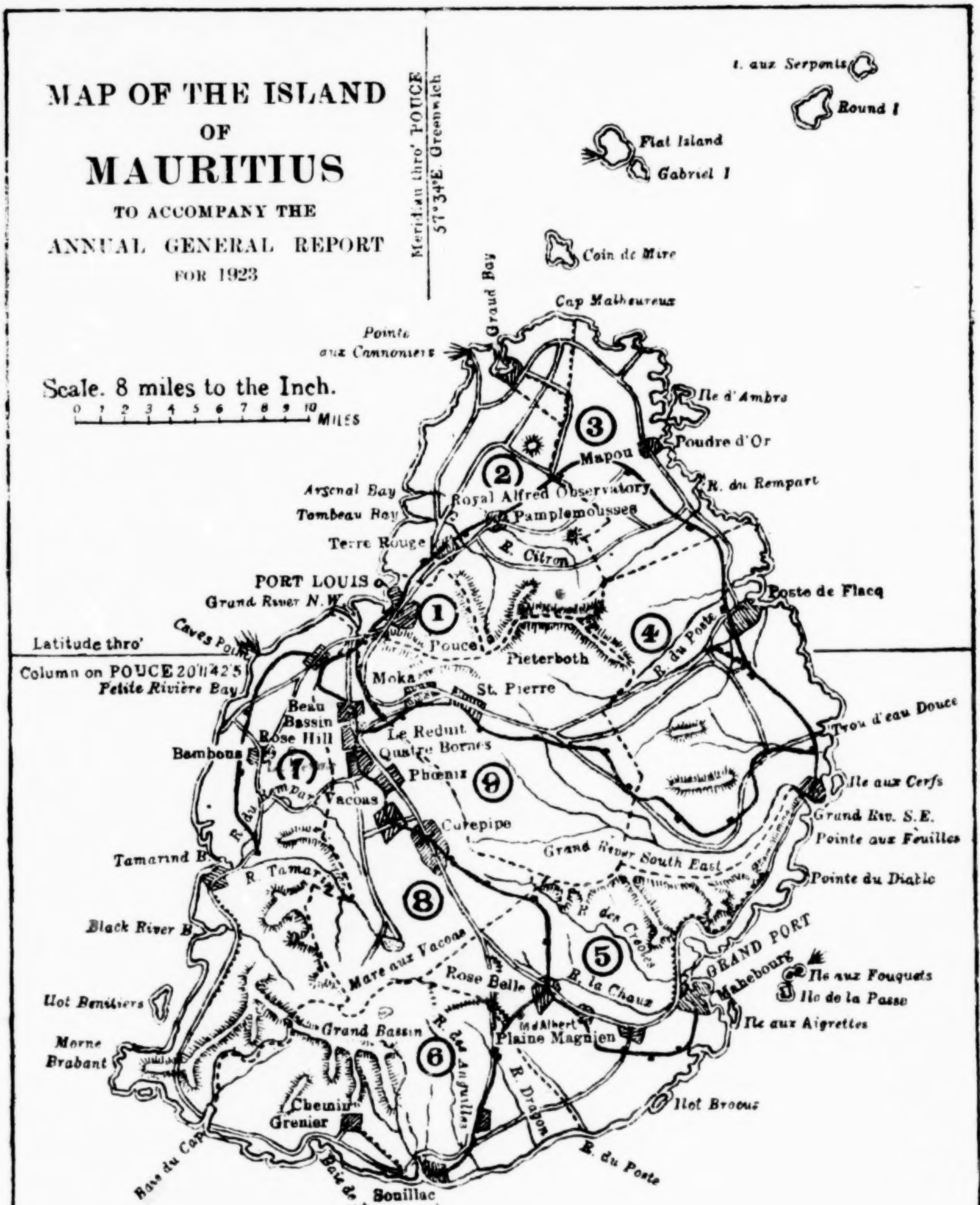
Mac Gregor, Malcolm E.: Report on the Anophelinæ of Mauritius. (Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., London, 1924).

H. LALOUETTE,
Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Port Louis,
19th July, 1924.



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT
FOR 1923

Meridian thro' POUCE
57° 34' E. Greenwich
Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
I. aux Serpents
Round I
Flat Island
Gabriel I
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Royal Alfred Observatory
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Poste de Flacq
Caves Point
Latitude thro'
Column on POUCE 20°11'42"5
Petite Rivière Bay
Pouce
Pieterboth
R. du Poste
Moka
St. Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Redmit
Quatre Bornes
Trou d'eau Douce
Bambous
Phœnix
Vacoas
R. du Rempart
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Curepipe
Pointe aux Feuilles
Tamarind B.
R. Tamarin
Grand River South East
Pointe du Diable
R. des Creoles
Black River B.
Mare aux Vacoas
GRAND PORT
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ilot Benitiers
Grand Bassin
Fort Albert
Plaine Magnien
Ile aux Aigrettes
Morne Brabant
R. des Anguilles
R. Dragon
Chemin Grenier
Ilot Brocus
R. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923–1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922–1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	,,
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923–1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	1923–1924
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	1923
1214	Fiji	,,
1215	British Honduras	,,
1216	New Hebrides	,,
1217	Gibraltar	,,
1218	Jamaica	,,
1219	Sierra Leone	,,
1220	Uganda	,,
1221	Grenada	,,
1222	British Guiana	,,
1223	St. Vincent	,,
1224	St. Helena	,,
1225	Barbados	1923–1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1228	Hongkong	,,
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923–1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914–1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923–1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

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83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
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92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
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REPORT FOR 1924.

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MAURITIUS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1924

SITUATION AND AREA

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles East of Madagascar, between 57°18′ and 57°48′ E. long., and 19°50′ and 20°31′ S. lat. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ordinance 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its extreme breadth 29 miles; and its area covers 720 square miles=460,800 acres. The density of population is very high, being a little over 500 persons per square mile for the whole Island.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of about 50,000. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital, which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, situated at the highest part of the central plateau, has about 20,000 inhabitants. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phœnix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Beau Bassin are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in country districts are Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Poudre d'Or and Bambous.

The island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours, Réunion and Rodrigues, and certainly more stable. (J. S. Gardiner).

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° S. lat. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and an estimated population of 6,783—(3,245 males, 3,538 females), is 350 miles to the East of Mauritius, while lesser islands of some importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the Census of May, 1921, the population of the Lesser Dependencies was ascertained to be 1,810—(1,038 males, 772 females).

HISTORY

Mauritius is said to have been first discovered by the Portuguese in the beginning of the sixteenth century—probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527, when the island is shown on an official map under the name of *Santa Apollonia*, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Réunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Dom Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island *Ilha da Cirnos*, or *Swan Island*, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any permanent settlement by the Portuguese who, for nearly a century, only used the Island as a port of call for repairs and supplies.

The Island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South Eastern Port to which the Commander, Admiral Wybrandt Van Warwyk, gave his own name. He took possession of the Island on behalf of his Government and named it *Mauritius*, in honour of the Statholder, Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days he set sail leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton, of the *Pearl*, visited the Island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt at colonisation was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsy Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the "Compagnie Néerlandaise des Indes," landed at Warwick-Haven or South Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores and dwelling houses were built at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the "13 Cantons" close by. These were followed by other settlers who established themselves in the neighbourhood, where Mahebourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the Island was abandoned, and was again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally and which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1644 were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper, and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the Island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French Vessel *Le Chasseur*, arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the Island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it *Isle de France.* Settlement, however, was only effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fougerai, commanding the *Triton* of St. Malo, resumed possession for the "Compagnie des Indes Orientales," after landing at Isle aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Réunion, who had come to settle, and from that time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735, Mahé de Labourdonnais succeeded M. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the Island. He left the Island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions, however, soon became difficult for the settlers owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the "Compagnie des Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the West Indies, and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling house of "Mon Plaisir," and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French Revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobin leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected and nearly all links with the mother country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French Privateers using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade gained for the Island its reputation still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared for a vigorous attack in 1810 and, after a memorable fight, Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule on the 3rd December, 1810.

The cession of the Isle de France and its dependencies to Great Britain was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, and the Island, under its former name *Mauritius*, has, since 1814, remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical but, owing to the high elevation of the central plateau, a large part of the island enjoys a temperate and even bracing climate. The average temperature of this highland region is about 60° Fah. (15.5°C) and the maximum about 80° Fah. (26.6°C). The low-lying coastal region has naturally a higher average temperature ranging from 90° Fah. (32°C) to 70° Fah. (21°C).

Mauritius lies in the track of cyclones, which are liable to occur during the months December to April. There has been no very severe cyclone since 1892.

The rainfall is irregular and varies according to the locality and elevation. In the central portion of the Island an average yearly rainfall of 175 inches is recorded, whereas regions where there is the lowest rainfall receive less than 40 inches. The rainfall of the coastal districts varies between 25 and 30 inches.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The total value of the Trade of the Colony in 1924 amounted to Rs. 128,698,181 as compared with Rs. 146,677,496 in 1923. The Customs Revenue from Imports was Rs. 8,003,463 as against Rs. 7,765,980 in 1923; but the Revenue from Exports amounted to Rs. 2,414,052 as compared with Rs. 2,945,801 in the preceding year.

Weather conditions were markedly unfavourable during the harvesting and milling season, and, as a result, although the tonnage in the field was generally excellent, the sucrose content of the cane was considerably below normal. The Sugar production, however, amounted to 221,000 metric tons as compared with 201,550 metric tons in 1923–24.

The mean prices at which sugar was sold in 1923-24 were Rs. 18.94, but it is estimated that the mean sale price for the 1924–25 season will be about Rs. 12.50 per 50 kilos.

In August 1924, Sir Herbert James Read, K.C.M.G., C.B., was appointed Governor of Mauritius in the place of Sir H. Hesketh Bell, G.C.M.G., whose term of office was on the eve of expiration. Sir Hesketh left Mauritius on the 16th August, 1924, and Mr. E. A. Grannum, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, assumed the administration of the government from the same date, pending the arrival of Sir Herbert Read.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st December, 1924, was 387,743 or an increase of 6,065 on the previous year's figures and of 11,258 on the last Census figures (May 20, 1921).

The number of births and deaths during the year was 15,430 and 10,558 respectively.

The birth-rate in the general population was 42.3 and in the Indian population 39.6 per mille, as against 40.9 and 34.9 respectively for the previous year.

The death-rates per 1,000 in the two populations for 1924 were 27.5 and 27.7, as against 29.6 and 28.1 respectively for 1923.

The highest death-rate for 1924 is shown in Black River (36.5) and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems (20.6). The mortality in 1924 was remarkably low. The death-rate for the whole Colony (27.7 per mille) is the lowest since 1880 (28.71), and for Port Louis the rate (34.6 per mille) is the lowest since 1880 (33.5) excepting 1923 (34.1). The number of deaths due to malaria and malarial cachexia (highest death-producing factors in Mauritius) was 1,732 as against 1,979 in 1923. The proportion to total deaths is 16.4%. Other diseases commonly fatal are pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia—1,296 in 1924 as against 1,393 in 1923—and diseases of early infancy—1,075 in 1924 as against 1,026 in 1923.

There were 161 cases of plague during the year, of which 144 proved fatal; the figures for 1923 being 139 and 118 respectively. The largest number of cases was, as usual, in Port Louis (101). The percentage of deaths was 89.4.

There were 107 cases of Enteric fever registered in the Island as against 150 in the previous year.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) gives a ratio of 129.6 per thousand live-births as against 139.4 in

1923. There were 1,608 still births registered during the year representing a rate of 104.2 per thousand live-births, as against 112.2 in 1923.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The following statement shows in a tabular form the number of cases treated in the public hospitals and at the dispensaries for the last five years :—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	Average
Hospital admission	22,132	19,127	19,337	17,069	18,663	19,266
Dispensaries ...	65,302	60,671	85,638	53,225	52,641	63,495
Outdoor cases ...	4,225	5,066	6,491	12,032	15,570	8,677
	91,659	84,864	111,466	82,326	86,874	91,438

The total number of cases is above that for 1923, but is below the average of the five-year period 1920–24.

MENTAL HOSPITAL

The total number of persons certified insane on 31st December, 1924, was 686, or 22 less than in 1923. This figure represents a ratio of insane to total population of 17.69 to 10,000.

The admissions into the Mental Hospital numbered 240. They are classified into : first admissions 102, second admissions 7, fifth admission 1, readmission from probation 44, readmission from Barkly Asylum Mental Wards 54, from Civil Hospital 6, readmission from leave 1, and 25 admitted on interim order but found not insane after examination by Commissioners in Lunacy.

The number of inmates left on 31st December, 1924, was 444 (244 males and 200 females) at the Mental Hospital and 110 (50 males and 60 females) in the Barkly Mental Branch Wards.

LEPER ASYLUM

At the Leper Asylum there were 38 patients at the beginning of the year (males 22 females 16). There were 2 admissions during the year (1 male and 1 female), 7 deaths and no discharges. The construction of the new Leper Asylum has been completed, and the transfer of the lepers was effected on the 1st February, 1924. Legislation relative to the compulsory segregation of lepers is under consideration.

POOR RELIEF

Exclusive of the pauper cases treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries, 617 paupers, as compared with 558 in 1923, received institutional relief during 1924 at the Barkly Asylum and at different religious institutions.

1,618 paupers received pecuniary out-door relief permanently or temporarily, during 1924, as against 1,546 in 1923.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS

There were 1,297 persons committed to prison during the year, i.e. 345 less than in the previous year. Of the total, 1,238 were males and 59 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December, 1924, was 327 as against 358 in the preceding year.

There were 2 deaths among prisoners during the year. 24 prisoners were subjected to corporal punishment. There was no execution. The number of juvenile offenders was 81 as against 58 in the previous year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The cases reported to the Police numbered 19,558 as against 21,063 for 1923 in connection with which 11,145 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned by the Magisterial Courts. 9 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 17 in 1923.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The total revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1924, amounted to Rs. 19,897,483, or Rs. 3,650,251 below the revenue for the preceding year, and Rs. 3,990,596 below the average revenue for the preceding five years.

The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 16,588,702, thus leaving a surplus over the year's transactions of Rs. 3,308,781 which, added to Rs. 8,678,408—the surplus on the 30th June, 1923,—brings the Surplus Balances on the 30th June, 1924, to Rs. 11,987,189.

Of the expenditure for 1923–24, Rs. 4,543,553 were spent on personal emoluments and Rs. 12,045,149 under other charges. The corresponding figures for 1922–23 were : personal emoluments Rs. 5,268,118 and other charges Rs. 16,763,058.

The decrease of Rs. 724,565 under personal emoluments and of Rs. 4,717,909 under other charges is mainly due to the accounts of the Railway Department being now shewn separately.

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years :—

Year	Revenue	Expenditure
1919–20	Rs. 18,605,596	Rs. 19,422,903
1920–21	40,168,210*	24,729,540
1921–22	25,599,994	26,347,658
1922–23	23,547,734	22,031,176†
1923–24	19,897,483	16,588,702

PUBLIC DEBT

At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony amounted to £ 1,632,390 as compared with £ 1,265,724 at 30th June, 1923. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £ 701,429 as compared with £ 659,832 at 30th June, 1923.

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* Includes Rs. 13,377,987 and Rs. 2,378,029 collected under Ordinances Nos. 36 and 37 of 1920, respectively (special export taxes on Sugar for general improvements, etc.)

† Exclusive of Rs. 13,784,640 transferred to the Mauritius Improvement and Development Fund.

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The currency of the Colony consists of :—

- (1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :—
  - (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents and 5 cents.
  - (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.
- (2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.
- (3) Nickel coins : 4 annas of India.
- (4) The Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5. and R. 1.
- (5) Indian currency notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 15,645,126 as compared with Rs. 19,175,588 in 1922–23.

The average amount of silver held amounted to Rs. 5,761,521 as compared with Rs. 9,296,338 the average for 1922–23.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund), which stood at Rs. 9,879,250 on 1st July, 1923, remained the same during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 861,370 to Rs. 970,085. The Revenue (Interest on investments less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs. 420,133 and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a surplus of Rs. 970,085. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June 1924, the surplus would be increased to Rs. 1,031,543.

Government Savings Banks are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June 1924 was 36,500 as against 36,103 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,356,104 as against Rs. 5,590,934 in the preceding year. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June, 1924, there were 15,730 depositors with Rs. 2,687,010 to their credit, as against 15,150 depositors with Rs. 2,982,994 to their credit on 30th June, 1923.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent.

The Banks are the Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India and the National Bank of South Africa.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE

The value of the trade for 1924, exclusive of Dependencies and omitting Bullion and Specie, was Rs. 128,698,181, showing a decrease of Rs. 17,979,315 on the preceding year.

The comparative values of imports and exports for 1913 and the last five years are as follows :—

Year	Imports	Exports	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1913	36,607,671	32,291,706	68,899,377
1920	86,371,153	127,497,305	213,868,458
1921	105,744,980	157,249,822	262,994,802
1922	77,039,447	91,106,703	168,146,150
1923	76,835,565	69,841,931	146,677,496
1924	76,415,648	52,282,533	128,698,181

The value of the re-exports was Rs. 1,580,413.

Rs. 4,514,591 worth of bullion and specie were imported during the year, and Rs. 177,150 were exported.

The trade value in 1924 was Rs. 64,607,869 below the average value for the five preceding years, viz: Rs. 193,306,050, and was about twice the trade value of 1913.

The fall in trade, as compared with 1923, was mainly due to the reduced value of the sugar exports.

IMPORTS

As in 1923, about two-thirds of the imports came from the United Kingdom and India, the former occupying the first place on the list of countries. France maintained its position in the third place with a further increase on the previous year's figures. The value of imports from Germany, in 1924, was about four times as great as in 1913.

Notable decreases were recorded in the imports from the Union of South Africa and Madagascar, while the value of the imports from Spain, Belgium, Holland and Ceylon increased by about 50%.

EXPORTS

Sugar.—The following table shows the sugar exports for the last six years:—

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Kilos ...	302,826,129	182,464,726	229,224,689	292,744,249	223,051,061	182,742,235
Rupees...	125,103,201	124,633,854	154,592,301	88,454,321	67,227,562	19,823,753

Other Domestic Exports.—Exports other than sugar are not of any considerable importance. Aloe fibre and copra head the list with Rs. 413,819 and Rs. 224,117 in 1924, as compared with Rs. 164,112 and Rs. 171,094 respectively in 1923.

The quantity and value of aloe fibre exported during each of the last six years are shown below:—

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Kilos ...	2,176,521	874,241	287,106	1,007,296	599,554	1,092,881
Rupees...	782,285	248,140	100,234	385,754	164,112	413,819

Other exports are rum, undressed skins, coconut oil, &c.

SHIPPING

The following statement shows the number of vessels which entered and left the harbour during the last three years:—

	Number of Vessels	
Year	Inwards	Outwards
1922	226	225
1923	207	207
1924	215	210

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1924 was 968,209 tons: steamers 958,406 tons and sailing vessels 9,803 tons.

In the coastal trade with the Dependencies some 31 calls were made, with an aggregate of 13,334 tons.

Steamers of the following steamship lines called at Port Louis:—Union Castle Steamship Company, Limited; British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited; Messageries Maritimes; Clan Line; Ellerman-Harrison Line and the Compagnie Havraise Péninsulaire.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

The industries of the Island are entirely agricultural; there is no mineral wealth of any importance. The chief industry is the cultivation of the sugar cane covering about 171,000 acres or one-third of the total area of the Colony, which, with the exception of British India, is thus the largest sugar producer among the British possessions, the production for the last five years averaging about a quarter of a million tons.

There are 50 sugar factories ranging in productive capacity from 1,500 tons to 15,000 tons, but it is anticipated that the number will be reduced as a result of centralization.

At the end of 1923 the area cultivated by Indians was estimated to be 73,600 arpents (76,760 acres) or nearly 45% of the total cane cultivation, the figure having almost doubled since 1909.

Agricultural labour is almost exclusively Indian in origin and was derived from importations of indentured Indian labour until 1910, when indentured immigration from India was prohibited. Immigration was, however, resumed, subject to certain conditions and on a restricted scale, for a period of twelve months ending on 31st May, 1924.

This importation, unfortunately, gave disappointing results. Many of the imported labourers had returned to India by the end of the year, and it is not improbable that shortly all will be repatriated.

In December, an Official Delegate of the Government of India, Mr. Kunwar Maharaj Singh, C.I.E., visited Mauritius for the purpose of reporting on the labour situation in relation to immigration.

There were, on the 31st December 1924, 19,005 immigrants settled in the Colony, consisting of 13,452 males and 5,553 females, and including 1,261 new immigrants (841 males, and 420 females). The total number of labourers, including both immigrants and "creoles," serving under written or verbal contract on estates was 17,745 on 31st December 1924.

The Indian population on estates was estimated at 45,505 on 31st December 1924—*i.e.* 18,250 men, 12,195 women and 15,060 children.

The fall in sugar prices has led, since 1921, to a reduction of about 5,000 acres in the total area under cane cultivation. In order to reduce, as far as possible, the labour difficulty instrumental cultivation is being adopted on a large scale. Ploughs and tractors to the value of Rs. 186,235 were imported during the year, and the number of estates using these instruments is increasing.

The Sugar Planters Syndicate, which was formed in 1920 and was reconstituted under Ordinance No. 7 of 1921, disposes of the local sugars to private buyers on a co-operative basis.

SUBSIDIARY INDUSTRIES

The introduction of agricultural industries other than sugar cane, so as to reduce the economic dependence of the Colony on a single industry, continues to receive attention, and the fall in the price of sugar has aroused real interest in various minor cultivations.

ALOE FIBRE

Aloe fibre is produced mainly from the leaves of Furcrœya Gigantea (Mauritius hemp), a plant which grows wild all over the island. The area under aloe is estimated at about 20,000 acres.

The high prices obtained for aloe fibre at the commencement of 1922, viz: about Rs. 600 per ton, were not maintained for long and, by the middle of that year, had fallen to Rs. 350 per ton—i.e. a figure only slightly above the cost of production. In 1924 the sale price per ton was about Rs. 375.

COCONUTS

Coconut growing is confined to the extreme littoral of the Island. No great changes of importance were recorded during the year in connection with this Industry.

The copra production from the Lesser Dependencies amounted to about 805 tons.

TOBACCO

Efforts to develop the tobacco industry have been continued under the auspices of the Government during the year, and the system of permits for the cultivation of tobacco without payment of tax was continued. At the end of the year 1924, about 200 acres were under cultivation.

The Government Tobacco Factory has been fitted with new machinery with a view to improving the quality of the tobacco manufactured.

OTHER CROPS

Vanilla.—This industry showed no marked development, although the market for Vanilla firmed up considerably during the year.

Tea.—The tea industry is on the decline and the local produce is unable to compete with teas imported from India and Ceylon.

Food Crops.—The estimated area under food crops was practically the same as in the previous year—i.e. about 8,500 arpents. Importations of South African maize continue adversely to affect the local industry, which in these circumstances can hardly be expected to stabilize itself.

LIVE STOCK

The local stock breeding industry continues to suffer, mainly owing to the importation of cattle on a large scale from Madagascar at very low prices.

The Stock Farm of the Department of Agriculture has been maintained during the year but the sale of stock held in 1924 gave disappointing results.

New buildings have been erected at the Government Dairy at Curepipe and the Dairy has now been completed on modern lines. Pure milk is supplied to Victoria Hospital at Quatre Bornes, and to the Civil Hospital at Port Louis. The Dairy now contains 50 cows.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

The year proved a difficult one for the Societies.

On the 30th June, 1924, there were 32 Societies and the total membership amounted to 3,209, while the total working capital on the same date amounted to Rs. 341,911, or a decrease of Rs. 100,962 as compared with the year ended June 30th, 1923.

Other industries.—There are large engineering works in various parts of the Colony principally engaged in the readjustment and repair of sugar machinery. Apart from manufacturing industries concerned with the preparation of local produce there are some other minor industries in Mauritius, of which the principal are the following:—

Engineering works, Bakeries, Docks, (landing, shipping, etc.), Fisheries, Lime Burning, Distilleries, Electric Light and Power Supply, Salt, Leather Tanning, Ice making, Oil (ground nuts), Vinegar making; also biscuits, aerated water, furniture, charcoal, bricks, tiles, pottery, aloe ropes, vacoa bags and boot making.

Distilleries.—At present alcohol is produced mainly for consumption as Rum and the output was approximately 520,000 litres as against 500,000 litres in 1923 and 1,750,000 litres in 1922. The decrease in the output is due to the operation of new legislation which makes Rum dearer and harder to get. The raw material used is the molasses produced in the cane sugar industry.

No further progress was recorded in relation to the working of the Distillery and Etherification plant at St. Antoine Estate.

FORESTS

Public Departments were supplied during the year with 3,147 cords of firewood for which they paid Rs. 38,401.

The revenue derived from sales of timber, fuel and minor forest produce during the year was Rs. 116,998 as against Rs. 118,435 during 1923.

FISHERIES

The fishing industry is one of some importance but the catch is quite inadequate for the local market.

LEGISLATION

During the year 1924, 40 Ordinances were passed, of which the following are the most important or otherwise require special notice:—

(1) THE PASSPORTS ORDINANCE, 1924, (No. 1) which prohibits any person without a passport or some other document satisfactorily establishing his nationality and identity from entering the Colony without the permission of the Governor.

(2) THE WIRELESS TELEPHONY ORDINANCE, 1924, (No. 4) which regulates the use of wireless telephony. The ordinance insists on the grant of a licence as a condition precedent to the use, &c., of a wireless telephone and provides penalties which may include the confiscation of the apparatus improperly used. The actual machinery of the law is dealt with by regulations which should be read as an integral part of the Ordinance.

(3) THE CUSTOMS PREFERENTIAL TARIFF ORDINANCE, 1924, (No. 20) which provides for a preferential tariff in respect of certain

specified goods which are shown to the satisfaction of the Collector of Customs to have been produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom and consigned therefrom. The Governor is empowered to extend, by Proclamation, the preferential tariff to goods imported from such British Possessions as may grant reciprocity.

(4) THE LICENCES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1924, (No. 28) which carries into effect the recommendations of a Committee appointed to advise as to the shortcomings of the law relative to the sale of liquor. The object of the Ordinance is to make liquor dearer and harder to get.

(5) THE OPIUM (CONSOLIDATED) ORDINANCE, 1924, (No. 30) which consolidates the previous Ordinance. The Ordinance gives further powers to the Governor in Executive Council to regulate the sale, possession and distribution of opium, other than raw or prepared opium the importation, exportation, manufacture, sale and possession of which is absolutely prohibited.

2.—THE MAINTENANCE ORDERS (FACILITIES FOR ENFORCEMENT) ORDINANCE, 1920, has been made reciprocal with the Colonies of Seychelles and Ceylon where similar legislation exists.

EDUCATION

At the close of the year there were 149 primary schools in the Colony: 57 Government and 92 denominational schools assisted by government grants, of which 65 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 4 Hindoo and 2 Mohammedan. The average attendance was 22,582 as compared with 22,538 in 1923. The attendance of Indian children was 17,214 (boys 14,743, girls 2,471), an increase of 816 as compared with the previous year.

The total number of girls educated in Primary Schools was 10,028 as against 9,733 in 1923.

During the year 278 candidates competed for the Boys' Scholarship Examination for free tuition at the Royal College. Of these 28 only passed. Six Scholarships and six exhibitions were awarded. There were 136 students for the four Girls' Scholarships, of whom 30 passed.

789 candidates (386 men and 403 women) entered for Teachers' Examinations during the year, 172 of whom (71 men and 101 women) passed. First Class certificates were granted to 2 male teachers.

The number of candidates was greater than in the previous year, but the results were very poor, especially as regards the Monitors' Examination at which only 143 candidates out of 637 succeeded in securing a pass.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The number of Secondary Schools in the Colony was 9, as in 1923. The total number on roll was 751 boys and 662 girls, while the average attendance was 669 and 554 respectively, as compared with 708 boys and 618 girls on roll for the previous year, with average attendance of 657 and 581 respectively.

In the Secondary Schools, exclusive of the Royal College, the passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations held during the year were as follows :—

	Boys	Girls
Junior ...	9 ...	4
Senior ...	4 ...	7

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College. The year opened with 450 pupils on the roll and, on 31st December, 1924, the number stood at 420 ; while the average attendance for the year was 397.

There are two scholarships offered annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Cambridge University Examination Syndicate, of the value of £1,000 each, tenable for four or five years, with £75 passage allowance to or from England. The holders may join any University in the British Empire or study at any scientific or technical institution in the United Kingdom.

Since 1st January 1920 these scholarship allowances have been temporarily increased by 30 per cent.

87 boys from the Royal College sat for the full School Certificate Cambridge Local Examination and 29 passed, of whom 8 qualified for admission to the English Scholarship Class while 12 sat for the supplementary certificate. Of the latter 8 passed, of whom 3 qualified for admission to the English Scholarship Class.

In June, 1924, 2 pupils and 1 Assistant Master took the Matriculation Examination. 1 pupil passed in the 1st Division and 1 Assistant Master in the 2nd Division. In July 1924, 3 Assistant Masters sat for the Intermediate Examination in Arts and Science. Of these 2 passed.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

During the year a new edition of the Prospectus was called for and the opportunity was taken to revise the existing syllabus to some extent and to make definite provision for students desiring to sit for the examination for registration as agricultural chemists, for registration as veterinary surgeons and for the examination of the City & Guilds of the London Institute.

Previously the scholastic year began in September but under the new arrangement it will now commence in January. The arrangement has the advantage that it synchronises with the commencement of the scholastic year of the Royal College and other secondary schools and in addition falls in the *entrecoupe* period, thus facilitating the arrangement of short courses. In consequence no new students were admitted during the year.

Preliminary and final examinations of the City and Guilds of the London Institute in Sugar Technology were held in May 1924. Nine candidates presented themselves of whom seven satisfied the examiners.

Twenty six part-time students were attached to the College during the period January to June making a total of thirty nine students on the College books, including the thirteen regular students.

In consequence of the decision arrived at in the previous year to extend one laureateship for an additional year no laureateship was awarded during 1924. A laureateship will be awarded in 1925.

Progress was continued on the College buildings and by the end of 1924 they were practically ready for occupation. All the necessary equipment and supplies were received and installed.

Funds for the maintenance of the College are provided by means of an export tax on sugar of three cents of a rupee per 100 kilos exported, levied under Ordinance 2 of 1922.

PUBLIC WORKS

The following are the principal works carried out in 1924 in addition to the usual maintenance and repairs :—

Completion of the Agricultural College, Reduit.
Experimental Dairy at Curepipe.
A new Market at Flacq.
Dining room Calebasses Infirmary.
Brisée Verdière Cemetery, including water supply.
Quarters for linemen and assistants at Rose Belle and Rose Hill.
New School at Clarens.

Extensive improvements have been made to Victoria, Moka and Mahebourg Hospitals.

Enlargements have been made to Curepipe Boys' School and to Souillac School.

The construction of cottages for the working class at Bell Village is being continued.

Pit and pail latrines have been constructed in Government offices and buildings.

WATER WORKS

Mare-aux-Vacoas.—The laying of a separate main for Moka is in hand. The Pumping Station of St. André has been completed and pipes have been laid to Triolet and Trou aux Biches villages.

The delivery pipe of La Cave Pumping Station has been replaced by one of larger diameter on a length of about one mile.

The new Pumping Station of Goodlands is in hand.

Pipes have been laid from Ruisseau Jamblon to Brisée Verdière and St. Julien villages.

The Eaux Bonnes water to Bambous village has been extended to Medine and La Mecque.

The laying of pipes to Camp Diable village and the improvements to the Grand Port Water Supply are in hand.

The scheme for the chlorination of the G. R. N. W. water for the supply of Port Louis is in progress.

DRAINAGE WORKS

The work on the main sewerage scheme in Port Louis has progressed steadily during the year. The remainder of the sea outfall, a length of 96 feet, has been completed early in the year, and since that time the night soil, deposited in the main sewer at the Tipping Chamber, Cassis, has been conveyed direct to sea and discharged at a point 810 feet from High Water Mark.

1,980 feet of pipes have been laid in Praslin Street and 3,720 feet at Model Village.

In order to facilitate the disposal of the night soil in the eastern part of Port Louis, a dumping septic tank 60′ × 17′ × 8′6″, with a rotary streaming filter 37′ in diameter, was constructed in Paul and Virginie Street, together with the necessary sheds for cleaning and disinfecting buckets.

IRRIGATION WORKS

The construction of La Nicolière and Midlands Irrigation works has been proceeding satisfactorily.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

RAILWAYS

The total length of the Mauritius Government Railway is 120 miles exclusive of the Bois Chéri Light Railway of about 24 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet 8½ inches. The line between Petite Rivière and Beau Bassin Stations, and between Pailles and Central Stations, has been doubled. The deviation line between Vacoas and Curepipe Road has also been commenced.

The gross earnings during the year were Rs. 5,102,681 as against Rs. 4,395,778 for the previous year, or an increase of Rs. 706,903.

The receipts for passenger traffic showed an increase of Rs. 446,720 over the previous year's figures. As regards goods traffic although the tonnage conveyed was 494,708 tons as compared with 601,466 tons in 1922–23, there was an increase of Rs. 240,149 in the earnings.

The working expenses amounted to Rs. 4,165,287, as against Rs. 4,706,472 in 1922–23, or a decrease of Rs. 541,185.

The total revenue was		Rs. 5,744,402
The total expenditure		5,183,158
Surplus		Rs. 561,244
Less :—Interest on the Railway Debt	Rs. 332,500	
Sinking Fund ...	86,673	
Pensions to retired officials	64,123	483,296
Net surplus at 30th June, 1924 ...		Rs. 77,948

The amount paid under personal emoluments was Rs. 783,722.

BOIS CHÉRI LIGHT RAILWAY

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from the Savanne branch. The total paying traffic during the year amounted to 24,936 tons, as against 29,151 tons in the previous year.

The actual working expenses were Rs. 39,449 and the total earnings Rs. 24,761.

The excess of Expenditure over Revenue was Rs. 14,688.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The Island is well served by road communications, there being altogether 700 miles of road open for traffic, out of which 550 miles are under the charge of the Public Works Department, the remainder being maintained by the District Boards and Townships.

In spite of heavy motor traffic, the roads have been kept in a very fair condition.

The tarring of roads is being extended and done as rapidly as possible with successful results.

The gradual reconstruction of timber bridges in ferro concrete is being continued.

Tombeau Bridge—5 spans and Maillard Bridge No. 2 have been reconstructed in ferro concrete.

The Suspension G. R. N. W. Bridge—span 154 has b replaced by an iron one for heavy traffic.

The roads of the Colony have been improved and the tarri of the Road from Port Louis to Curepipe is in hand.

Improvements have been made to the Municipal roads transferred to the Government.

POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES

The total Revenue from the Post Office in 1924 amounted to Rs. 488,224, or an excess of Rs. 74,737 over that of the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 347,153 showing an increase of Rs. 51,677 as compared with 1923. The excess of revenue over expenditure was Rs. 141,071 as against Rs. 118,011 in 1923.

The Royal Naval Wireless Telegraph Station at Rose Belle was closed by the Admiralty on June 30, 1922, but has now been taken over by the Mauritius Government. The Station was re-opened on the 1st March, 1924.

TELEPHONES

Telephonic communication, constituted and owned by the Oriental Telephone & Electric Co. Ltd., continues to increase and there are seven public exchanges opened to the public with 3,378 circuit miles of wire (2,089 miles being underground and 1,289 miles aerial) giving service to 1,169 stations, 1,044 being direct exchange lines. The Company deal with approximately a quarter of a million calls a month.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER BOOKS OF REFERENCE CONCERNING MAURITIUS

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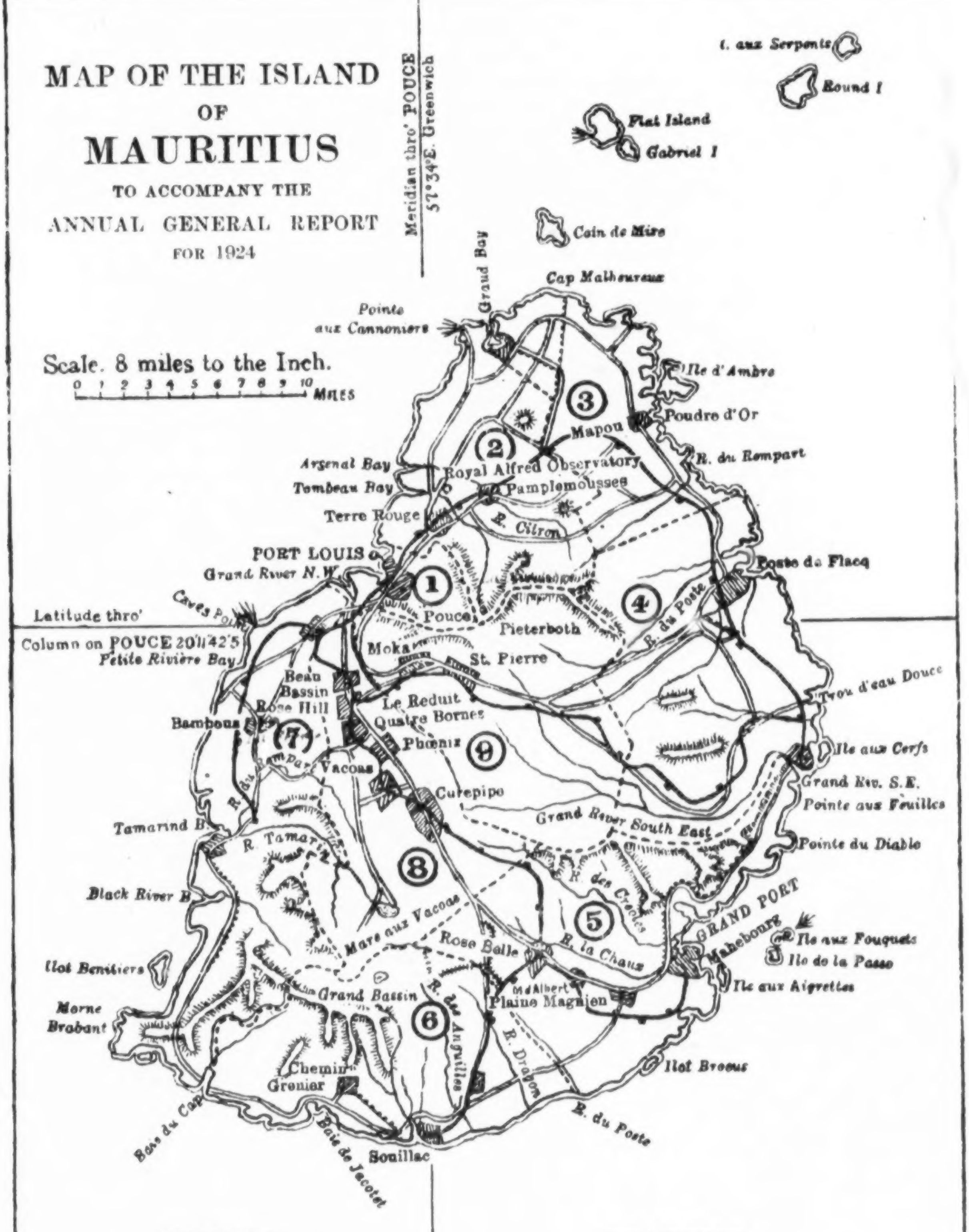
E. W. EVANS,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Port Louis,
9th September, 1925.

MAP OF THE ISLAND
OF
MAURITIUS
TO ACCOMPANY THE
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT
FOR 1924


Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°34'E. Greenwich
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42"S
I. aux Serpents
Round I
Flat Island
Gabriel I
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Petite Rivière Bay
Poste de Flacq
R. du Poste
Pouce
Pieterboth
Moka
St. Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Bambous
Phoenix
Vacoas
Curepipe
R. du Rempart
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Grand River South East
Pointe du Diable
Tamarind B.
R. Tamarin
Black River B.
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ile aux Aigrettes
Mare aux Vacoas
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Ilot Benitiers
Morne Brabant
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
Mt Albert
Plaine Magnien
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
R. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No 1332.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1925.

For Report for 1923 see No. 1234 (Price 1s. 3d.) and for Report for 1924 see No. 1281 (Price 9d.).

PRINTED IN MAURITIUS

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15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

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Price 9*d*. Net.

MAURITIUS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1925

SITUATION AND AREA

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles East of Madagascar, between 57°18′ and 57°48′ E. long., and 19°50′ and 20°31′ S. lat. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ordinance 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its extreme breadth 29 miles; and its area covers 720 square miles = 460,800 acres. The density of population is very high, being about 550 persons per square mile for the whole Island.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of about 53,000. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital, which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, situated at the highest part of the central plateau, has about 20,000 inhabitants. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phœnix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Beau Bassin are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in country districts are Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Poudre d'Or and Bambous.

The island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours, Réunion and Rodrigues, and certainly more stable. (J. S. Gardiner).

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° S. lat. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and an estimated population of 7,015 (3,394 males, 3,621 females), is 350 miles to the East of Mauritius, while lesser islands of some importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the Census of May, 1921, the population of the Lesser Dependencies was ascertained to be 1,810—(1,038 males, 772 females)

HISTORY

Mauritius is said to have been first discovered by the Portuguese in the beginning of the sixteenth century—probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527, when the island is shown on an official map under the name of *Santa Apollonia*, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Réunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Dom Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island *Ilha da Cirnos* or *Swan Island*, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any permanent settlement by the Portuguese who, for nearly a century, only used the Island as a port of call for repairs and supplies.

The Island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South Eastern Port to which the Commander, Admiral Wybrandt Van Warwyk, gave his own name. He took possession of the Island on behalf of his Government and named it *Mauritius*, in honour of the Statholder, Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days he set sail leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton, of the *Pearl*, visited the Island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt at colonisation was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsy Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the "Compagnie Néerlandaise des Indes", landed at Warwick-Haven or South Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores and dwelling houses were built at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the "13 Cantons" close by. These were followed by other settlers who established themselves in the neighbourhood, where Mahebourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the Island was abandoned, and was again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally and which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1644 were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper, and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the Island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French Vessel *Le Chasseur*, arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the Island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it *Isle de France*. Settlement, however, was only effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fougerai, commanding the *Triton* of St. Malo, resumed possession for the "Compagnie des Indes Orientales," after landing at Isle aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Réunion, who had come to settle, and from that time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735, Mahé de Labourdonnais succeeded M. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the Island. He left the Island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions, however, soon became difficult for the settlers owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the "Compagnie des Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the West Indies, and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling house of "Mon Plaisir," and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French Revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobin leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected and nearly all links with the mother country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French Privateers using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade gained for the Island its reputation still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared for a vigorous attack in 1810 and, after a memorable fight, Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule on the 3rd December, 1810.

The cession of the Isle de France and its dependencies to Great Britain was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, and the Island, under its former name *Mauritius*, has, since 1814, remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical but, owing to the high elevation of the central plateau, a large part of the island enjoys a temperate and even bracing climate. The average temperature of this highland region is about 60° Fah. (15.5°C) and the maximum about 80° Fah. (26.6°C). The low-lying coastal region has naturally a higher average temperature ranging from 90° Fah. (32°C) to 70° Fah. (21°C).

Mauritius lies in the track of cyclones, which are liable to occur during the months December to April. There has been no very severe cyclone since 1892.

The rainfall is irregular and varies according to the locality and elevation. In the central portion of the Island an average yearly rainfall of 175 inches is recorded, whereas regions where there is the lowest rainfall receive less than 40 inches. The rainfall of the coastal districts varies between 25 and 30 inches.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The total value of the Trade of the Colony in 1925 amounted to Rs. 106,161.738 as compared with Rs. 128,698,181 in 1924. The Customs Revenue from Imports was Rs. 5,821,967 as against Rs. 8,003,463 in 1924; and the Revenue from Exports amounted to Rs. 1,984,085 as compared with Rs. 2,411,052 in the preceding year.

Weather conditions were generally dry during the growing season but improved markedly in July and August. As a result, although tonnage was frequently low, the sucrose content of the cane was, generally, highly satisfactory and the total output of sugar but slightly below normal.

A cyclone passed close eastward of the Island on the 12th of December. The damage done to the plantations was negligible in view of the fact that harvesting was almost completed. The Sugar production amounted to 241,220 metric tons as compared with 224,710 metric tons for the previous year.

The mean prices at which sugar was sold in 1924–25 were Rs. 12.30, but it is estimated that the mean sale price for the 1925–26 season will be about Rs. 9.34 per 50 kilos.

Sir Herbert James Read, K.C.M.G., C.B., whose appointment as Governor of Mauritius was notified in August, 1924, assumed the Administration of the Colony on the 19th of February, 1925, when Sir Edward Allan Grannum, Kt., C.M.G., who had been acting as Officer Administering the Government, resumed the duties of his office as Colonial Secretary.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st December, 1925, was 393,708 or an increase of 5,965 on the previous year's figures and of 17,223 on the last Census figures (May 20, 1921).

The number of births and deaths during the year was 16,545 and 9,327 respectively.

The birth-rate in the general population was 45.2 and in the Indian population 41.5 per mille, as against 42.3 and 39.6 respectively for the previous year.

The death-rates per 1,000 in the two populations for 1925 were 23.8 and 24.2, as against 27.5 and 27.7 respectively for 1924.

The highest death-rate for 1925 is shown in Black River (32.4) and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems (19.4). The death-rate for the whole Colony (24.1 per mille) is the lowest since 1870 (22.6), and the rate (33.5) for Port Louis in 1880 has fallen to 26.1 in 1925. The number of deaths due to malaria and malarial cachexia (highest death-producing factors in Mauritius) was 1,631 as against 1,732 in 1924. The proportion to total deaths is 17.5%. Other diseases commonly fatal are pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia—785 in 1925 against 1,296 in 1924—and diseases of early infancy—1,090 in 1925 as against 1,075 in 1924.

There were 74 cases of plague during the year, of which 65 proved fatal; the figures for 1924 being 161 and 144 respectively. The largest number of cases was, as usual, in Port Louis (48). The percentage of deaths was 87.8.

There were 122 cases of Enteric Fever registered in the Island against 107 in the previous year.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) gives a ratio of 119.7 per thousand live-births against 129.6 in 1924. There were 1,439 still births registered during the year representing a rate of 87.0 per thousand live-births, as against 104.2 in 1924.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The following statement shows the number of cases treated in the public hospitals and at the dispensaries for the last five years :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Average
Hospital admission	19,127	19,337	17,069	18,663	19,810	18,801
Dispensaries ...	60,671	85,638	53,225	52,641	54,296	61,294
Out-door cases ...	5,066	6,491	12,032	15,570	19,621	11,756
	84,864	111,466	82,326	86,874	93,727	91,851

The total number of cases is above that for 1924, and is also above the average of the five-year period 1921–25.

MENTAL HOSPITAL

The total number of persons certified insane on 31st December, 1925, was 700, or 14 more than in 1924. This figure represents a ratio of insane to total population of 17.77 to 10,000.

The admissions into the Mental Hospital numbered 220. They are classified into: first admission 100, second admission 13, third admission 2, readmission from probation 28, readmission from Barkly Asylum Mental Wards 59, from Civil Hospital 2, and 16 admitted on interim order but found not insane after examination by Commissioners in Lunacy.

The number of inmates left on 31st December, 1925, was 432 (259 males and 173 females) at the Mental Hospital and 155 (62 males and 93 females) in the Barkly Mental Branch Wards.

LEPER HOSPITAL

At the Leper Hospital there were 25 patients at the beginning of the year (13 males 12 females). There were 5 admissions during the year (4 males and 1 female), 2 deaths and no discharges.

POOR RELIEF

Exclusive of the pauper cases treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries, 905 paupers, as compared with 617 in 1924, received institutional relief during 1925 at the Barkly Asylum and at different religious institutions.

2,127 paupers received pecuniary out-door relief permanently or temporarily, during 1925, as against 1,618 in 1924.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS

There were 1,497 persons committed to prison during the year, i.e. 200 more than in the previous year. Of the total, 1,437 were males and 60 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December, 1925, was 321 as against 327 in the preceding year.

There were 3 deaths among prisoners during the year. 25 prisoners were subjected to corporal punishment. There was no execution. The number of juvenile offenders was 61 against 81 in the previous year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The cases reported to the Police numbered 20,100 as against 19,558 for 1924 in connection with which 10,388 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned by the Magisterial Courts. 11 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 9 in 1924.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The total revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1925, amounted to Rs. 19,672,843, or Rs. 224,640 below the revenue for the preceding year, and Rs. 5,554,306 below the average revenue for the preceding five years.

The Expenditure amounted to Rs. 17,653,716, inclusive of Rs. 297,847 spent from Surplus Balances on Irrigation Works. The net surplus on the year's transactions of Rs. 2,019,128 together with Rs. 451,508 refunded from Loan Account Advances, Irrigation Works, added to the surplus on 30th June, 1924, viz: Rs. 11,987,189, gave a surplus on 30th June, 1925, of Rs. 14,457,825.

Of the expenditure for 1924-25, Rs. 4,536,055 were spent on personal emoluments and Rs. 13,117,661 under other charges. The corresponding figures for 1923-24 were: personal emoluments Rs. 4,543,553 and other charges Rs. 12,045,149.

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

Year	Revenue	Expenditure
1920-21	... Rs. 40,168,210*	... Rs. 24,729,540
1921-22	... 25,599,994	... 26,347,658
1922-23	... 23,547,734	... 22,031,176†
1923-24	... 19,897,483	... 16,588,702
1924-25	... 19,672,843	... 17,653,716

PUBLIC DEBT

At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony amounted to £ 1,699,057 as compared with £ 1,632,390 at 30th June, 1924. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £ 738,012 as compared with £ 701,429 at 30th June, 1924.

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The currency of the Colony consists of:—

(1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5:—

  (a) Bronze: 1 cent, 2 cents and 5 cents.

  (b) Silver: 10 cents, 20 cents.

(2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.

(3) Nickel coins: 4 annas of India.

(4) The Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5 and R. 1.

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* Includes Rs. 13,377,987 and Rs. 2,378,029 collected under Ordinances Nos. 36 and 37 of 1920, respectively (special export taxes on Sugar for general improvements, etc.)

† Exclusive of Rs. 13,784,640 transferred to the Mauritius Improvement and Development Fund.

(5) Indian currency notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 15,214,018 as compared with Rs. 15,645,126 in 1923–24.

The average amount of silver held amounted to Rs. 5,334,798 as compared with Rs. 5,761,521 the average for 1923–24.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund), which stood at Rs. 9,879,250 on 1st July, 1924, remained the same during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 970,085 to Rs. 1,087,572. The Revenue (Interest on investments less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs. 420,205 and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a surplus of Rs. 1,087,572. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June 1925, the surplus would be increased to Rs. 1,388,200.

Government Savings Banks are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June 1925 was 36,498 as against 36,500 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,153,623 as against Rs. 5,356,104 in the preceding year. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June, 1925, there were 15,810 depositors with Rs. 2,406,252 to their credit, as against 15,730 depositors with Rs. 2,687,010 to their credit on 30th June, 1924.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent.

The private Banks are the Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India and the National Bank of South Africa.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE

The value of the trade for 1925, exclusive of Dependencies and omitting Bullion and Specie, was Rs. 106,161,738, showing a decrease of Rs. 22,536,443 on the preceding year.

The comparative values of imports and exports for 1913 and the last five years are as follows :—

Year	Imports Rs.	Exports Rs.	Total Rs.
1913	36,607,671	32,291,706	68,899,377
1921	105,744,980	157,249,822	262,994,802
1922	77,039,447	91,106,703	168,146,150
1923	76,835,565	69,841,931	146,677,496
1924	76,415,648	52,282,533	128,698,181
1925	61,682,844	44,478,894	106,161,738

The value of the re-exports was Rs. 2,032,071.

Rs. 249,479 worth of bullion and specie were imported during the year, and Rs. 185,558 were exported.

The trade value in 1925 was Rs. 77,915,279 below the average value for the five preceding years, viz : Rs. 184,077,017, and was a little above 1.5 of the trade value of 1913.

IMPORTS

As in 1924, about two-thirds of the imports came from the United Kingdom and India, the latter occupying the first place on the list of countries. France maintained its position in the third place with a decrease on the previous year's figures. The value of imports from Australia, in 1925, showed a marked increase compared with 1924.

Notable decreases were recorded in the imports from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Union of South Africa and the United States of America.

EXPORTS

Sugar.—The following table shows the sugar exports for the last six years:—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Kilos ...	182,464,726	229,224,689	292,744,249	223,051,061	182,742,235	192,303,540
Rupees ...	124,633,854	154,592,301	88,454,321	67,227,562	49,823,753	41,250,907

Other Domestic Exports.—Exports other than sugar are not of any considerable importance. Aloe fibre, copra and rum head the list with Rs. 557,072, Rs. 154,308 and Rs. 112,202 in 1925, as compared with Rs. 413,819, Rs. 224,117 and Rs. 26,681 respectively in 1924.

The quantity and value of aloe fibre exported during each of the last six years are shown below:—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Kilos ...	874,241	287,106	1,007,296	599,554	1,092,881	1,896,445
Rupees ...	248,140	100,234	385,754	164,112	413,819	557,072

Other exports are undressed skins, coconut oil, vanilla, &c.

SHIPPING

The following statement shows the number of vessels which entered and left the harbour during the last three years:—

Year	Number of Vessels Inwards	Number of Vessels Outwards
1923	207	207
1924	215	210
1925	234	229

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1925 was 1,252,172 tons: steamers 1,245,728 tons and sailing vessels 6,444 tons.

In the coastal trade with the Dependencies some 37 calls were made, with an aggregate of 16,671 tons.

Steamers of the following steamship lines called at Port Louis:—Union Castle Steamship Company, Limited; British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited; Messageries Maritimes; Clan Line; Ellerman-Harrison Line and the Compagnie Havraise Péninsulaire.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

The industries of the Island are entirely agricultural, the principal being the cultivation of the sugar cane which covers about 163,497 acres or one-third of the total area of the Colony.

There are 46 sugar factories as against 50 in 1924, ranging in productive capacity from 1,500 tons to 25,000 tons, and it is anticipated that the number will be further reduced as a result of centralization.

In 1925 the area cultivated by Indians was estimated to be 68,900 arpents (72,531 acres) or about 44.4% of the total cane cultivation.

Agricultural labour is almost exclusively Indian in origin and was derived from importations of indentured Indian labour until 1910, when indentured immigration from India was prohibited. Immigration was, however, resumed, subject to certain conditions and on a restricted scale, for a period of twelve months ending on 31st May, 1924. The importation has not since been renewed.

There were, on the 31st December 1925, 17,354 immigrants settled in the Colony, consisting of 12,433 males and 4,921 females, and including 253 new immigrants (195 males and 58 females). The total number of labourers serving under written or verbal contract on estates was 18,018 on 31st December 1925.

The Indian population on estates was estimated at 42,558 on 31st December 1925—*i.e.* 16,284 men, 11,511 women and 14,763 children.

The fall in sugar prices has led to a further reduction of about 4,000 acres in the total area under cane cultivation which, at the end of 1924, was about 167,165 acres. Strenuous efforts have been made on Estates to reduce the cost of production. New sugar machinery and tramway material to the value of Rs. 1,350,069 and Rs. 622,687 respectively were imported during the year. Ploughs and tractors are now used on a large scale, and, in view of the much cheapened cost of labour, it is hoped that the cost of production will, henceforth, be considerably reduced.

A Sugar Planters Syndicate was formed in 1920 and reconstituted under Ordinance No. 7 of 1921.

SUBSIDIARY INDUSTRIES

The depression in relation to the sugar industry has caused increased attention to be paid to the question of subsidiary industries and a Committee has been appointed by the Government to consider steps to be taken to facilitate development in that direction.

ALOE FIBRE

Aloe fibre is produced mainly from the leaves of Furcrœya Gigantea (Mauritius hemp), a plant which grows wild all over the island. The area under aloe is estimated at about 20,000 acres.

Quotations for aloe fibre fluctuated between Rs. 500 and Rs. 390 per ton.

COCONUTS

Coconut growing is confined to the extreme littoral of the Island. No great changes of importance were recorded during the year in connection with this Industry.

The copra production from the Lesser Dependencies average between 800 and 900 tons yearly.

TOBACCO

Efforts to develop the tobacco industry have been continued during the year, and the system of permits for the cultivation of tobacco without payment of tax still obtains.

At the end of 1925 there were approximately 250 acres under cultivation, representing an increase of 100% in two years. Experiments have been carried out for the production of bright leaf for cigarette purposes and the results are most promising.

There are now three Chinese, and one government, factories in the Island.

OTHER CROPS

Vanilla.—This industry showed no marked development, in spite of favourable market conditions.

Tea.—The tea industry shows no sign of progress, the local produce being unable to compete with foreign imported teas.

Food Crops.—In general food crops showed marked progress during the year. In 1924 maize was grown on about 2,000 acres, and manioc on 3,000. There was an increase under both heads in 1925.

Vegetables which occupied 3,000 acres in 1924 have increased by about 20%.

LIVE STOCK

The local stock breeding industry remained practically stagnant. Importation of cattle from Madagascar numbered 9,044 heads of a total value of Rs. 622,080.

Special interest, however, has been given to the rearing of small stock, notably goats, poultry and rabbits.

The Government Dairy at Curepipe continued to work satisfactorily, and interest in improved dairy conditions continued to be manifested.

Other industries.—The principal minor industries are the following:

Engineering works, Bakeries, Docks, (landing, shipping, etc.), Fisheries, Lime Burning, Distilleries, Electric Light and Power Supply, Salt, Leather Tanning, Ice making, Oil (ground nuts), Vinegar making; also biscuits, aerated water, furniture, charcoal, soap, bricks, tiles, pottery, aloe ropes, vacoa bags, boot making, etc.

Distilleries—At present alcohol is produced mainly for consumption as Rum and the output was approximately 638,000 litres as against about 530,000 litres in 1924. In 1925, 86,370 litres of rum were exported as against 38,294 in 1924.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

On the 30th June, 1925, there were 30 Societies and the total membership amounted to 2,994, while the total working capital on the same date was Rs. 311,663 or a decrease of about Rs. 25,000, as compared with year ended June 30th, 1924.

FORESTS

Public Departments were supplied during the year with 1,375 cords of firewood for which they paid Rs. 20,621.

The revenue derived from sales of timber, fuel and minor forest produce during the year was Rs. 92,226 as against Rs. 116,998 during 1924.

FISHERIES

In August, 1925, a Commission was appointed to enquire into, and report upon, the conditions of this industry and to suggest such measures as may appear necessary for placing it on a better basis, especially with a view to increasing and cheapening the supply of fish for public consumption. The matter is still receiving consideration.

LEGISLATION

During the year 1925, 47 Ordinances were passed, of which the following are the most important or otherwise require special mention :—

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY) Ordinance, 1925, (No. 2) which provides for the installation of wireless telegraphy on board British ships registered in Mauritius.

THE TOWN BOARDS PENSIONS ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 8) providing for the grant of pensions and gratuities to officers or servants of Town Boards.

THE ANIMAL DISEASES (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 9) which regulates the importation of animals into the Colony with the view of protecting the Island from the introduction of animal diseases.

THE EMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 27) which regulates the emigration of skilled labour from Mauritius with the view of preventing emigrants being left destitute in a foreign country and having to be repatriated at the expense of the Colony.

THE DECEASED PUBLIC OFFICERS SALARY ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 30) which increases the amount of the gratuities payable on the death of a Public Officer.

THE PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 31) which provides for the grant of a gratuity with a reduced pension on retirement of a Public Officer.

THE SAVINGS BANK (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 40) which creates a branch of the Savings Bank at Rodrigues and extends to that dependency certain provisions of the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1898. This Ordinance also provides for the increase of deposits in the Savings Bank.

THE CUSTOMS ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 46) which consolidates and amends the Customs law. This Ordinance embodies all the necessary legal machinery for the protection of the revenue and the administration of the Customs Department under modern trade conditions.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 47) which consolidates and brings up to date the law of Public Health (apart from Quarantine).

EDUCATION

At the close of the year there were 149 primary schools in the Colony: 57 Government and 92 denominational schools assisted by government grants, of which 65 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 4 Hindoo and 2 Mohammedan. The average attendance was 23,970 as compared with 22,582 in 1924. The attendance of Indian children was 18,174 (boys 15,533, girls 2,641), an increase of 960 on the previous year.

The total number of girls educated in Primary Schools was 10,206 as against 10,028 in 1924.

During the year 283 candidates competed for the Boys' Scholarship Examination for free tuition at the Royal College. Of these 43 passed. Six Scholarships and six Exhibitions were awarded. There were 155 students for the four Girls' Scholarships, of whom 20 passed.

838 candidates (480 men and 358 women) entered for Teachers' Examinations during the year, 28 of whom (12 men and 16 women) passed. First Class certificates were awarded to 2 female teachers.

The number of candidates was greater than in the previous year, but the results were very poor, especially as regards the Monitors' Examination at which only 26 candidates out of 649 succeeded in securing a pass.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The number of Secondary Schools in the Colony was 9, as in 1924. The total number on roll was 776 boys and 698 girls, while the average attendance was 685 and 564 respectively, as compared with 751 boys and 662 girls on roll for the previous year, with average attendance of 669 and 554 respectively.

In the Secondary Schools, exclusive of the Royal College, the passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations held during the year were as follows :—

		Boys		Girls
Junior	...	5	...	2
Senior	...	6	...	6

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College. The year opened with 420 pupils on the roll and, on 31st December, 1925, the number was 349; while the average attendance for the year was 368.

There are two scholarships offered annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Cambridge University Examination Syndicate, of the value of £ 1,000 each, tenable for four or five years, with £ 75 passage allowance to or from England. The holders may join any University in the British Empire or study at any scientific or technical institution in the United Kingdom.

Since 1st January 1920 these scholarship allowances have been temporarily increased by 30 per cent.

In January and June, 1925, 3 pupils passed the London University Matriculation Examination in the 1st Division and 1 in the 2nd Division, while 3 candidates passed the Intermediate Examination in Science.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

The College Buildings were completed and opened for work in January 1925.

During the year a course of lectures on Hygiene and Sanitation as applied to Estate conditions was delivered to first-year students. The course of training in Animal Husbandry was made to include practical work in relation to farm animals on the Government Farm, while a special course of instruction in Poultry Keeping was carried out.

In January, 1925, eleven new whole time students were admitted to the College. During the year six second-year and three third-year students followed the College courses; during the same period two part-time students were attached to the College for special instruction, so that in all twenty two students were on the College Books.

The examination of the City and Guilds of London Institute in Sugar Technology was held in April, 1925, when two candidates passed in the second Division. Examinations for the Registration of Agricultural Chemists were held in July; one candidate passed the Preliminary and three the final Examination.

One laureateship was awarded in 1925. The laureate is pursuing a course of study in relation to the Technology of Sugar Manufacture and Engineering at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

PUBLIC WORKS

The following are the principal works carried out in 1925 in addition to the usual maintenance and repairs:—

Sanitary Office at Mahebourg.
Forest Rangers Quarters at Nouvelle Découverte.
Large improvements to Victoria Hospital.
Enlargement of Bacteriological Laboratory.
Quarters for linemen at Rose Belle.
Quarters for cemetery keeper and labourers at Union Park.
Nouvelle France Police Station.
New Operating Room, Flacq Hospital.
New Ward, Long Mountain Hospital.

The construction of cottages for the working class at Bell Village was continued.

The construction of pit and pail latrines on Government offices and buildings has been proceeded with.

WATER WORKS

Mare aux Vacoas.—In addition to the maintenance works, the following lengths of new mains have been laid:—8,050 feet of 1″, 1300 of 1½″, 5,250 of 2″, 1,920 of 3″ and 1,440 of 4″. Eight public fountains were erected and 605 new supplies granted.

The separate main for the improvement of the Moka supply has been completed and the Camp Fouquereaux scheme has been started and is progressing satisfactorily.

Three additional filters are being put up at La Marie. The type adopted is the Slow Sand Filter similar to those existing at present. The filters will afford an additional filtering surface of 98,164 square feet.

Port Louis.—A large reservoir to contain one million gallons of water is in course of construction at Maupin and with the Monneron reservoir the town of Port Louis will have service reservoirs of a total capacity of over two million gallons. The filling in of the filters at the Chlorination Plant with stones and sand is progressing.

Important extensions and improvements have been made to the various District Board water supplies.

DRAINAGE WORKS

The work on the main Sewerage Scheme in Port Louis progressed speedily during the year.

The Maupin street section was linked to the d'Entrecasteaux section which has now been completed. A section from Armoury stream and d'Orleans section has also been completed, so that with the exception of two gaps at Gravel Lane and Armoury stream the whole gravitation main from Mère Barthelmy street to the sea has been completed.

The connections of Bell Village to the main sewer have been completed.

IRRIGATION WORKS.

Nicolière-Midlands scheme.—The construction works connected with this scheme have progressed steadily during the year.

The Nicolière reservoir is nearing completion. The distributory system has been studied on its main lines and excavation works are progressing.

On the Nicolière side a Feeder Channel from Midlands to Nicolière has been excavated on a length of 2,761 feet.

On the Midlands side, about 1½ miles of channel has been constructed.

La Ferme Scheme.—This scheme was put to a severe test this year, the rainfall and the river system feeding La Ferme having been below the normal.

To guard against shortages Rivière du Poste is being diverted into the Mare-aux-Vacoas and a reliable supply can be had therefrom. The price charged for water has been reduced, as from the 1st July, 1925, from one rupee per 8,000 cubic feet to one rupee per 12,000 cubic feet.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

RAILWAYS

The total length of the Mauritius Government Railway is 120 miles exclusive of the Bois Chéri Light Railway of about 24 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The gross earnings during the year were Rs. 4,930,244 as against Rs. 5,102,681 for the previous year, or a decrease of Rs. 172,437.

The receipts for passenger traffic showed a decrease of Rs. 320,199 over the previous year's figures. As regards goods traffic the tonnage conveyed was 550,040 tons as compared with 494,708 tons in 1923–24, giving an increase of Rs. 84,795 in the earnings.

The working expenses amounted to Rs. 4,251,916, as against Rs. 4,165,287 in 1923–24, or an increase of Rs. 86,629.

The total revenue was		Rs. 4,930,244
The total expenditure		4,251,916
Surplus		Rs. 678,328
Less :—Interest and Sinking Fund	Rs. 419,173	
Alterations to Stations	29,703	
Contribution to Pension Fund	81,461	
„ Renewals Fund	640,000	
		1,170,337
Loss on Working at 30th June, 1925 ...		Rs. 492,009

The amount paid under personal emoluments was Rs. 794,841 as against Rs. 783,722 in 1923–24.

BOIS CHERI LIGHT RAILWAY

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from the Savanne branch. The total paying traffic during the year amounted to 23,906 tons, as against 25,188 tons in the previous year.

The actual working expenses were Rs. 25,874 and the total earnings Rs. 30,024, thus leaving a balance in favour of earnings of Rs. 4,150.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The Island is well served by Road communications, there being altogether seven hundred miles of road open for traffic, out of which 550 miles are under the charge of the Public Works Department, the remainder being maintained by the District Boards and Townships.

In spite of heavy motor traffic the roads have been kept in a very fair condition.

The tarring of roads is being extended as rapidly as possible with successful results and bad curves and hills are being improved.

The rolling and tarring of the road from Port Louis to Curepipe is progressing.

General improvements to the roads and bridges taken over from the Municipality of Port Louis have been continued.

The gradual reconstruction of timber bridges in ferro-concrete is being continued.

Rempart Bridge in Black River has been reconstructed in ferro-concrete.

POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES

The total Revenue from the Post Office in 1925 amounted to Rs. 419,887, or a decrease of Rs. 68,337 on that of the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 495,419, showing an increase of Rs. 148,266 as compared with 1924. The total expenditure includes Rs.128,430 spent on the laying of underground cable, a non-annually recurrent work. The excess of expenditure over revenue was Rs. 75,532.

TELEPHONES

Telephonic communication, constituted and owned by the Oriental Telephone & Electric Co. Ltd., has not maintained the progress of recent years. There are five exchanges opened to the public with 3,326 circuit miles of wire (2,094 miles being underground and 1,232 miles aerial) giving service to 1,124 stations, 971 being direct exchange lines. The Company deals with approximately 215,000 calls per month.

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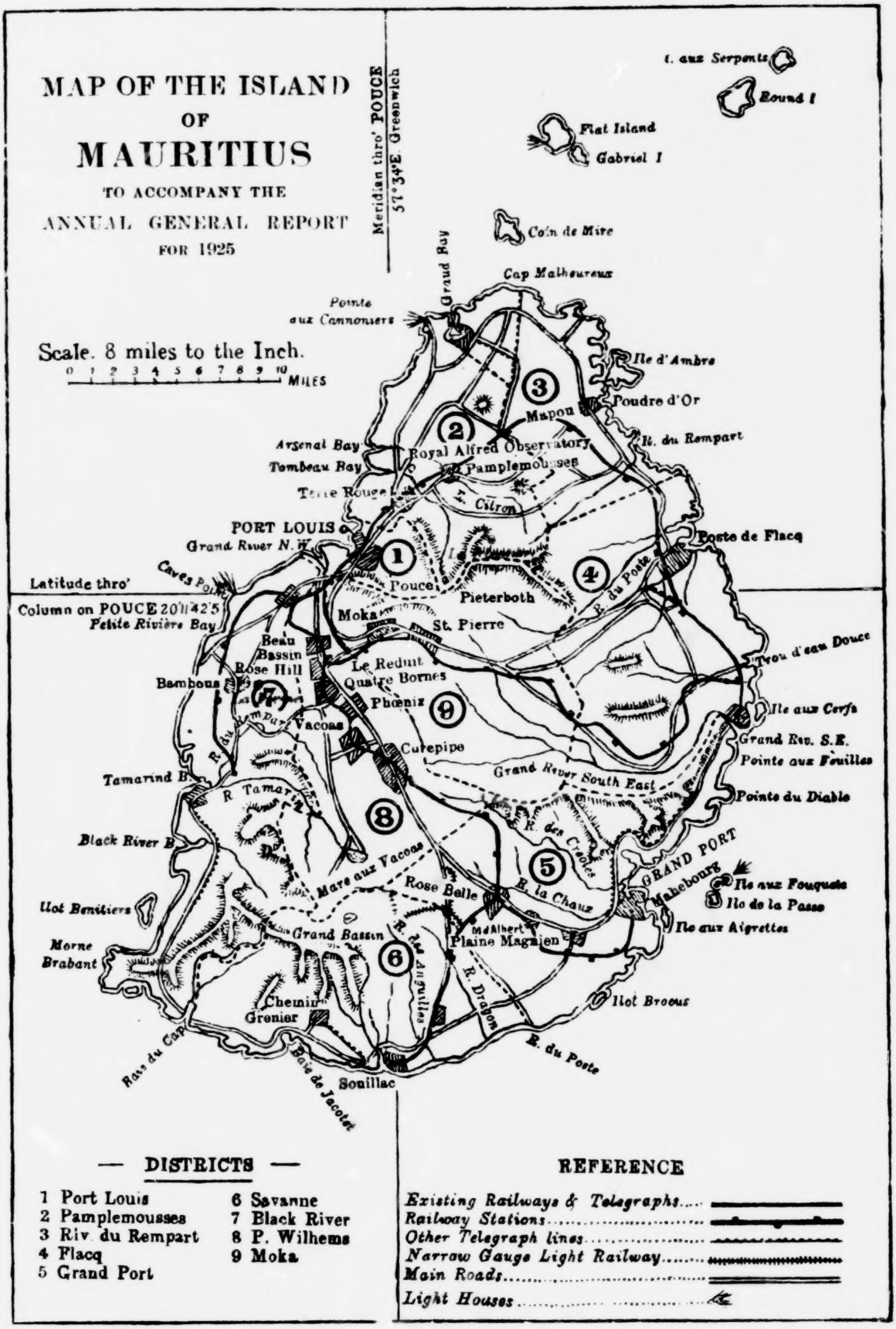
H. LALOUETTE,
Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Port Louis,
27th October, 1926.



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT
FOR 1925

Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°34'E. Greenwich
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42.5
I. aux Serpents
Round I
Flat Island
Gabriel I
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Petite Rivière Bay
Pouce
Pieterboth
Moka
St. Pierre
Poste de Flacq
R. du Poste
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Phœnix
Bambous
R. du Rempart
Vacoas
Curepipe
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Grand River South East
Pointe du Diable
Tamarind B.
R. Tamarind
Black River B.
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ile aux Aigrettes
Mare aux Vacoas
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Ilot Benitiers
Morne Brabant
Grand Bassin
R. des Anguilles
Mt. Albert
Plaine Magnien
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
R. du Poste
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
— DISTRICTS —
1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka
REFERENCE
Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40*s.* per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924–25, No. 1289	*1s. 9d.*
BAHAMAS, 1926, No. 1330	*9d.*
BARBADOS, 1925–26, No. 1301	*9d.*
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294	*9d.*
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925–26, No. 1317	*1s.*
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309	*9d.*
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300	*1s.*
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308	*1s.*
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REPORT FOR 1926.

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MAURITIUS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1926

SITUATION AND AREA

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles East of Madagascar, between 57°18′ and 57°48′ E. long., and 19°50′ and 20°31′ S. lat. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ordinance 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its extreme breadth 29 miles; and its area covers 720 square miles=460,800 acres. The density of population is very high, being about 550 persons per square mile for the whole Island.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of about 43,000. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital, which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, situated on the highest part of the central plateau, has about 20,000 inhabitants. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phœnix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Beau Bassin in Plaines Wilhems District are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in the other country districts are Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Poudre d'Or and Bambous.

The island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours, Réunion and Rodrigues, and certainly more stable. (J. S. Gardiner).

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° S. lat. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and an estimated population of 7,269 (3,516 males, 3,753 females), is 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, while lesser islands of some importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the census of May, 1921, the population of the Lesser Dependencies was ascertained to be 1,810—(1,038 males, 772 females)

HISTORY

Mauritius is said to have been first discovered by the Portuguese in the beginning of the sixteenth century—probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527, when the island is shown on an official map under the name of *Santa Appollonia*, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Réunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Dom Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island *Ilha da Cirnos* or *Swan Island*, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any permanent settlement by the Portuguese who, for nearly a century, only used the Island as a port of call for repairs and supplies.

The Island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South Eastern Port to which the Commander, Admiral Wybrandt Van Warwyk, gave his own name. He took possession of the Island on behalf of his Government and named it *Mauritius*, in honour of the Statholder, Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days he set sail leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton, of the *Pearl*, visited the Island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt at colonisation was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsy Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the " Compagnie Néerlandaise des Indes," landed at Warwick-Haven or South Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores and dwelling houses were built at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the " 13 Cantons " close by. These were followed by other settlers who established themselves in the neighbourhood, where Mahebourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the island was abandoned, and was again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally and which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1664, were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper, and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the Island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French Vessel *Le Chasseur*, arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the Island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it *Ile de France*. Settlement, however, was only effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fougerai, commanding the *Triton* of St. Malo, resumed possession for the " Compagnie des Indes Orientales," after landing at Ile aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Réunion, who had come to settle, and from that time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735, Mahé de Labourdonnais succeeded M. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the Island. He left the Island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions, however, soon became difficult for the settlers owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the " Compagnie des

Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the West Indies, and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling house of "Mon Plaisir," and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French Revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobin leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected and nearly all links with the mother country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French Privateers using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade gained for the Island its reputation still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared for a vigorous attack in 1810 and, after a memorable fight, Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule on the 3rd December, 1810.

The cession of the Isle de France and its dependencies to Great Britain was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, and the Island, under its former name *Mauritius*, has, since 1814, remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical but, owing to the high elevation of the central plateau, a large part of the island enjoys a temperate and even bracing climate. The average temperature of this highland region is about 60°Fah. (15.5°C) and the maximum about 80°Fah. (26.6°C). The low-lying coastal region has naturally a higher average temperature ranging from 90° Fah (32°C) to 70° Fah.(21°C.)

Mauritius lies in the track of cyclones, which are liable to occur during the months December to April. There has been no very severe cyclone since 1892.

The rainfall is irregular and varies according to the locality and elevation. In the central portion of the Island an average yearly rainfall of 175 inches is recorded, whereas regions where there is the lowest rainfall receive less than 40 inches. The rainfall of the coastal districts varies between 25 and 30 inches.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The total value of the Trade of the Colony in 1926 amounted to Rs. 91,804,335 as compared with Rs. 106,161,738 in 1925. The Customs Revenue from Imports was Rs. 5,202,132 as against

Rs. 5,821,967 in 1925; and the Revenue from Exports amounted to Rs. 1,490,293 compared with Rs. 1,984,085 in the preceding year. The reduced revenue from Exports was due to the lower rate of duty on sugar of the 1926–27 crop and to the smaller quantity of sugar shipped in 1926.

All the principal items of Imports showed generally a decreased revenue in 1926, except wines in bottles, cotton piece goods and petroleum oil.

Weather conditions, during the year, were abnormal. Cyclonic activity was little in evidence during the summer months, resulting in a marked shortage of rain. On the other hand, a cyclone occurred late in April and although the wind was not very strong the damage done to the sugar plantations was considerable. As a result of the abnormally high temperatures with heavy rainfall during the winter season, the sucrose content of the cane was low and the total production of sugar fell considerably below expectation.

The sugar production amounted to 196,000 metric tons as against 241,220 metric tons for the previous year. The cyclone referred to and the abnormal weather during the grinding season were responsible for the shortage in the year's production.

The final average sale price of sugar of the 1925–26 crop was Rs. 8.90 per 50 kilos, and the mean sale price for the 1926–27 season is estimated at Rs. 10.05 per 50 kilos.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st December, 1926, was 398,236 or an increase of 4,528 on the previous year's figures and of 21,751 on the last Census figures (May 20, 1921).

The number of births and deaths during the year was 15,520 and 9,958 respectively.

The birth-rate in the general population was 41.8 and in the Indian population 38.4 per mille as against 45.2 and 41.5 respectively for the previous year.

The death-rates per 1,000 in the two populations for 1926 were 25.0 and 25.4 as against 23.8 and 24.2 respectively for 1925.

The highest death-rate for 1926 is shown in Black River (33.2) and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems (18.4). The death-rate for the whole Colony was 26.4 per mille compared with 24.1 in 1925, and the rate for Port Louis was 28.0 as against 26.1 in the previous year. The number of deaths due to malaria and malarial cachexia (highest death-producing factors in Mauritius) was 1,842 as against 1,634 in 1925. The proportion to total deaths is 18.5%. Other diseases commonly fatal are pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia—850 in 1926 against 785 in 1925—and diseases of early infancy—964 in 1926 as against 1,090 in 1925.

There were 46 cases of plague during the year, of which 41 proved fatal; the figures for 1925 being 74 and 65 respectively. The largest number of cases was, as usual, in Port Louis (40). The percentage of deaths was 89.1.

There were 108 cases of Enteric Fever registered in the Island against 122 in the previous year.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) gives a ratio of 120.6 per thousand live-births against 119.7 in 1925. There were 1,315 still births registered during the year representing a rate of 8.47 per thousand live-births, against 87.0 in 1925.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The following statement shows the number of cases treated in the public hospitals and at the dispensaries for the last five years :—

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	Average
Hospital admissions	19,337	17,069	18,663	19,810	21,997	19,375
Hospital Out-door cases ...	6,491	12,032	15,570	19,621	20,153	14,773
Dispensaries ...	85,638	53,225	52,641	54,296	64,484	62,057
	111,466	82,326	86,874	93,727	106,634	96,205

The total number of cases is above that for 1925 and is also above the average of the five-year period 1922–26.

MENTAL HOSPITAL

The total number of persons certified insane on 31st December, 1926, was 719, or 19 more than in 1925. This figure represents a ratio of insane to total population of 18.05 to 10.000.

The admissions into the Mental Hospital numbered 254. They are classified into : first admission 104, second admission 14, third admission 3, readmission from probation 49, readmission from Barkly Branch Wards 57, readmission from leave 10, and out of 17 admitted on interim order 3 died and 14 were found not insane after examination by the Commissioners in Lunacy.

The number of inmates remaining in the Mental Hospital and in the Barkly Mental Branch Wards was 600 (332 males and 268 females) on the 31st December, 1926.

LEPER HOSPITAL

At the Leper Hospital there were 28 patients at the beginning of the year (14 males and 14 females). There were 20 admissions during the year (17 males and 3 females), and 5 deaths.

POOR RELIEF

Exclusive of the pauper cases treated in the public hospitals and dispensaries, 834 paupers, as compared with 905 in 1925, received institutional relief during 1926 in the various religious institutions.

3,388 paupers received pecuniary out-door relief permanently or temporarily during 1926, as against 2,127 in 1925.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS

There were 1,994 persons committed to prison during the year, i.e. 497 more than in the previous year. Of the total, 1,887 were males and 107 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December, 1926, was 353 as against 321 in the preceding year.

There were 6 deaths among prisoners during the year. 6 prisoners were subjected to corporal punishment. There was one execution. The number of juvenile offenders was 89 against 61 in the previous year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The cases reported to the Police numbered 19,208 as against 20,100 for 1925 in connection with which 11,034 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned by the Magisterial Courts. 14 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 11 in 1925.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The total revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1926, amounted to Rs. 15,894,763, or Rs. 3,778,080 below the revenue for the preceding year, and Rs. 9,640,393 below the average revenue for the preceding five years.

The Expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,117,988. The net Surplus of the Colony at 30th June, 1925, i.e. Rs. 14,457,825 together with the sum of Rs. 297,847 recovered from Loan account during the current year makes a total of Rs. 14,755,672 which, after deduction of the deficit of Rs. 223,224 on the year's transactions, is reduced to Rs. 14,532,448 at 30 June, 1926.

Of the expenditure for 1925–26, Rs. 4,715,862 were spent on personal emoluments and Rs. 11,402,126 on other charges. The corresponding figures for 1924–25 were: personal emoluments Rs. 4,536,055 and other charges Rs. 13,117,661.

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

Years	Revenue	Expenditure
—	—	—
1921–22	... Rs. 25,599,994	... Rs. 26,347,658
1922–23	... 23,547,734	... 22,031,176†
1923–24	... 19,897,483	... 16,588,702
1924–25	... 19,672,843	... 17,653,716
1925–26	.. 15,894,763	... 16,117,988

PUBLIC DEBT

At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony amounted to £1,765,724 as compared with £1,699,057 at 30th June, 1925. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £819,315 as compared with £738,012 at 30th June, 1925.

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The currency of the Colony consists of:—

(1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5:—

  (a) Bronze: 1 cent, 2 cents and 5 cents.

  (b) Silver: 10 cents, 20 cents.

(2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.

(3) Nickel coins: 4 annas of India.

(4) The Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5 and R. 1.

(5) Indian currency notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 15,460,500 as compared with Rs. 15,214,048 in 1924–25.

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† Exclusive of Rs. 13,784,640 transferred to the Mauritius Improvement and Development Fund.

The average amount of silver held by the Commissioners of Currency amounted to Rs. 5,581,250 as compared with Rs.5,334,798, the average for 1924–25.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund), which stood at Rs. 9,879,250 on 1st July, 1925, remained the same during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 1,087,572 to Rs. 1,209,401. The Revenue (Interest on investments less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs. 400,530 and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a surplus of Rs. 1,209,401. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June 1926, the surplus would be increased to Rs. 1,266,919.

Government Savings Banks are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June 1926 was 36,481 as against 36,498 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,026,698 as against Rs. 5,153,623 in the preceding year. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June, 1926, there were 15,450 depositors with Rs. 2,225,859 to their credit, as against 15,810 depositors with Rs. 2,406,252 to their credit on 30th June, 1925.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent a year.

The Banks are the Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India (Ltd.) and Barclays Bank.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

TRADE

The value of the trade for 1926, exclusive of Dependencies and omitting Bullion and Specie, was Rs. 91,804,335, showing a decrease of Rs. 14,357,403 on the preceding year.

The comparative values of imports and exports for 1913 and the last five years are as follows :—

Year	Imports	Exports	Total
—	—	—	—
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1913	36,607,671	32,291,706	68,899,377
1921	105,744,980	157,249,822	262,994,802
1922	77,039,447	91,106,703	168,146,150
1923	76,835,565	69,841,931	146,677,496
1924	76,415,648	52,282,533	128,698,181
1925	61,682,844	44,478,894	106,161,738
1926	50,596,137	41,208,198	91,804,335

The value of the re-exports was Rs. 1,841,096.

Rs. 137,490 worth of bullion and specie were imported during the year, and Rs. 5,944,500 were exported.

The trade value in 1926 was Rs. 70,731,338 below the average value for the five preceding years, viz.: Rs. 162,535,673, and was a little above 1.3 of the trade value of 1913.

IMPORTS

As in 1925, about two-thirds of the imports came from the United Kingdom and India, the imports from the latter country being nearly twice those from the United Kingdom. France maintained its position in the third place with a decrease on the previous year's figures. The value of imports from China, in 1926, was Rs. 1,121,191 as compared with Rs. 691,820 in 1925.

Notable decreases were recorded in the imports from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Madagascar, Australia and Reunion.

EXPORTS

Sugar.—The following table shows the sugar exports for the last six years :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Kilos ...	229,224,689	292,744,249	223,051,061	182,742,235	192,303,540	181,215,772
Rupees...	154,592,301	88,454,321	67,227,562	49,823,753	11,250,907	37,991,240

Other Domestic Exports.—The principal of these were aloe fibre, copra and rum with Rs. 838,980, Rs. 284,960 and Rs.24,576 in 1926, as compared with R. 557,072, Rs. 154,308 and Rs. 112,202 respectively in 1925.

The quantity and value of aloe fibre exported during each of the last six years are shown below :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Kilos ...	287,106	1,007,296	599,554	1,092,881	1,896,445	2,577 372
Rupees...	100,234	385,754	164,112	413,819	557,072	838,980

SHIPPING

The following statement shows the number of vessels which entered and left the harbour during the last three years :—

	NUMBER OF VESSELS	
Year	Inwards	Outwards
1924	215	210
1925	234	229
1926	187	194

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1926 was 1,049,675 tons (steamers 1,046,058 tons and sailing vessels 3,617 tons), of which 562,914 British.

In the coastal trade with the Dependencies some 46 calls were made, with an aggregate of 17,034 tons.

Steamers of the following steamship lines called at Port Louis :- Union Castle Steamship Company, Limited ; British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited ; Messageries Maritimes ; Clan Line ; Ellerman-Harrison Line and the Compagnie Havraise Péninsulaire.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

The industries of the Island are entirely agricultural, the principal being the cultivation of the sugar cane which covers about 162,102 acres or 43.6% of the total area of the Colony.

There are 44 sugar factories compared with 46 in 1925 and 53 in 1916, ranging in productive capacity from 1,500 tons to 25,000 tons, and it is anticipated that the number will be further reduced as a result of continued centralization.

In 1926 the area cultivated by Indians was estimated to be 65,956 arpents (68,800 acres) or about 43% of the total cane cultivation.

Agricultural labour is almost exclusively Indian in origin and was derived from importations of indentured Indian labour until 1910, when indentured immigration from India was prohibited. Immigration was, however, resumed, subject to certain conditions and on a restricted scale, for a period of twelve months ending on 31st May, 1924.

There were, on the 31st December 1926, 16,500 immigrants settled in the Colony, consisting of 11,850 males and 4,650 females, and including 173 new immigrants (138 males and 35 females). The total number of labourers serving under written or verbal contract on estates was 18,328 on 31st December 1926.

The Indian population on estates was estimated at 41,442 on 31st December 1926—*i.e.* 16,371 men, 11,128 women and 13,943 children.

The unfavourable market conditions in 1925 have led to a further reduction of about 1,400 acres in the total area under cane cultivation which, at the end of 1925, was about 163,497 acres.

Sugar machinery to the value of Rs. 1,143,500 was imported during the year. Ploughs and tractors are now used on a large scale, the value of the instruments imported during the year being Rs. 67,000.

The Sugar Planters Syndicate constituted under Ordinances Nos. 31 of 1920 and 7 of 1921 controlled more than 80% of the total production of the Colony. For the 1926-27 crop the export of sugar at 31st December, 1926, amounted to 82,361 tons of which 77,154 tons to the United Kingdom.

SUBSIDIARY INDUSTRIES

The depression in the sugar industry during the last two years has caused greater attention to be devoted to the development of subsidiary industries. So far the industries which have shown marked progress are alœ fibre, tobacco, and the production of industrial alcohol and vegetable oils.

ALŒ FIBRE

Alœ fibre is produced mainly from the leaves of Furcrœya Gigantea (Mauritius hemp), a plant which grows wild all over the island. The area under aloe is estimated at about 20,000 acres.

Quotations for alœ fibre fluctuated between Rs. 415 and Rs. 320 per ton compared with Rs. 500 and Rs. 390 in 1925.

The Mauritius Hemp Producers' Syndicate which was constituted under Ordinance No. 32 of 1925 has for its object the standardisation of the produce of the Mauritius Hemp Industry and the improvement of methods of packing and marketing.

COCONUTS

Coconut growing is confined to the extreme littoral of the Island. No changes of importance were recorded during the year in connection with this industry.

The copra production from the Lesser Dependencies averages between 900 and 800 tons yearly.

TOBACCO

Considerable development took place during the year in relation to tobacco cultivation.

To facilitate developments the government repealed Ordinance No. 19 of 1890 which imposed a land tax of Rs. 160 per acre payable in advance on land cultivated in tobacco.

At the end of 1926 there were approximately 800 acres under cultivation, representing an increase of more than 200% on the previous year.

Two new factories were opened during the year by local manufacturers and one by a foreign firm.

OTHER CROPS

Vanilla.—This industry showed no marked development during the year.

Tea.—The competition of foreign teas and the high cost of local production render the development of this industry problematical.

Food Crops.—In general food crops showed marked progress during the year. In 1925 maize was grown on about 2,600 acres, and manioc on 3,500. There was an increase under both heads in 1926.

Vegetable gardens continued to increase and the production of vegetables during the year was one of the largest on record.

LIVE STOCK

Some interest was shewn in the local stock breeding industry during the year. Importation of cattle from Madagascar numbered 5,555 heads of a total value of Rs. 375,207 as against 9,044 heads of a total value of Rs. 622,080 in 1925.

The Government Dairy at Curepipe continued to work satisfactorily.

Other industries.—The principal minor industries are the following:

Engineering works, Bakeries, Docks, (landing, shipping, etc.), Fisheries, Lime Burning, Distilleries, Electric Light and Power Supply, Salt, Leather tanning, Ice making, Oil (ground nuts), Vinegar making; also biscuits, aerated water, furniture, charcoal, soap, bricks, tiles, pottery, aloe ropes, vacoa bags, boot making, etc.

Distilleries.—Alcohol is produced mainly for consumption as Rum and the output was approximately 490,113 litres as against about 638,000 litres in 1925. In 1926, 74,686 litres of rum were exported as against 57,076 in 1925.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

On the 30th June, 1926, there were 30 Societies and the total membership amounted to 2,994, while the total working capital on the same date was Rs. 311,663 or a decrease of about Rs. 23,754, as compared with the year ended June 30th, 1925.

FORESTS

The revenue derived from sales of timber, fuel and other forest produce during the year 1925–26 was Rs. 77,968 as against Rs. 92,226 during 1924–25.

LEGISLATION

During the year 1926, 40 Ordinances were passed, of which the following deserve special mention:—

The Sugar Industry Loan Ordinance, 1926, (No. 15) which provides for the loan of Rs. 5,000,000 to the Sugar Industry of the Colony and for a special export duty on the sugars of the 1927-28 crop in order to repay the loan in capital and interest.

The Cinematograph (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926, (No. 19) which transfers the control of films to a Central Committee composed of the Inspector General of Police and two other members to be appointed annually by the Governor.

The Opium (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926, (No. 21) which gives effect to the Dangerous Drugs Convention Protocol and Final Act signed at Geneva on the 19th of February, 1925.

The Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 22) which consolidates all the stamp laws in force, with a few amendments.

The Midwives Ordinance, 1926,(No. 26) which secures the proper training of midwives in the Colony and regulates their practice.

The Railway (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926, (No. 31) which creates a Railway Board with executive powers and also authorises the Railway Department to establish transport services by road and combined services by road and rail for the conveyance of passengers and goods.

The Gun (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926, (No. 40) which increases the control exerciseable over the possession of firearms and ammunition.

EDUCATION

At the close of the year there were 151 primary schools in the Colony: 57 Government and 94 denominational schools assisted by government grants, of which 65 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 5 Hindoo and 3 Mohammedan. The average attendance was 24,671 as compared with 23,970 in 1925. The attendance of Indian children was 18,097 (boys 14,880, girls 3,217), a decrease of 77 on the previous year.

The total number of girls educated in Primary Schools was 10,349 as against 10,206 in 1925.

During the year 325 candidates competed for the Boys' Scholarship Examination for free tuition at the Royal College. Of these 32 passed. Six Scholarships and six Exhibitions were awarded. There were 174 students for the four Girls' Scholarships, of whom 12 passed.

1,064 candidates (606 men and 458 women) entered for the Teachers' Examinations during the year, 19 of whom (15 men and 4 women) passed. First Class Certificates were awarded to 3 male teachers.

The number of candidates was greater than in the previous year, but the results were very poor, especially as regards the Monitors' Examination at which only 14 candidates out of 852 succeeded in securing a pass.

The system whereby teachers were paid a monthly fixed salary which was supplemented at the end of the school year by a lump sum varying according to the examination results was abolished in the course of the year and a higher rate of pay substituted therefor.

The Men's and Women's Training Schools have now been combined under one Principal with one male and one female Assistant.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The number of Secondary Schools in the Colony was 9, as in 1925. The total number on roll was 689 boys and 627 girls, while the average attendance was 577 and 539 respectively, as compared with 776 boys and 698 girls on roll for the previous year, with average attendance of 685 and 564 respectively.

In the Secondary Schools, exclusive of the Royal College, the passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations held during the year were as follows :—

	Boys		Girls
Junior	11	...	6
School Certificate ...	5	...	11

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College. The year opened with 349 pupils on the roll and, on 31st December, 1926, the number was 315; while the average attendance for the year was 359.

Two scholarships are awarded annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Syndicate of Examiners of the Cambridge University. These scholarships are of the value of £1,000 with £75 passage allowance to or from England, and are tenable for four or five years. The holders may join any University in the British Empire or any scientific or technical institution in the United Kingdom.

Since 1st January 1920 these scholarship allowances have been temporarily increased by 30 per cent.

In January and July, 1926, a temporary Assistant Master and one pupil passed the London University Matriculation Examination in the 1st Division, and 2 candidates passed the Intermediate Examination in Science.

One Master obtained Second Class Honours at the B. Sc. General Examination.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

The only change made in the curriculum was the introduction of a course on the preparation of small lots of commercial tropical agricultural products other than sugar.

A course of lectures on Estate Hygiene was delivered to the students and to a number of Estate employés.

In January 1926 five new students were admitted to the College for the Diploma course while two other students joined for the same course at the end of the first term.

There were also six second-year and five third-year students on the books during the year. Seven students were also attached to the College during the year for post graduate work or special courses of instruction. There were thus 25 students on the College books between the months of January and June or three more than in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Five third-year students completed their course of training in June in which month the Final Examination for the Diploma was held. All the candidates succeeded in passing the examination.

The examination of the City and Guilds of the London Institute was held in April. One candidate passed the final examination of the Institute, and as he had already obtained the Diploma of the College, was awarded the Full Technological Certificate of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

The Laureate for the year 1926 is pursuing a course of study in relation to Plant Pests and Diseases at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London.

PUBLIC WORKS

The following are the principal works carried out in 1926 in addition to the usual maintenance works:—

Flacq Police Station: conversion of the barrack room and coach house into quarters for N. C. O. and men, and large repairs to three constables quarters.

Pamplemousses Government School: large repairs.

Souillac District Court: extensive repairs and painting.

Petite Rivière: new school.

Police Headquarters: general improvements and construction of three new rooms.

Flat Island Quarantine Station; extensive repairs and improvements.

Civil Hospital: new isolation ward and dining room for female wards and general improvements.

Victoria Hospital: general improvements.

Mental Hospital; further improvements.

WATER WORKS

In addition to the maintenance works, the following lengths of new mains have been laid:—

6,050 feet of 1″, 6,800 feet of 1½″, 7,062 feet of 2″, 36,756 feet of 3″, 1,125 feet of 4″, 5,150 feet of 5″ and 90 feet of 6″ pipes. Nineteen public fountains were erected and 604 supplies granted. In the town of Curepipe 5,100 feet of additional pipes have been laid with 13 fire hydrants.

The duplicating of the power main from the Mare-aux-Vacoas to the Filter Beds Establishment is in good progress.

The Rivière du Poste Diversion Canal has been completed. This canal is 4,100 feet long from the river to the source of Rivulet Tatamaka which serves to carry the flow waters of Rivière du Poste to Mare-aux-Vacoas.

When the water works of the Municipality of Port Louis were handed over to Government in 1924, there was only one service reservoir at Monneron Hill, of about 500,000 gallons. During the year two new reservoirs were constructed and the old one was completely repaired. The total capacity of these reservoirs is about two million gallons.

The two filters at the Chlorination Plant are in good working order. The volume of water which the Municipal and Rectification Mains can deliver at the Chlorination Chamber is 1,700,000 and 2,100,000 gallons respectively.

DRAINAGE WORKS, PORT LOUIS

House service.—134 house service connections were completed during the year.

Construction.—3,043 feet of concrete pipe was laid and 17 manholes constructed. 1,116 feet of 18″ C.I. pipe was laid along the Syphon Line Section and 28 concrete pipes of 21″ were also laid to connect that line with the gravitation main at the junction of Edith Cavell and Brown Sequard Streets.

IRRIGATION WORKS.

The Nicolière Reservoir has been filled up and is being kept full, so that the fear of any abnormal absorption need not be entertained.

The concreting of the Feeder Channel from Midlands Reservoir has been continued on the Nicolière side.

On the Midlands side the Feeder Channel has been excavated on a length of about two and a half miles.

La Ferme Scheme.—No shortage of water has been experienced since the new source of supply from Mare-aux-Vacoas.

The price charged for water is one rupee per 16,000 cubic feet.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

RAILWAYS

The total length of the Mauritius Government Railways is 120 miles exclusive of the Bois Chéri Light Railway of about 24 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The gross earnings during the year were Rs. 4,048,616 as against Rs. 4,930,244 for the previous year, or a decrease of Rs. 881,628.

The receipts for passenger traffic showed a decrease of Rs. 701,293 over the previous year's figures. As regards goods traffic the tonnage conveyed was 542,296 as compared with 550,040 in 1924–25, giving a decrease of Rs. 131,070 in the earnings.

The working expenses amounted to Rs. 3,860,580, as against Rs. 4,251,916 in 1924–25, or a decrease of Rs. 391,336.

The amount paid under personal emoluments was Rs. 812,057 as against Rs. 794,841 in 1924–25.

BOIS CHERI LIGHT RAILWAY

This is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from the Savanne branch. The total paying traffic during the year amounted to 22,076 tons as against 23,906 tons in the previous year.

The actual working expenses were Rs. 25,006 and the earnings Rs. 32,750, thus leaving a balance in favour of earnings of Rs. 7,744.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The island is well served by road communications, there being altogether more than seven hundred miles of road open for traffic, out of which 550 miles are under the charge of the Public Works Department, the remainder being maintained by the Local Boards and Townships.

The tarring of roads is being extended with successful results and bad curves and hills are being improved.

The rolling and tarring of the road from Port Louis to Curepipe has been completed.

General improvements to the roads and bridges taken over from the Municipality of Port Louis have been continued.

The gradual reconstruction of timber bridges in ferro-concrete is being continued.

Three timber bridges in Black River district have been replaced by ferro-concrete ones. A new bridge has been constructed in ferro-concrete to replace Tamarin "Chaussée."

POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES

The total Revenue from the Post Office in 1926 amounted to Rs. 347,799, or a decrease of Rs. 72,088 on that of the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 370,230, showing a decrease of Rs. 125,189 as compared with 1925. The total expenditure includes Rs. 20,983 spent on the laying of underground cable, a non-annually recurrent work. The excess of expenditure over revenue was Rs. 22,431.

TELEPHONES

The Oriental Telephone and Electric Co. Ltd. has lines all over the principal places of the Island.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER BOOKS OF REFERENCE CONCERNING MAURITIUS

Colonial Office List (Annual, London).
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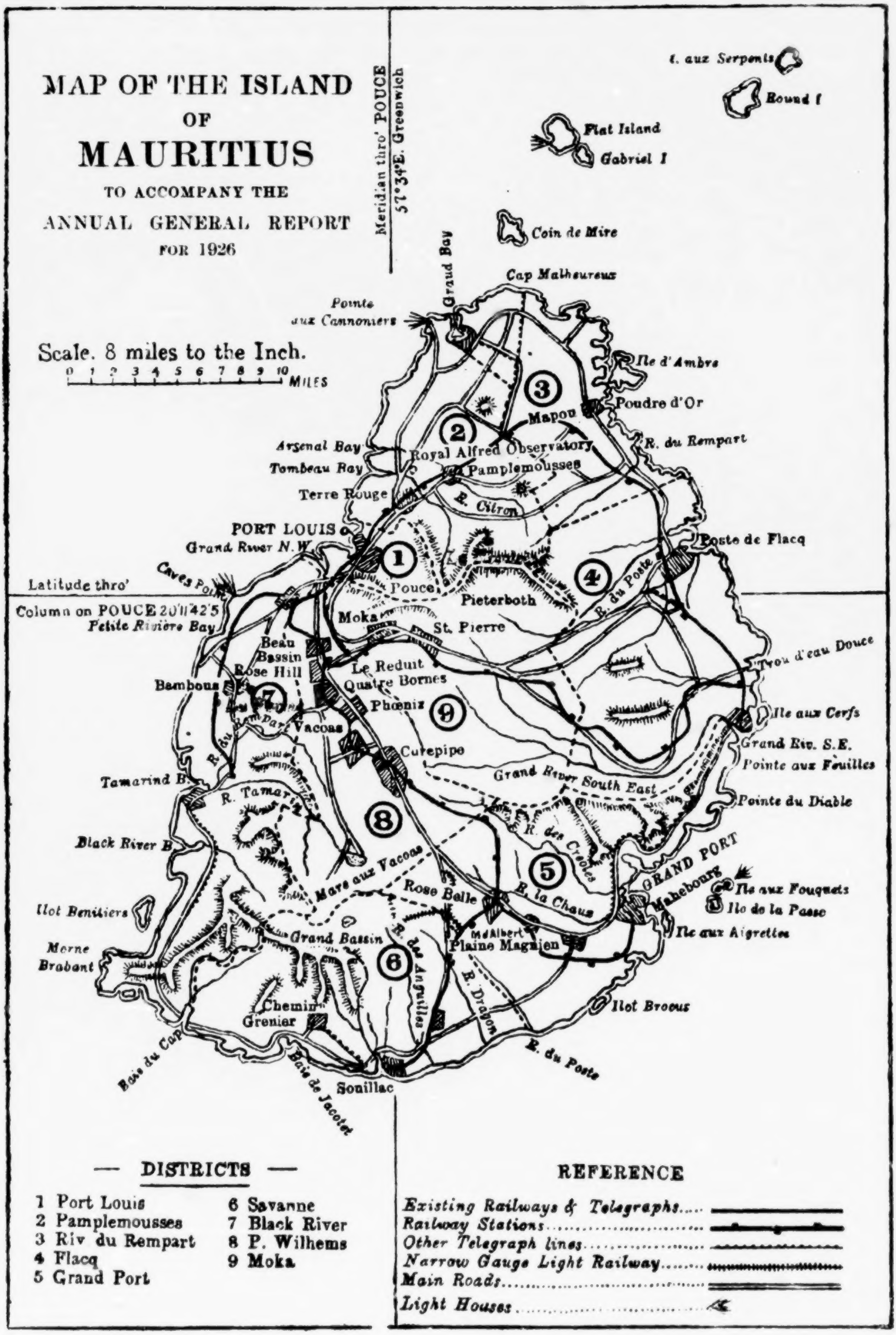
R. VIADER,
Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Port Louis,
24th October, 1927.

MAP OF THE ISLAND
OF
MAURITIUS
TO ACCOMPANY THE
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT
FOR 1926


Meridian thro' POUCE
57°34'E. Greenwich
Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
I. aux Serpents
Round I
Flat Island
Gabriel I
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
3
Mapou
Poudre d'Or
2
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Tombeau Bay
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
1
4
Poste de Flacq
Caves Point
Latitude thro'
Pouce
Pieterboth
R. du Poste
Column on POUCE 20°11'42"5
Petite Rivière Bay
Moka
St. Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Trou d'eau Douce
Bambous
7
R. du Rempart
Phoenix
9
Vacoas
Ile aux Cerfs
Curepipe
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Tamarind B.
Grand River South East
R. Tamarind
Pointe du Diable
8
Black River B.
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
Mare aux Vacoas
5
Ile aux Fouquets
Ilot Benitiers
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Mahebourg
Ile de la Passe
Grand Bassin
Md Albert
Ile aux Aigrettes
Plaine Magnien
Morne Brabant
6
R. des Anguilles
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Baie du Cap
R. du Poste
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

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No. 1400.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1927.

*(For Reports for 1925 and 1926 see Nos. 1332 and 1373
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Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands and Barbados. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 5.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Empire Marketing Board May, 1927 to May, 1928. (E.M.B. 9.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS.

The Imperial Economic Committee has issued a series of publications on the problems connected with the marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs produced within the British Empire. The following six volumes are now ready. General Questions, 9*d*. (10*d*.); Meat, 9*d*. (10*d*.); Fruit, 4*s*. 6d. (4*s*. 10*d*.); Dairy Produce, 1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.); Fish, 6*d*. (8*d*.); Poultry, Eggs, Honey, 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

The Eighth Report of the Committee, "The Functions and Work of the Imperial Economic Committee," 6*d*. (7*d*.). The relationship between the Committee and the Empire Marketing Board is explained in this Report.

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MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927.*

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Situation and Area.

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles east of Madagascar, between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ E. longitude, and 19° 50′ and 20° 31′ S. latitude. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ordinance 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its extreme breadth 29 miles; and its area covers 720 square miles (460,800 acres). The density of population is very high, being about 550 persons per square mile for the whole island. The population at 31st December, 1927, was 401,693.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of about 43,000. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital, which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, situated on the highest part of the central plateau, has about 20,000 inhabitants. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phoenix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, and Beau Bassin in Plaines Wilhems District are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in the other country districts are Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Poudre d'Or, and Bambous.

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* A sketch map of Mauritius will be found in the Report for 1926 (No. 1373).

The island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours Reunion and Rodrigues, and certainly more stable (J. S. Gardiner).

The dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° S. latitude. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and an estimated population of 7,269, is 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, while lesser islands of some importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the census of May, 1921, the population of the lesser dependencies was ascertained to be 1,810.

History.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date. A Dutch map copied from Arab sources shews the islands now known as Mauritius, Rodrigues, and Reunion under the names of Dinarobin, Dinanora, and Margabin, and it is possible that certain islands marked on Idrisi's map (1153) are intended to indicate them also.

There can be little doubt too that the island was visited by the Malays who colonised Madagascar in the 15-16th century.

But Mauritius history really begins with its discovery by the Portuguese in the beginning of the sixteenth century—probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527, when the island is shown on an official map under the name of Santa Appollonia, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Reunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Dom Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island Ilha da Cirnos or Swan Island, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any permanent settlement by the Portuguese who, for nearly a century, only used the island as a port of call for repairs and supplies.

The island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South-Eastern Port to which the Commander, Admiral Wybrandt Van Warwyk, gave his own name. He took possession of the island on behalf of his Government and named it Mauritius, in honour of the Statholder, Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days he set sail, leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton, of the "Pearl," visited the island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt at colonisation was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsz Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the "Compagnie Neerlandaise des Indes," landed at Warwick-Haven or South-Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores, and dwelling-houses were built at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the "13 Cantons" close by. These were followed by other settlers who established themselves in the neighbourhood, where Mahebourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the island was abandoned, and was again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally and which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1664 were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success, whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North-West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper, and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned, as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French vessel "Le Chasseur" arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it Ile de France. Settlement, however, was only effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fouge-rai, commanding the *Triton* of St. Malo, resumed possession for the Compagnie des Indes Orientales after landing at Ile aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest, which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Reunion, who had come to settle, and from that time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735, Mahé de Labourdonnais succeeded Mr. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the island. He left the island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions, however, soon became difficult for the settlers owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the "Compagnie des Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the East Indies, and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling-house of "Mon Plaisir," and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French Revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery, on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobean leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected, and nearly all links with the mother country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French privateers, using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade, gained for the island its reputation, still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared for a vigorous attack in 1810 and, after a memorable fight, Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule on the 3rd December, 1810.

The cession of the "Isle de France" and its dependencies to Great Britain was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, and the island, under its former name Mauritius, has since 1814 remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

In 1835 the emancipation of slaves took place, but as this new class of free men refused occupation as labourers, the planters resorted to the introduction of indentured labour from India, which commenced in 1842 and continued practically without interruption until 1910.

In 1825 a Council of Government was established. It was modified in 1832 and reconstituted in 1884; it now consists of the Governor and 27 members, 8 being ex-officio, 9 nominated by the Governor, and 10 elected.

In 1864 the first line of railway was opened from Port Louis to Pamplemousses. Subsequently other lines were built, and the island is now served by a railway system of a total length of 119 miles, which renders access easy to most parts of the island.

In 1868, 1874, and 1892 the island was visited by very destructive cyclones. That of 1892 was one of the most violent ever recorded. It destroyed a considerable part of Port Louis (the capital), caused terrible damage throughout the island and involved a death roll of 1,232 people.

In 1854, 1856, and 1862, epidemics of cholera prevailed. In 1866 an epidemic of fever of great severity broke out, commonly regarded as malarial fever, although recent views appear to indicate that the high death roll then recorded (over 30,000 people) could not have been due to malaria alone. In any event, from about that time malaria, which was previously absent from the Colony, became endemic and has since rendered the lower parts of the island unhealthy. This does not, however, apply to the central tableland, where malaria is and has always been either absent or comparatively insignificant. The reduction of the incidence of malaria has been the subject of much investigation and sanitary effort on the part of the Government of recent years, and it is believed that these measures are having a pronounced effect on the general health of the community.

Between the years 1902 and 1909 the island suffered from a period of severe financial depression owing to the low market value of the staple product, sugar, which at that time prevailed. Matters were further aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great loss of draught animals among the sugar plantations and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

In 1909 a Royal Commission visited the island to inquire into the administration and finances of the Colony.

Mauritius was happily immune from direct action by the enemy during the Great War. A large number of recruits left for Europe for military service, and a Labour Battalion was recruited for service in Mesopotamia. During this period, the Imperial garrison was reduced to a skeleton, and the defence of the island was maintained by a locally-recruited Volunteer Force.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity to the Colony, and both Government finances and the general condition of the community were for a time far more prosperous than at any previous period of its history.

As a result, it has been possible to undertake great and material works for the improvement of the Colony, and a number of schemes of considerable magnitude have been inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water supplies both for domestic and irrigational purposes, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of educational facilities.

During the last few years, however, the inflated prices caused by war conditions have disappeared and while, owing to the foresight of Sir Hesketh Bell, Governor from 1913 to 1924, a large sum of money was put aside for improvement and development, the revenues of the Colony, although much diminished, have to provide for the carrying on of many important works undertaken in times of greater material prosperity.

Languages.

The principal languages spoken in the Colony are English, French, Creole (a French patois), and Hindustani.

Currency.

The rupee currency (silver rupee of India) which was established by Proclamation No. 23 of 1876 is still in force in the Colony. The monetary units are enumerated under Section II, Finance.

Weights and Measures.

With regard to weights and measures, the metric system is in general use, but there are some special measures peculiar to Mauritius, the chief of which are :—

L'arpent.—The equivalent of 1.043 acres.

La gaulette.—A measure of length equal to 10 French feet. It is employed on the estates as a measure of work performed in the fields. The task given to a labourer corresponds to a certain number of *gaulettes*. The number of *gaulettes* of work per *arpent* varies according to the distance between the lines of cane holes.

Le tiercon is a measure of capacity for molasses : it varies from 190 to 192 litres.

La toise is a measure of length equal to 1.94904 metres (2 yards 4 inches English measure or 6 pieds French measure).

La toise carree (square *toise*) = 36 square feet French. This measure is used in job-contracts, masonry works, etc.

L'aune is a measure of length used in nearly all shops. It is equivalent to 1.191077 metres or about 1 yard and 11 inches.

The *aune* is generally counted as 1.20 metres.

The *corde* is employed for measuring stacked firewood. The wood is stacked in lengths of 2½ French feet and laid transversely, the stack measuring 4 French feet high, 8 French feet long, 80 cubic feet (French), 96.82 cubic feet (English) : 2.742 cubic metres.

La bouteille is a French measure for wine and is used locally for the sale of milk, vinegar, rum, etc. It is equivalent to 800 cubic centimetres (8/10 litres).

La chopine is one-half of a bottle.

La livre.—A local measure of weight = 500 grammes or ½ kilogramme (1.10 English lb. roughly).

Climate.

Situated just within the tropics and with no large land masses for many hundreds of miles in any direction, Mauritius enjoys a climate free from any violent extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops and more rarely to buildings. For the greater part of the year the so-called south-east trade winds blow gently over the island, tempering the tropical heat. These winds, carried over thousands of miles of warm sea before reaching Mauritius, are heavily laden with moisture which is easily condensed by the upward movement of the air over the hills, and the rainfall is sufficient from this cause alone to keep most vegetation green and abundant, especially in the higher parts of the island. On the other hand, this rain falls mainly in the form of showers of short duration: it interferes little with outdoor activities, and sunshine is plentiful. At times, and particularly in the summer months, December to March, the south-east trades fail and are replaced by the light variable winds of the "doldrums." The high humidity and nearly overhead sun then cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures recorded are not high compared with those endured in Egypt or India. In the winter months the high humidity acts in a contrary manner and the nights, especially in the European residential districts between 1,300 and 2,000 feet, can feel unpleasantly cold with a temperature of about 50° F. Some of the residents who can afford to do so live inland on the hills in the summer months and by the sea in the winter months. Climatic statistics can be consulted in the many publications of the Royal Alfred Observatory, in the Mauritius Almanac, or in official Blue Books. Here it is sufficient to state that all temperatures measured at the Royal Alfred Observatory, 181 feet above sea-level, fall between 95° F. and 50° F. It will be noted that the upper limit is below the upper limit for London. The yearly rainfall varies from about 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches on the high inland regions. Snow has never been seen on the hill-tops and hail is so rare as to be almost unknown. Thunderstorms are not very frequent and damage from lightning is uncommon. Fog is very rare except on the hill-tops.

Owing in part to the memory of the disastrous cyclone of 1892, in part to the entire absence of strong winds except during the approach of a cyclone, and the consequent flimsiness of the houses, and chiefly to the damage which may be caused to the principal crop of the island, the sugar-cane, cyclones occupy a place in the fears and conversation of the population out of all proportion to their importance. Cyclones have occurred in all months from October to May but mostly in the four months December to March. In general, about five per year can be expected to approach within 300 miles of the island and cause anxiety for two days each. Usually no damage is done until a cyclone approaches within 80 or 90 miles, and the number of cyclones within this distance is considerably less than one per year. A graphic description of the catastrophe of 1892 can be found in *Blackwoods Magazine* for September 1892, which has been largely quoted in other places ("The Sugar Industry of Mauritius," Walter; and "Mauritius Illustrated," Macmillan). The effects of cyclones are not altogether harmful; the heavy rains associated with such storms are beneficial and indeed necessary to the sugar crop.

I.—GENERAL.

In the early part of the year under review it was expected that the Colony would recover its economic prosperity after the period of depression which it had gone through during the two previous years. This expectation was not realised : the sugar-crop was much below the normal, while the prices obtained for this commodity left to the producers but little, if any, margin of profit.

As regards Revenue, a revision of the Customs Tariff has been effected, its main features being the exemption from import duty of certain additional articles of food, a moderate increase in the duties on certain articles of luxury, and the extension of the preference granted to imports from Great Britain; e.g., British cinema films are now imported free of duty, while the duty on British cars, lorries, etc., has been reduced from 12 to 5 per cent. It is also proposed to revise the scale of licences and to impose a tax on immovable property lying outside municipal and township limits.

His Excellency Sir Herbert Read, K.C.M.G., C.B., opened the second session of the Council of Government on the 3rd May, 1927, and, *inter alia*, made the following statements :—

> "In view of recent experiences, it seems clear that some means must be devised for placing the main industry of the Colony on a more stable basis. One step in this direction has been recently taken by the appointment of a joint Committee of representatives of the Government and of planters to consider in what way the Government and the planters could co-operate in the improvement of the organization of the sugar industry. It is proposed that these conferences should be held annually, and it is generally agreed that nothing but good can result from them. At the same time, it is essential that the country should not neglect the other line of progress, namely, the development of subsidiary industries. It has now been established that Mauritius can produce tobacco—some of it of high quality—for which there is a strong demand in the United Kingdom. Commercial consignments are now being shipped home, while the area under cultivation is 1,100 acres and is rapidly increasing. As for aloe fibre, the central factory at Port Louis of the Fibre Growers' Syndicate is approaching completion, and

it may be confidently expected that this industry will shortly enter on a new phase of development. Satisfactory progress is also being made in some of the other subsidiary industries which are at present of less importance.

" But, in order that the prosperity of the community as a whole may be further ensured, it is necessary to enlist, as far as possible, the co-operation of all, and I think, especially in view of the increasing demands which are being made for poor law relief, that the time has come to inaugurate a movement on the lines of the ' National Savings ' movement in the United Kingdom. This movement was begun as a War measure, and during the ten years of its life Savings Certificates with a cash value of over £600,000,000 have been sold to the public. When to this amount is added the sums held by the Post Office Savings Bank and other institutions for the encouragement of thrift, the total amount of savings in the hands of small investors is now more than £1,000,000,000. Conditions in Mauritius are no doubt dissimilar from those in the United Kingdom, but I see no reason why a scheme to suit our circumstances should not be evolved, and I propose to appoint a small Committee to deal with the matter.

" At the opening of the Session of May last year, I stated that there was an estimated deficit of Rs.1.700,000 on the working of the year 1925-26. I am glad to say that the actual deficit was only Rs.223,224. In the case of the Railway, I stated that there would probably be a small surplus for the same year. As a matter of fact, there has been a deficit of Rs.173,977, so that, taking the financial transactions of that year as a whole, there has been a total deficit of Rs.397,201. Having regard to the difficulties through which the Colony has been passing, I do not consider that this is an unsatisfactory result. The estimated deficit for 1926-27 is Rs.2,400,000, but, in view of what has just been stated with regard to the year 1925-26, we may reasonably hope that it will fall considerably short of this figure.

" Turning now to the Budget for the year 1927-28, the Estimated Revenue is Rs.15,149,246, and the Estimated Expenditure Rs.16,744,690, from which should be deducted Rs.1,635,700 to be charged to Surplus Balances, leaving an Estimated Surplus of Rs.40,256. The Surplus Balance of the Colony on the 30th June, 1926, amounted to Rs.14,532,447, and it is estimated that on the 30th June, 1927, it will amount to Rs.12,132,447. The unspent balance of the Improvement and Development Fund, which stood at Rs.12,860,355 on the 1st of July, 1926, is expected to amount to some Rs.9,874,400 on the 30th of June, 1927. The Railway Draft Estimates have not yet been submitted by the Board.

"As regards Revenue, proposals will be laid before Council for the revision of the Customs Tariff. The main features of the scheme are the exemption from import duty of certain additional articles of food with a view to benefiting the poorer classes, a moderate increase in the duties on certain articles of luxury, the extension of the preference granted to imports from Great Britain, and the abolition of the import duties on a considerable number of articles which only produce in the aggregate a very small amount of revenue. It is also proposed to revise the scale of licences with a view to distributing the burden of taxation more evenly among the different sections of the population.

"The Nicoliere Reservoir has been completed and a certain amount of water which it is hoped shortly to increase is being distributed to the planters in the district. As you know, however, the reservoir cannot be fully utilised until the feeder reservoir at Midlands and the connecting canal have been completed. The Director of Public Works has prepared a scheme by which it is hoped that the time originally assigned for the construction of the latter works will be considerably shortened.

"At the same time satisfactory progress is being made with the improvement of the supply of drinking water throughout the island. The main pipe-line from the great reservoir of Mare-aux-Vacoas is being duplicated, and the storage capacity at Port Louis is now four times as great as what it was two years ago. Much good work also has been done in the country districts, notably in the carrying out of the scheme for the districts of Riviere du Rompart and Pamplemousses. The cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs.912,000, and it is expected that it will be completed in two years.

"A malaria campaign has been inaugurated on the lines suggested by Mr. MacGregor in his well-known report; measures are being concerted for dealing with the problem of tuberculosis, and the activities of the child-welfare organization are being extended. The sewerage scheme for Port Louis has been accelerated, and progress is being made with the introduction of improved sanitary arrangements in the other principal townships.

"Reconstruction of the public roads proceeds apace, and the total length of tarred road is now approximately 47 miles. If the present rate of progress is maintained during the next three years, I venture to think that, at the end of the period, our road system will compare more than favourably with that of any other Colony in the Empire.

> " As regards the Harbour, it is estimated that Quay " D " and the contiguous Reclamation Area will be ready for use within twelve months, and that the rest of the Reclamation Area will be filled up within 20 months. Some 120,000 tons of spoil have already been removed from the Anchorage of the Harbour, so that a depth of 32 feet water at low tide is now available in four berths as well as in other areas. This, combined with the further dredging which will be undertaken when the Reclamation Area has been completed, will result in a great improvement of the facilities of the port."

The great social event of the year was the visit to the Colony of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, who left behind them a memory which for years to come will be treasured by all classes of the population.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived in the Colony aboard H.M.S. " Renown " on 1st June and left on the 3rd. During their visit Their Royal Highnesses attended a race meeting which had been arranged by the Mauritius Turf and Jockey Clubs to give as great a number of the population as possible the opportunity of seeing Their Royal Highnesses, who drove round the greater part of the course and were given a most enthusiastic reception by a vast assemblage estimated at 50,000 persons. On the evening of the 1st June a Reception of a thoroughly representative character was held by the Governor at Le Réduit, and on the following day the Duke took part in a *Chasse*, or deer-hunt, which is the national sport of the Colony. The *Chasse* took place on the property of Mr. George Antelme, the son of the Mr. Leopold Antelme who organized the *Chasse* when His Majesty King George V visited the Colony in 1901.

All classes of the population vied with each other in extending to Their Royal Highnesses a warm welcome and displayed that hospitality for which the island is justly famous.

His Excellency Sir Herbert Read, K.C.M.G., C.B., left the Colony on leave of absence on 3rd August, 1927, and until the end of the year the Government was administered by Sir Allan Grannum, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

II.—FINANCE.

The total revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1927, amounted to Rs.14,682,806.77, being Rs.347,363.23 below the Estimates and Rs.1,211,956.60 below the revenue of the previous year.

The expenditure amounted to Rs.16,461,061.80, being Rs.271,420.80 above the Estimates and Rs.343,073.93 above the expenditure of the previous year.

Of the expenditure for 1926-27, Rs.4,911.973 were spent on Personal Emoluments and Rs.11,549.089 on Other Charges. The corresponding figures for 1925-26 were: Personal Emoluments Rs.4,715.862, Other Charges Rs.11,402.126.

The expenditure incurred during the year exceeded the revenue by Rs.1,778,255.03; the financial transactions of the Colony for the year 1926-27 showing therefore a deficit of Rs.1,778,255.03.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Years.	*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.
1922-23	23,314,734	21,685,665
1923-24	19,888,554	16,188,735
1924-25	19,672,843	17,355,868
1925-26	15,894,763	16,117,988
1926-27	14,682,806	16,461,061

Assets and Liabilities.

The totals of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the year were Rs.43,327,543.61 and Rs.31,185,683.95, respectively, or a net surplus of Rs.12,141,859.66 on 30th June, 1927

Public Debt.

No change took place during the year in the public debt of the Colony, which remained at £1,765,724. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £887,181, as compared with £819,315 at 30th June, 1926.

The following is a statement of the public debt of the Colony:—

PUBLIC DEBT OF MAURITIUS ON 30TH JUNE, 1927.—GOVERNMENT DEBENTURE AND INSCRIBED STOCK.

Debts.	*To Whom Due.*	*Rate of Interest.*	*When Incurred and for What Cause.*	*State Provisions for Payment of Interest of Sinking Fund and reference to Enactments by which it is made.*	*Amount of Original Debt.*			*Sinking Fund, Amount of Stock.*			*Market Value.*		
					£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Mauritius Railways and Mare aux Vacoas Water Supply.	**Stock Holders.**	**4 per cent. per annum.**	**In 1888—To declare the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorised to be raised in England by the Government of Mauritius and to provide for the creation of Mauritius Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 1 of 1887.**	**Under the provisions of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1 of 1887—Sinking Fund of 1 per cent. per annum.**	482,390	16	0	440,497	12	2	384,033	5	5
Hurricane Loan, 1892 (guaranteed by Imperial Government).	**Stock Holders.**	**3 per cent. per annum.**	**In 1893—To meet the wants and necessities created by the Hurricane of the 29th April, 1892, and to provide funds for certain public works—Ordinances 4 and 12 of 1892.**	**Under the provisions of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1 of 1887—Sinking Fund of 1 per cent. per annum and liable to be increased under Article 2 of Ordinance No. 12 of 1892.**	600,000	0	0	465,862 3	7 7	10* 4	385,752 3	0 7	3* 4
Public Works Loan.	**Stock Holders.**	**3½ per cent. per annum.**	**In 1904—To meet the cost of construction of Railways (Black River, Long Mountain, and Bois Chori lines), and certain drainage and**	**Under the provisions of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1 of 1887—Sinking Fund of 1 per cent. per annum.**	150,000	0	0	58,367 952	0 8	2 10*	48,707 952	12 8	11 10*

			Water Works, as well as the cost of a Dredger—Ordinances 19 of 1903, 49 of 1903–04, and 31 of 1904.										
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1919 and 1920—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinances 8 of 1919 and 6 of 1920.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919)—Sinking Fund 5¼ per cent. per annum.	33,333 (*a*)	6	8	15,782	2	3	14,909	18	6
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1921 and 1923—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinance No. 24 of 1921.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919)—Sinking Fund 5¼ per cent. per annum.	33,333 (*a*)	6	8	11,809	19	7	10,957	15	1
Mauritius Loan, 1922.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1923—To meet the cost of Drainage, Port Louis, and the construction of Workmen's Dwellings—Ordinance No. 41 of 1922.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 2 of Ordinance 41 of 1922)—Sinking Fund 1·67 per cent. per annum,	333,333 (*b*)	6	8	27,448	7	10	24,462	6	10
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1924—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinance No. 16 of 1924.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919)—Sinking Fund 5¼ per cent. per annum.	66,666 (*c*)	13	4	10,733 17	5 0	3 8*	10,551 17	6 0	11 8*
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1925—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinance No. 16 of 1925.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919—Sinking Fund 5¼ per cent. per annum.	66,666 (*c*)	13	4	8,147	9	1	6,834	13	8
					£1,765,724	2	8	£1,039,621	1	0	£887,181	16	5

(*a*) Equivalent of Rs. 500,000 at 1*s*. 4*d*. the Rupee.
(*b*) Equivalent of Rs. 5,000,000 at 1*s*. 4*d*. the Rupee.
(*c*) Equivalent of Rs. 1,000,000 at 1*s*. 4*d*. the Rupee.
* Cash Balances.

No change took place in the method of raising revenue.

The following statements show the amendments made during the year to Schedule A of the Licences (Consolidating Ordinance, 1915), and to Excise duties on rum, denaturated spirits, and vinegar :—

AMENDMENTS TO SCHEDULE "A" OF THE LICENCES (CONSOLIDATING) ORDINANCE, 1915, BY ORDINANCE NO. 29 OF 1927.

Deletions.			*Additions.*	
Item.	*Nature of Licence.*	*Value half-yearly.*	*Nature of Licence.*	*Value half-yearly.*
/31	Merchant	Rs. 50	Private Club or Society of outdoor games only.	Rs. 50
5	Billiard Room Keeper	,, 100	Keeper of a Refreshment Room... ...	,, 150
10	Retailer Consolidated	,, 100	Private Club or Society	,, 150
9	Keeper of a Restaurant	,, 150	Keeper of a Railway Refreshment Room	,, 250
9	Private Club or Society	,, 150	Wholesale Dealer (not dealing in liquor)	,, 250
4	Keeper of an Hotel	,, 200	Retailer Consolidated	,, 250
1	Keeper of a Bar	,, 250	Wholesale Dealer (dealing in liquor) ...	,, 300
5	Wholesale Dealer	,, 250	Keeper of a Restaurant	,, 350
8	Railway Refreshment Room Keeper ...	,, 250	Keeper of an Hotel	,, 400
1	Wholesale and Retail (Consolidated Licence)	,, 350	Wholesale and Retail (Consolidated Licence).	,, 400
3	Retailer of Liquor	,, 500	Keeper of a Restaurant—selling liquor on or off premises.	,, 400
			Created by Government Notifications.	
			Manufacturer of Oils	Rs. 25—G.N. No. 28/27.
			Manufacturer of Medicinal Tinctures and Drugs.	,, 50—G.N. No. 281/27.

EXCISE DUTIES.

(1) RUM.

OLD LEGISLATION. *Ordinance No.* 18 *of* 1922.	*Rs.*	PRESENT LEGISLATION. *Ordinance No.* 31 *of* 1927.	*Rs.*
Duty per litre at 19 degrees Cartier ...	2.75	Duty per litre at 23 degrees Cartier ...	2.75
Additional duty per litre for every degree above 19	0.15	Additional duty per litre for every degree above 23	0.12

(2) DENATURATED SPIRITS.

OLD LEGISLATION. *Ordinance No.* 7 *of* 1918.	*Rs.*	PRESENT LEGISLATION. *Ordinance No.* 36 *of* 1927.	*Rs.*
Duty per hectolitre at 36 degrees Cartier ...	5.00	Duty per litre at 36 degrees Cartier on denaturated spirits for heating and lighting...	0.04
Additional duty per hectolitre for every degree above 36 ...	0.05	Additional duty per hectolitre for every degree above 36 ...	0.04
		Duty per litre at any degree on industrial alcohol	0.04

(3) VINEGAR.

OLD LEGISLATION. *Ordinance No.* 16 *of* 1901.	*Rs.*	PRESENT LEGISLATION. *Ordinance No.* 34 *of* 1927.	*Rs.*
Duty per hectolitre at 8 degrees Acetic Acid	1.40	Duty per hectolitre at 8 degrees Acetic Acid	1.70
Additional duty per hectolitre for every degree above 8 ...	0.18	Additional duty per hectolitre for every degree above 8 ...	0.18

Currency and Banking.

The Currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The Mauritius bronze coins of 1 cent, 2 cents, and 5 cents.

(2) The Mauritius silver coins of 10 cents and 20 cents.

(3) The nickel coins of 4 annas of the Government of India.

(4) The silver rupees of India and their silver subdivisions of ¼ Rupee and ½ Rupee.

(5) The Mauritius Government notes of R.1, Rs.5, Rs.10, and Rs.50.

(6) The currency notes of the Government of India of all denominations.*

(1), (2), and (3) are legal tender up to Rs.5, and (4), (5), and (6) are legal tender to any amount.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs.14,185,000, as compared with Rs.15,460,500 in 1925-26.

The average amount of silver held by the Commissioners of Currency amounted to Rs.4,305,500, as compared with Rs.5,581,250 the average for 1925-26.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund) which stood at Rs.9,879,250 on 1st July, 1926, remained the same during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs.1,209,401 to Rs.1,335,806. The revenue (interest on investments, less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs.419,214, and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The statement of assets and liabilities of the Commissioners of Currency shows a surplus of Rs.1,335,806. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June, 1927, the surplus would be increased to Rs.1,387,685.

There was no change in the currency of the Colony during the year.

Government Savings Banks are established in the nine districts and in the dependency of Rodrigues, with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1927, was 36,510, as against 36,481 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs.5,134,555 as against Rs.5,026,698 in the preceding year. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June, 1927, there were 15,431 depositors with Rs.2,287,355 to their credit, as against 15,450 depositors with Rs.2,225,859 to their credit on 30th June, 1926.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. a year.

The Banks are the Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India (Ltd.), and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

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* *Local Money.*—Visitors to Mauritius are frequently nonplussed at the use of expressions by merchants and others, denoting money values which have no legal tender. The principal are as follows: "Cache," R. 0.02; "Marqué," (or sou marqué), R. 0.03; "Franc," R. 0.20; "Livre," R. 0.20. The dollar "Piastre," equivalent to Rs. 2, survives in auction sales.

The capital resources of these Banks are :—

Name of Bank.	*Paid-up Capital.*	*Rate % per annum of last dividend.*	*Amount of last half-yearly dividend.*	*Amount of Reserve.*
Mauritius Commercial Bank	Rs. 2,000,000	15%	7%	Rs. 1,840,000
Mercantile Bank of India Ltd.	£1,050,000	16%	£84,000	£1,385,000
Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).	£4,975,500	8%	—	£1,100,000

The following Ordinances relative to finance were passed during the year :—

(A) *The Paper Currency (Amendment) Ordinance* (*No.* 9). Enabling the investment of one-half the equivalent of notes in circulation in such securities as may be approved by the Secretary of State.

(B) *The General Loan and Inscribed Stock (Amendment) Ordinance*, 1927 (*No.* 42). Enabling the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State to suspend further contributions to Sinking Funds, when the Trustees of the Fund are satisfied that no further contributions are necessary to redeem the loan when it becomes due.

III. PRODUCTION.

Agriculture and Industries.

The industries of the island are entirely agricultural. The principal crop is sugar. The estimated area under sugar-cane at the commencement of 1927 was 162,102 acres; estate cultivation occupies 99,600 acres, and plantations off estates 62,500 acres. Of the area cultivated under sugar-cane, Indian planters comprise 72,500 acres, i.e., 44.7 per cent. Forty-four sugar factories operated during the 1927 crop. One factory will probably close this year.

Market conditions for sugar have continued to be unfavourable and the industry is traversing a difficult period in consequence.

Weather conditions were on the whole favourable during the year, but the crop amounted only to 216,000 tons, thereby causing a very marked falling off between the preliminary estimate and the crop harvested. It is believed that the deficit is largely due to the prevalence of disease, principally Gummosis on the White Tanna cane, which at present constitutes 56 per cent. of the total area cultivated. In consequence, considerable attention is being devoted to securing new varieties of cane for cultivation.

Sugar machinery to the value of Rs.1,087,302 was imported during the year, and tramway material to the value of Rs.418,620. Tractors and ploughs to a value of Rs.70,535 were imported, and there are now 111 tractors in the Colony.

The Sugar Planters' Syndicate, constituted under Ordinances Nos. 31 of 1920 and 7 of 1921, controlled more than 80 per cent. of the sugar produced by the Colony.

As in previous years, the bulk of the production went to the United Kingdom. Up to the end of 1927 the total export approximated to 123,600 tons, of which 110,100 tons had been shipped to the United Kingdom.

A further centre of infection of the destructive beetle *Phytalus smithi* was recorded in Flacq during the year. Control measures are being adopted. It is estimated that approximately 41,000 acres are now infested with the pest, but, as the result of the control measures adopted, appreciable damage is only recorded on about 2,500 acres.

In view of the difficulties encountered by the sugar industry, a conference representing the interests of the industry was held during the year at the instance of the Governor, with the assistance of the Director of Agriculture. The conference discussed a large number of points of importance in connection with the sugar industry. One of the results of the conference has been the establishment of the Sugar Industry Reserve Fund, which is created by means of a special tax of 4 cents of a rupee per 100 kilos. of sugar exported, as provided for by the Sugar Industry Reserve Fund Ordinance 1927 (No. 24); the object of the Fund being :—

(1) To subsidize and encourage experimental installation of new machinery in sugar houses and in cane plantations;

(2) To finance an agency of the Chamber of Agriculture in England;

(3) To provide for the costs of visits of suitable persons of this Colony to other sugar-producing countries and of expert technologists from other countries to this Colony, and

(4) To defray any expenses in connection with any other object which the Committee may consider beneficial to the sugar industry of the Colony.

Research in relation to the sugar industry.—A considerable amount of research in connection with the sugar industry was carried out by the Department of Agriculture. The work done comprised investigations on soil problems, on the manuring and cultivating of canes, on the raising and trial of new cane varieties, and on the control of insect and fungoid disease of cane.

As the outcome of the sugar conference alluded to above a technical conference is being arranged to be held in 1928 with the object of discussing the results of the research work performed and their increased application in practice on estates.

Subsidiary Industries.—As a result of the depression of the sugar industry, continued attention has been devoted to the development of the subsidiary industries, and marked progress can be recorded. In principle it seems clear that only those industries are worthy of attention which show possibilities of development as an export trade, inasmuch as entire reliance on the local market leads to instability as the result of dependence of home consumption on the staple industry, i.e., sugar, and also owing to abrupt fluctuations in price as the result of limitation of demand.

Fibre Industry.—Mauritius hemp is produced from the leaves of *Fourcroya gigantea*, a plant which grows well all over the island. The estimated area under Mauritius hemp is 20,000 acres. Quotations for prime were low during the year, hardly rising above Rs.320 per ton. The export for 1927 was 1,905 tons. An important event was the commencement of the operations of the Hemp Syndicate. The object of the Association was co-operation among planters to secure better grading and packing of the fibre and ultimately, by co-operative marketing, to secure better market conditions. The Syndicate controls a baling and grading factory, the cost of the erection of which has been supplied by a grant in aid of Rs.115,000 from the Improvement and Development Fund. The Government is represented on the Board of the Syndicate by the Director of Agriculture. The building is equipped with up-to-date machinery, including electrically-operated cranes and hydraulic presses. The improvement in the manner in which the fibre is presented for market, as the result of the Syndicate's operation, had already enhanced the price by the end of the year. With but few exceptions all fibre producers in the Colony have now adhered to the Syndicate.

Sisal cultivation on a commercial scale has been resumed at Grand Bay Estate, and the Robay machine belonging to the property is being operated. Sisal is also cultivated on a small scale by the Anglo Ceylon Co. at Stanley.

Tobacco.—Considerable developments took place in relation to this crop. At the end of the year, 2,000 acres were estimated to be under cultivation and the production of the Colony amounted to 321 tons of cured leaf. Practically all of this was taken up for local consumption, and various brands of local cigarettes are now consumed on a large scale. Attention was devoted to the possibility of organizing an export trade, and a tobacco export grading warehouse was started under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture. Under Proclamation No. 15 of 1927, the export of tobacco is prohibited unless it is accompanied by a certificate to the effect that it has been graded by the Government grading warehouse.

The warehouse commenced operations at the beginning of December, previous trial shipments having indicated that remunerative prices for Mauritius tobacco are likely to be obtained in England.

A Tobacco Growers' Association was inaugurated during the year and co-operated with the Department of Agriculture and the Government in various measures for the protection of the industry, including the control of disease and seed supply.

Provision for the imposition of an excise duty on locally-grown tobacco was made by Ordinance No. 46 of 1927, which also provides for the survey of manufacturers and curers of tobacco, a new industry capable of profitable development. There are now six firms manufacturing tobacco in Port Louis, of which the chief is the British American Tobacco Company.

Pine-apple canning and Fruit preserving.—There appear to be possibilities of development in this direction. Pine-apples grow well in Mauritius and scope exists for the establishment of an export trade for the canning of pine-apples. A committee, under the chairmanship of the Director of Agriculture, studied the question during the year and an officer of the Department of Agriculture was sent to South Africa to report on the industry in that country. Subsequently, a scheme for the inauguration of the industry was drafted and it is hoped that the proposals will result in the establishment of an export trade on some scale.

Alcohol.—688,077 litres were produced during the year. The modern plants at Medine and Richelieu continued operation, and a number of motor-lorries are now run on power alcohol. The recommendations of the Alcohol Commission for the remodelling of the existing Liquor Laws are expected to improve greatly the position of the industry.

Oil crops.—The Innova Refinery continued to operate during the year, mainly handling copra from oil islands. Various plantation companies in these islands are now devoting attention to the improvement of their properties. The copra production from the lesser dependencies averages 900 tons yearly.

Tea.—The industry continued in a depressed condition. The duty on imported teas was reduced from 60 to 40 cents. per kilo during the year. In the absence of the possible development of an export trade, the future prospects of this industry are not bright.

Food-crops.—Maize was grown on about 3,500 acres. There has been an appreciable increase of the area cultivated under vegetables, which may be approximated to 4,000 acres.

Coffee.—Some interest was shown in the question of coffee cultivation. The possibilities of organizing an export trade in this staple appear to be worth exploring.

Vanilla.—Little progress is recorded, although conditions are favourable for production. The opinion has been expressed that existing legislation which imposes severe restrictions on cultivation of the crop is acting as a bar to progress.

Live stock.—Proposals for assisting the live stock industry by the grant of Rs.30,000, to be administered by a committee under the chairmanship of the Director of Agriculture, were approved during the year.

The Government Dairy continued to operate. A committee to enquire into the undertaking was appointed. It is hoped that, as a result of the findings of the committee, the value of this institution in providing a milk supply of high purity, for use in hospitals and for private persons, will receive greater appreciation.

Animal Diseases.—The campaign for the eradication of surra was continued. 13,488 animals were examined for the disease during the year and 72 cases were detected. There were one or two minor outbreaks of the disease in the latter months of the year.

Red water fever occurred on two properties. Both outbreaks were satisfactorily controlled. A campaign for the control of bovine tuberculosis has been inaugurated.

Agricultural Shows.—A very successful agricultural show was held at Pamplemousses Botanical Gardens in September, 1927.

Rodrigues.—The Agricultural Experiment Station was maintained; special interest attaches to experiments in the cultivation of long staple upland cotton conducted thereat, the results of which appear very promising. Attention is also being paid to the cultivation of tobacco, food crops, stock, and re-afforestation.

Co-operative Credit Societies.—Co-operative credit societies are administered under Ordinance No. 4 of 1913; they are based on the Indian model. Numerous difficulties have been encountered in their administration, nevertheless it seems clear that, if properly administered, such societies are capable of accomplishing much useful work in the Colony.

On the 30th June, 1927, there were 29 societies and the total membership amounted to 2,861; the total working capital on the same date was Rs.310,328, a reduction of Rs.1,335 as compared with the year ended 30th June, 1926.

The following is a comparative statement showing the amount of the annual exports of the principal commodities of the Colony during the last five years:—

Sugar.

	Tons.	*Value.* *Rs.*
1927	227,989	53,789,928
1926	181,215	37,991,240
1925	192,303	41,250,907
1924	182,742	49,823,753
1923	223,051	67,227,562

Aloe Fibre.

	Tons.	Value. Rs.
1927	1,905	665,936
1926	2,577	838,980
1925	1,896	557,072
1924	1,093	413,819
1923	599	164,112

Copra.

	Tons.	Value. Rs.
1927	1,396	334,297
1926	1,000	284,960
1925	868	154,308
1924	746	224,117
1923	718	117,094

Coconut Oil.

	Litres.	Value. Rs.
1927	61,330	34,597
1926	67,997	43,126
1925	75,786	48,321
1924	64,362	50,761
1923	22,276	16,897

Forestry.

The total area of woodlands under the control of the Forest Department at the end of 1927 was :—

	Arpents.
A. Crown Lands	69,827.69
B. Private Forests under State Control—	
(1) Mountain Reserves	8,728.56
(2) River Reserves, about	6,000.00
(3) *Curatelle* Lands	17.00
(4) Waste lands of Port Louis	156.50
Total	84,730.75

showing an increase of 339 *arpents* 60 of Crown lands over last year. These new lands were acquired under the Land Purchase Scheme at a cost of Rs.87,360.

The output of the Forest Department disposed of from Crown lands during the year in favour of the public and of the Government departments amounted to 24,617 cubic feet solid of timber, and 165,000 cubic feet stacked of firewood, which shows an increase of about 11,700 cubic feet solid on last year's production, but a decrease of 151,500 cubic feet stacked of firewood. The increase is due to utilization of eucalypts uprooted by cyclones.

In the formation of forest plantations on Crown lands a total expense of Rs.63,739.62 was incurred. About 350 *arpents* of new ground were re-stocked, chiefly with pines, eucalypts, and the ruling indigenous species, and 1,307 *arpents* of previous plantations were maintained at the same time. This shows a small increase of 85 *arpents* on last year's work, when Rs. 49,000 were spent on the creation of 265 *arpents* of new forest ground and the upkeep of 1,126 *arpents* of previous plantations.

The lumber trade of Mauritius is an important one, the average annual import of timber (boards, planks, scantlings, shingles, railway sleepers, and wooden manufactures) during the years 1922 to 1926 amounted to (a value of) about 2¼ millions rupees. The imports of last year amounted to 7,337 cubic metres of boards, planks, and scantlings, worth Rs.603,356.00, 1,723,525 teak shingles, worth Rs.102,926.00, and 32,692 railway sleepers, worth Rs.227,460.00. The only local timber exported is ebony, which is now very limited and only exists in some Crown forests. In 1927, by special authority, a consignment of 11 cubic metres, worth Rs.2,915, from mountain reserves (private forests under State control) was allowed to be exported.

Fisheries.

In 1926 Mr. James Hornell, F.L.S., F.R.A.I., late Director of Fisheries to the Government of Madras, was deputed by the Secretary of State to carry out a rapid survey of the Marine Resources of Mauritius and to submit recommendations for the improvement and development thereof.

Mr. Hornell arrived in the Colony in April and submitted his report in August, 1926. The report was laid before the Council of Government in November, 1926, and ultimately received the approval of the Secretary of State.

As an outcome of this report, a Permanent Advisory Committee was appointed in August, 1927, and the Committee is now studying the best practical means of putting into force the recommendations contained in the report.

The enforcement of the provisions of the Fisheries Ordinance is vested in the Receiver-General, and the whole is under the control of the Inland Revenue Branch of the Receiver-General's Department.

The fisheries industry now chiefly consists of lagoon fishing, sea fishing being much less resorted to than in pre-war days.

The outstanding features of the fishing industry (as reported upon by Mr. Hornell) are as follows :—

(*a*) The remarkable variety and natural abundance of good fish both in the lagoon area and in the open sea around the island.

(*b*) The undue concentration of fishing within the lagoon area, neutralizing in large measure the natural abundance of fish therein.

(*c*) The very great decrease from pre-war years in the amount of fishing done in the open sea.

(*d*) The lack of enterprise in the industry save in the exploitation of the lagoon area.

(*e*) The specially favourable conditions that prevail on the coast for marine fish-farming, coupled with the imperfect utilization of these opportunities.

(*f*) The absence of any important minor marine industries save lime-making from coral and the half-hearted fish-farming carried on in barachois.

Mr. Hornell has submitted a series of specific recommendations for the development and improvement of the fishing industry, including the creation of a Fisheries Department.

The Department proposed would attend to all matters relating to fisheries and would be under the guidance of a trained Superintendent, who should have qualified in Oceanography at the University of Liverpool and have made a stay of three months in India to study the organization and methods of the Madras Fisheries Department.

Water Power.

The numerous rivers and streams of Mauritius flow generally through deep ravines, their courses being broken by many waterfalls and rapids. The following extract from the list of waterfalls will give some indication of the available water power in the Colony. It is estimated that 10,000 horse-power is available, of which 1,200 horse-power is utilized at present, principally for electric light service.

WATERFALLS MEASURED DURING THE DRY SEASON OF THE YEAR 1912.

Name of River.	*Name or description of Waterfall.*	*Height of Waterfall in feet.*	*Volume in cubic feet per minute.*
G. River, S.E. ...	Deschiens	19	1,530
do. ...	Diamamoo	63	2,315
G. River N.W. ...	Le Reduit	135	450
Savanne River ...	Cascade Cecile	105	580
do ...	Below Terracine Dam ...	77	250
Tamarind River ...	Sept Cascades	960	420
R. des Galets ...	Near Plaine Champagne ...	130	60
do. ...	Luchon	400	134
R. du Cap	Chamarel	320	330
R. Moka	Cascade Pigeons	160	80

Manufactures.

An account of the principal manufactures of the Colony has been given above. It may here be mentioned, however, that a brickfield plant which had been started by Government on an experimental basis is now being worked by private enterprise. The bricks produced are of good quality and some villas built of this material are already in existence.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total value of the overseas trade of the Colony in 1927 amounted to Rs.111,662,220, the value of the imports of merchandise being Rs.55,185,633 and that of exports Rs.56,476,587.

1927 was the first year since 1922 in which the value of the exports has exceeded that of the imported goods.

The Customs revenue from imports amounted to Rs.5,270,732, a slight increase on the revenue for 1926, and the revenue from the exports was Rs.1,875,637, against Rs.1,490,293 in 1926, the increase being due to a larger sugar crop.

Trade.

The comparative values of imports and exports of merchandise for 1913 and for the past five years are as follows :—

		Imports. *Rs.*	*Exports.* *Rs.*	*Total.* *Rs.*
1913	...	36,607,671	32,291,706	68,899,377
1923	...	76,835,565	69,841,931	146,677,496
1924	...	76,415,648	52,282,533	128,698,181
1925	...	61,682,844	44,478,894	106,161,738
1926	...	50,596,137	41,208,198	91,804,335
1927	...	55,185,633	56,476,587	111,662,220

The value of re-exports was Rs.1,660,091. Bullion and specie, amounting to Rs.1,598,387, was imported during the year, and the exports under that heading amounted to Rs.2,567,000.

IMPORTS.

The distribution of the import trade showed an increase of about 20 per cent. in the value of the imports from the United Kingdom over that of 1926; trade with Australia, Germany, China, Italy, Sweden, Spain, and Belgium also showed an increase; decreases are recorded in the case of Madagascar, Reunion, and Canada.

The principal items of the imports which showed an increase in 1927 over the preceding year are rice and grain, manures and fertilizers, cotton and woollen piece goods, spirits, oils (edible), motor-cars, lorries, bicycles, and agricultural tractors, cement, iron and steel manufactures, silk goods, boots and shoes, and unmanufactured tobacco. The following are the principal items in which decreases are shown : coal, coke and manufactured fuel, manufactured tobacco and cigarettes, wines, paraffin, motor spirits and lubricating oils, and gunny bags.

The increase in the importation of unmanufactured tobacco and the decrease in the manufactured tobacco and cigarettes are due to the rapid progress made in the production and manufacture locally of tobacco and cigarettes.

The following statement gives the character and size of the trade in the principal articles imported in 1927 as compared with the preceding year :—

	1927.		*1926.*	
Rice	59,607	Tons	52,964	Tons
Other Grain	22,307	„	17,623	„
Manures and Fertilizers	19,564	„	10,814	„
Coal, Coke and Patent Fuel	21,025	„	41,017	„
Cement	9,001	„	5,565	„
Cotton Manufactures	10,644,866	Metres	8,300,821	Metres
Woollen „	129,001	„	87,914	„
Wines in Cask	2,709,433	Litres	3,471,198	Litres
„ in Bottle	96,121	„	141,536	„
Spirits	51,766	„	40,664	„

	1927.		*1926.*	
	No.	*Rs.*	*No.*	*Rs.*
Motor-cars	180	506,558	108	273,853
„ Lorries	5	88,541	66	166,561
Boots and Shoes	—	295,505	—	177,134
Haberdashery and Millinery...	—	900,933	—	890,345
Iron and Steel Manufactures	—	1,810,861	—	1,237,358
Silk Goods	—	489,548	—	242,138
Drugs	—	422,376	—	319,760
Wearing Apparel	—	671,230	—	556,184

EXPORTS.

Owing to a large crop the export of sugar in 1927 showed an increase over the 1926 figures and was the highest since 1922.

The figures for the past six years are as follows :—

	Kilos.	*Value.* *Rs.*
1922	292,744,249	88,454,321
1923	223,051,061	67,227,562
1924	182,742,235	49,823,753
1925	192,303,540	41,250,907
1926	181,215,772	37,991,240
1927	227,989,329	53,789,928

The principal domestic exports other than sugar were aloe fibre, valued at Rs.665,936; copra, Rs.334,297 ; coconut oil, Rs.35,247; and rum, Rs.20,055.

Re-exports amounted to Rs.1,660,091 and consisted chiefly of rice, gunny bags, wheat flour, lentils, and salted fish.

The following table shows the distribution of the imports, exports, and total trade with the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and foreign countries in 1913 and for the past five years :—

Imports.

Countries.	*1913.*	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*
United Kingdom ...	33·2	30·6	31·9	27·4	22·2	23·6
British Possessions ...	42·6	40·8	36·9	45·1	48·5	47·2
Foreign Countries ...	24·2	28·6	31·2	27·5	29·3	29·2
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Exports.

	1913.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*
United Kingdom ...	18·5	94·6	23·7	61·9	87·4	92·4
British Possessions ...	77·0	4·2	69·2	29·2	7·5	5·3
Foreign Countries ...	4·5	1·2	7·1	8·9	5·1	2·3
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Total Trade.

	1913.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*
United Kingdom ...	26·3	61·1	28·8	42·0	51·5	57·8
British Possessions ...	58·7	23·4	50·0	38·4	30·1	25·3
Foreign Countries ...	15·0	15·5	21·2	19·6	18·4	16·9
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

The following shows the number and tonnage of vessels using the port (excluding the coasting trade) during the past three years.

	Inwards.		*Outwards.*	
	No.	*Tonnage*	*No.*	*Tonnage.*
1925	234	632,951	229	619,221
1926	187	508,555	194	541,120
1927	224	622,936	226	625,524

In the coastal trade with the dependencies there were 21 vessels inwards of 8,461 tons and 20 vessels outwards of 7,873 tons.

The principal lines of steamships represented by vessels calling at Port Louis were the Union-Castle Steamship Co. Ltd., the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., the Messageries Maritimes, the Clan Line, the Ellerman Harrison Line, the Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire, and the Mogul Line.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railway, exclusive of Bois Cheri Light Railway, is 120 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet 8½ inches.

Earnings amounted to Rs.3,269,391, as against Rs.4,048,616 for the previous year, a decrease of Rs.779,225. Comparative figures are :—

	Previous year.	*This year.*	*Decrease.*
Coaching Revenue ...	Rs. 1,964,053	1,663,325	300,728
Goods Revenue	Rs. 1,813,930	1,293,970	519,960
Goods Tonnage	542,296	480,969	61,327

The working expenditure amounts to Rs.3,364,687. In view of the reduced revenue earned, every effort was made to reduce expenditure, with the result that there is a reduction of Rs.495,893 as compared with expenditure for the previous year. Comparative figures are :—

	Rs.
Working expenditure, previous year ...	3,860,580
Working expenditure, this year	3,364,687
Decrease	Rs. 495,893

This reduction is due to a large extent to the reorganization of the Railway Department, brought into force on 1st July, 1926, which provides for increased supervision and modern railway accounting.

The excess of working expenditure over earnings thus amounts to Rs.99,296. After making provision for pensions depreciation, etc., the total deficit for the year amounts to Rs.808,936.08.

Engine power has been considerably augmented by the purchase of three Garratt locomotives, which replace five engines taken out of commission. The Garratts were utilised for the haulage of this year's sugar-cane crop, which was transported with celerity and ease, thus demonstrating the utility of these large machines. Bois Cheri Light Railway revenue amounted to Rs.26,936, as against Rs.32,750 for the previous year. The fall in revenue, Rs.5,814, is explained by reduced rates brought into effect to combat road competition and as an inducement to planters to cultivate more extensively. Better results are expected next year.

A collection and delivery service was inaugurated on 6th December, 1926. The revenue for the period ended 30th June, 1927, amounts to Rs.10,276. This marks the opening of the railways campaign against the competition of road transport, which has seriously affected railway earnings.

Roads.

The island is well served by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes : (a) main roads of a total length of about 441 miles, which are maintained from the general revenue of the Colony, and (b) branch roads of a total length of about 193 miles, which are maintained by the District

Boards from a contribution made from the general revenue of the Colony.

The roads are constructed of hard basalt stone which is abundant in all districts in the island, and have been able to sustain heavy traffic. But the ever-increasing traffic, both of motor-cars and heavy lorries, has rendered the improvement of the roads imperative. This is effected by tar-spraying, and the tar-sprayed roads have sustained very well the heavy traffic. Up to the end of the year under review 59½ miles of main roads have been improved and tar-sprayed.

Posts and Telegraphs, Telephones, etc.

Postal communication between Europe and Mauritius is maintained chiefly by the Messageries Maritimes packets, Mauritius being the terminus of the Ligne de l'Ocean Indien, whereon ten units ply, leaving Marseilles, in rotation, at 14 days' interval.

In order, however, that the course of transit may be shortened, an agreement has been concluded between the Messageries Maritimes Co. and the Colony, whereby, in return for a sum of £7,000. the packets, twenty-six times annually, steam from Tamatave direct to Mauritius, and proceed to Reunion after landing mails and passengers at Port Louis. They then return from Reunion to Port Louis to collect mails and passengers for the homeward voyages.

By this route, mails from Europe are expected to arrive in 32 or 33 days.

Castle Line steamers visit the island, on the average, once every five weeks, sometimes more often. They provide the principal means of communication with South Africa and with Europe via the Cape of Good Hope.

The Clan Line and the Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire usually supply, at irregular times, further opportunities, also cargo steamers coming for the sugar trade.

Mails to and from Asia, Australia, etc., are conveyed by eight or 10 liners, yearly, of the British India Steam Navigation Co. and by some other vessels trading between the island and India or the Far East. In the absence of any of these ships, outward mails are sent via Zanzibar, by the Messageries Maritimes regular packets.

The total foreign correspondence passing in and out the General Post Office, Port Louis, in 1927 was, approximately, 571,253 ordinary letters and postcards; 226,520 newspapers, books, etc.; 17,554 commercial papers; 15,480 samples of merchandise; and registered articles to the number of 82,869, and 642 insured letters.

Postal parcels up to 21 lb. in weight are exchanged with Great Britain and up to 10 kilogrammes with France. With other countries, the exchange is limited to weights of 11 lb. and 5 kilogrammes.

Including C.O.D. (exchanged with Great Britain only), parcels handled in 1927 numbered 26,181, of the total value of Rs.917,430, or, in sterling, at the conventional rate of 1s. 4d. the Rupee, £61,162.

The above correspondence and parcels were conveyed by 26 Messageries Maritimes, 10 British India, 13 Castle Line, and 169 other vessels.

Two branch post offices in Port Louis and 61 country offices shared in the collection and distribution of these letter and parcel mails, but the latter offices to a comparatively small extent. Except those in the principal inhabited centres, and numbering about fifteen, the country post offices are almost exclusively engaged in local business, comprising inland correspondence, telegrams, and money-orders.

At any of these offices, however, a money order on London, Paris, South Africa, or India, etc., may be purchased or a British postal order cashed; and, save at four, a cablegram to any place served by a cable may be handed in as also may a radiotelegram to Reunion or Madagascar or to a ship at sea within a range of 600 miles. Telegraphic money-orders are obtainable on Great Britain and India at the General Post Office, Port Louis, and British postal orders at the General Post Office and the larger inland offices.

By arrangement between the local Government and the Eastern and South African Telegraph Co., whose premises and offices are in Port Louis, messages originating from or addressed to places other than Port Louis are transmitted over the Government land-telegraph lines. These messages are transmitted between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. on ordinary weekdays and from 7 a.m. to noon on Sundays. The cable office is open on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sundays from 8 a.m. to noon.

The Company also maintains a station in Rodrigues, the principal dependency of Mauritius.

The wireless station, installed by the Royal Navy and now leased by Government, is at Rose Belle, 25 miles from Port Louis. It was opened to public traffic in March, 1924. Messages to and from the station are transmitted over the land telegraphs. 1,923 messages were received in 1927 and 1,028 forwarded. The hours of services at the station are :—

Greenwich Mean Time.		*Mauritius Time.*
4-6	... ...	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
8-10	... ...	12 a.m. to 2 p.m.
12-16	... ...	4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
16-18	... ...	8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The land telegraphs are worked by the Post Office but the 360 miles of line are maintained by the electric branch of the Railway Department.

The number of private messages put through in 1927 was 28,386 which, at the rate of 12 words for R. O.25, plus extra charges for delivery, fetched Rs.28,626.

There is a marked slackness in the use of telegrams, probably attributable to the extension of the telephone service (owned by a private company) to country districts.

The electric branch of the Railway Department also maintains the Government telephone, a small system at first set up to connect the Government offices in Port Louis. The Government telephone has now been linked, through its exchange at the Colonial Secretary's office, to the public system owned and worked by the Oriental Telephone Co. and spreading its network over Port Louis, Plaines Wilhems, and Moka, the three districts more important in regard to population and development.

Except savings bank transactions, the Post Office in Mauritius carries on every class of business within the ordinary scope of this section of the public service elsewhere. The revenue collected in 1927 was Rs.356,221, against which, expenditure amounting to Rs.305,282 (including salaries of staff) being set off, a clear profit of Rs.50,939 is left.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice and Crime.

Justice is administered in Mauritius by the Supreme Court, sitting in Port Louis as a Court of Civil and Criminal Justice, and having the power of the King's Bench in England and of a Court of Equity; and in the nine Districts by the Magistrates' Courts, having likewise a limited civil, criminal, and stipendiary jurisdiction.

In 1927, the Supreme Court dealt with 334 civil matters out of 660 which were brought before it, as against 399 out of 711 in the previous year, distributed as follows :—

53 actions of Rs.1,000 and over.
45 appeals.
35 petitions in divorce cases.
155 motions.
31 Bankruptcy notices.
15 Bankruptcy petitions.

In 1927, 25 persons were brought before and tried by the same Court, sitting as a Criminal Court, out of whom 23 were convicted as follows :—

Attempt at Murder	1
Manslaughter	7
Rape	1
Other offences against the person	9
Malicious injury to property	5,

the percentage of acquittals being 8.

In the Magistrates' Courts 18,177 persons were brought before the District and Stipendiary Courts and before the Benches of Magistrates (three Magistrates having a wider criminal jurisdiction) and dealt with as follows :—

Acquitted or discharged by the District Magistrates	1,424
Convicted	16,560
Committed to the Assizes	34
Acquitted or discharged by the Stipendiary Magistrates	77
Convicted	82
	18,177

Police.

(a) *The higher standard of education required.*—During the year, difficulty has been experienced, as in years past, in obtaining men of a standard of education sufficiently advanced to keep pace with the changing conditions of all classes of the Colony, for, in Mauritius, as in practically every other part of the world, criminals have shown an increasing skill in carrying out their activities.

To counteract this, a Cadet Corps has been formed, composed of 20 young men of good education and standing selected from the general population, and, in the event of the Corps proving a success, it is intended to increase the number.

(b) *Communications.*—There are 56 police stations distributed throughout the Colony, 22 of which are connected with telephones. The importance of this has been many times proved.

(c) *Bandsmen.*—The Police Force possesses a fine band under a European bandmaster. The majority of the bandsmen were recruited in India, most of them being ex-military bandsmen. Constant demands by the general public are made for their services, which are greatly appreciated. Besides private performances, they occasionally play at the different hospitals and the asylum.

(d) *Commission of Enquiry.*—A Commission of Enquiry was appointed during the year at the request of certain Members of the Council of Government.

(e) *Dangerous Criminals.*—During the course of the year, a heavy task was laid on the Police in breaking up and bringing to justice a noted gang of criminals who were armed and had for long terrorised the population. Since the breaking of this gang, serious crimes have decreased to a great extent.

(f) *Institution of Photographic and Modus Operandi Bureau.*—A system of photographing dangerous criminals has been instituted, as well as a *Modus Operandi* Bureau. A careful record is kept and a card index used for ready reference.

(g) *Police Circular.*—A Police Circular is issued daily and distributed to all stations of the island. It contains all known offences or anything of interest from a police point of view which has occurred within the last 24 hours. Special attention of all ranks is called to this Circular, men are questioned on it occasionally and it has been remarked that these Circulars have a marked effect in keeping all ranks up to date and in keeping their police sense alive.

(h) *Opium, Gandia, and Cocaine smuggling.*—During the course of the year, a few cases of possession of opium and gandia were detected. The smuggling of opium is still common amongst the Chinese population and in spite of the heavy punishments inflicted there is little decrease of this offence.

The usual method of smuggling opium is by boats coming from China, India, Singapore, etc. It is not brought into ports but is passed on to plying boats out at sea and landed at different parts of the shore, which makes the detection difficult.

Gandia is imported from India and also cultivated in out-of-the-way places in different parts of the island.

No case of illicit possession of cocaine was detected during the year.

Prisons.

There are two prisons in the Colony, one in Port Louis and one at Beau Bassin. The Port Louis Prison is the receiving prison, where all persons are admitted and discharged.

All persons awaiting trial and under remand are located in this Prison. It contains 154 cells for males. There is also a special yard for females, containing 9 cells.

On admission, all long-sentence prisoners and those sentenced to hard labour are transferred to Beau Bassin Prison and those sentenced for non-payment of fines and simple imprisonment are kept in the Port Louis Prison.

The Central Prison, Beau Bassin, is situated at a distance of about 8 miles from Port Louis. It contains 756 cells for males only. In addition to this, there are the punishment cells, 8 in number, for the confinement of prisoners undergoing punishment for prison offences.

The long-sentence prisoners, after undergoing their solitary confinement, are taught various trades. The profit on the work done in 1927 by the different workshops was Rs.2,244.79.

There is a bakery with two large ovens, which supplies bread and biscuits to all Government institutions.

About 12 acres of land on the southern and western sides of the Prison are under cultivation as a kitchen garden. On the 18th November, 1922, a poultry farm was started.

Criminal statistics.—There were 1,793 persons committed to prison during the year, i.e., 201 less than in the previous year. Of the total, 1,698 were males and 95 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December, 1927, was 366, as against 353 in the preceding year. The number of juvenile offenders was 86, as against 89 in the previous year.

The Industrial School.—The new Industrial School of Beau Bassin was started in November, 1922. The buildings are spacious and can accommodate 250 boys. The grounds are extensive and suitable for outdoor recreation.

The boys are trained as carpenters, tinsmiths, masons, shoemakers, and gardeners, and receive moral and religious instruction and a primary education.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The following are the main works which have been started or on which progress has been continued during the year under review :—

Buildings.—Work was concentrated on the improvements to hospitals (Mental and Victoria Hospitals) and on the construction of three new primary schools.

Water Supplies.—Great improvements were made in the water supply of the island. In the past, a large number of villages derived their supplies from surface wells, by means of rope and buckets, or from open canals made in earth.

The water supply of the district of Plaines Wilhems from the Mare-aux-Vacoas has been further improved by the addition of 2 filter beds, the duplication of the 16-inch power main, and the extension of service pipes.

A new scheme for the water supply of the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart was started to serve a population of over 30,000 inhabitants. Twenty miles of pipes were laid, public fountains were erected, and private supplies granted.

The water supplies of the village of Pamplemousses and the district of Grand Port were improved by the enlargement of the mains and the extension of service pipes.

The district of Savanne, part of Moka, and the upper part of Flacq have also benefited from new water supply schemes.

Drainage Works, Port Louis.—The laying of sewers within the town of Port Louis was continued, along with house-service connections.

Irrigation Works.—Work continued on the dam at Midlands Reservoir, which will have a total capacity of 702 million cubic feet and will provide, when completed, for the irrigation of 12,000 acres in the northern districts.

At the same time, the construction of the main feeder channel and distributary channels was continued.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated population of the island on the 31st December, 1927, was 401,693, or an increase of 3,457 on the previous year's figures and of 25,208 on the last Census figures (20th May, 1921).

The numbers of births and deaths during the year were 13,748 and 10,015 respectively.

The birth-rate in the general population was 36.7 and in the Indian population 33.6 per *mille*, as against 41.8 and 38.4, respectively, for the previous year.

The death-rates per 1,000 in the two populations for 1927 were 23.6 and 25.8, as against 25.0 and 25.4, respectively, for 1926.

The highest death-rate for 1927 is shown in Pamplemousses (33.2) and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems (18.1). The death-rate for the whole Colony was 25.1 per *mille* as compared with 26.4 in 1926, and the rate for Port Louis was 27.7, as against 28.0 in the previous year.

Public Health.

Taking into account the composition of the population and its high density, the death-rate for the whole Colony is reasonably low. But the statistics of deaths in tropical countries do not generally bear any fixed ratio to the amount of sickness in the population, and it is the morbidity of the people more than their mortality that is of greatest importance to communities in normal times.

There are no adequate data for the assessment of morbidity rates in the Colony, but it is a commonplace observation that the majority of the dwellers in the rural districts are not getting the best out of life. Intestinal parasitism saps much of their strength. It is no exaggeration to state that 95 per cent. of the persons living in the rural districts harbour intestinal parasites of some description. The most dangerous of these is the hookworm. Measures for the relief and control of hookworm infection in the Colony were begun in 1922, when the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation kindly consented to undertake a co-operative campaign with the Colonial Government. The co-operative period ended in 1925, since when the Colonial Government has continued the work. Progress, however, has necessarily been slow.

Malaria is the other great cause of sickness in the Colony. There is little doubt that its influence is enhanced by the debilitating effects of the hookworm infection, and by the generally low standard of living existing in rural areas. It is almost negligible as a cause of ill-health among the wealthier classes of the community, who reside in the districts of Moka or Plaines Wilhems.

During 1927 an investigation has been made into the extent of tuberculosis in Port Louis and it has been found that the disease is much more widespread than was previously supposed. Fortunately, the acute septicaemic type of the disease is not common, and it would appear that some form of natural immunity has been developed, similar to that now existing in Europe.

The diseases specially associated with the tropics are comparatively rare so far as present knowledge goes to show. The pathology of Mauritius is more characteristic of sub-tropical or temperate regions than of the tropics.

The following Ordinances relative to public health were passed during the year :—

(1) The Medical Practitioners Ordinance, 1927 (No. 14), and
(2) The Medicinal Tinctures and Drugs Ordinance, 1927 (No. 35).

The Medical Practitioners Ordinance, 1927 (*No.* 14) settles a long-standing controversy dating many years back. Its main object is to ensure that only those medical practitioners will be entitled to exercise the practice of medicine in Mauritius who are holders of (i) degrees or diplomas registrable in the United Kingdom ; (ii) state degrees of Doctor in Medicine of any of the Faculties of France.

The Medicinal Tinctures and Drugs Ordinance, 1927 (*No.* 35) provides for the control of alcohol manufactured in the Colony and issued for the local preparation of certain pharmaceutical products—a new industrial use of the local product.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

Primary education, though not compulsory, is provided free by Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony.

At the close of the year, there were 151 primary schools, 57 Government and 94 denominational, assisted by Government grants. Of the latter, 65 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 5 Hindoo, and 3 Mohammedan. The average attendance was 23,183, as compared with 24,671 in 1926. The number of Indian children on the roll was 16,601 (boys 13,728, girls 2,873), a decrease of 1,496 on the previous year. The total number of girls educated in primary schools was 10,266, as against 10,349 in 1926.

Six junior scholarships and six junior exhibitions entitling the holders thereof to free tuition at the Royal College for a maximum period of eight years are awarded to boys of primary schools every year on the results of a competitive examination, the winners of a scholarship receiving money payments at the rate of Rs.120 a year in addition.

A Senior Bursary Class for primary school boys was established in 1926. The course of study in this class extends over a period of two years, at the expiration of which four scholarships and four exhibitions tenable at the Royal College for a maximum period of six years are also awarded every year on the results of a competitive examination. The first of these examinations was held in December, 1927, and there were 217 candidates, as against 113 who entered for the Junior Boys' Scholarship and Exhibition examination.

The number of scholarships awarded every year to primary school girls has now been increased from four to six, and the tenure of these scholarships has been extended from three to five years, thus allowing the winners to pursue their studies in a secondary school as far as the Cambridge School Certificate examination. 170 candidates sat for the Girls' Scholarship examination held in December, 1927, as against 174 in the previous year.

One of the most important problems is the recruitment of suitable teachers, and their proper training. The recent abolition of the examination result grant system and the revision of the salaries of primary school teachers have, as was expected, already attracted a few candidates of the right type; while the complete reorganisation of the Training School will, it is hoped, also help in the solution of this difficult question.

Technical instruction is provided in three principal centres, viz :—

(1) The Government Technical School in Port Louis, at which about 50 full-time boys, of an average age of 16 years, and about 200 boys from the primary schools in Port Louis, of an average age of 13 years, are taught mechanical drawing and receive manual instruction in woodwork;

(2) The Government Industrial School at Beau Bassin, at which about 150 boys from the primary schools in lower Plaines Wilhems are given manual instruction in woodwork; and

(3) The Government Trades School, at Bell Village, with about 75 full-time apprentices of an average age of 18 years, half of whom are carpenters and the rest masons, blacksmiths, or tinsmiths.

Woodwork classes on a more moderate scale are also held in three aided primary schools in the district of Plaines Wilhems, and the possibility of further developments in this direction has been engaging the attention of the Superintendent of Schools for some time.

Steps have been taken for the extension of garden work in the primary schools of the Colony, and the inclusion of Nature study in the syllabus of examination for Teachers' Certificates.

Elementary Agricultural Education.—A scheme for the establishment of a Farm School was given effect during the year. Provision was made for the extension of school gardens as well as for the further systematisation of instruction in Nature study for teachers in training, and for the training of elementary school teachers in agricultural science.

Secondary Education.

The number of secondary schools in the Colony was 10, as against nine in 1926. The total number on roll was 719 boys and 678 girls, while the average attendance was 635 and 518, respectively, as compared with 689 boys and 627 girls on roll for the previous year, with an average attendance of 577 and 539 respectively.

Three girls were, for the first time, presented by Loreto School, Curepipe, for the London Matriculation Examination held in January, 1927: one passed in the First and another in the Second Division.

The results of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1927, have not yet been received, but there is every reason to believe that the usual number of passes will be obtained.

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College.

The staff consists of the Rector, the Senior Master, 11 Masters, with British University Degrees, and 11 Assistant Masters. The latter are encouraged to take the B.A. or B.Sc. examination of the London University.

The College has well-equipped chemical and physical laboratories.

Admission to the College is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or upon winning a primary schools' scholarship.

The year opened with 327 pupils on the roll, and on 31st December, 1927, the number was 349; while the average attendance for the year was 323.

Boys receive instruction in classical and scientific subjects, Latin being compulsory and Greek optional and alternative with more advanced Natural Science in the Entrance, Lower Middle, and Upper Middle Classes. Bifurcation takes place in the Cambridge Local School Certificate Class.

Two scholarships, one on the classical and one on the modern side, are awarded annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Syndicate of Examiners of the Cambridge University. These scholarships are of the value of £1,000 with a temporary increase of 30 per cent. and with first-class passage allowances to and from England, and are tenable for four or five years at any British University or any scientific or technical institution of the United Kingdom.

Agricultural Education.

Mauritius Agricultural College.—The curriculum and regulations for the award of scholarships and laureateships were revised during the year, and the appointment of an additional lecturer in Sugar Technology and Engineering was approved.

Nine new students were admitted in the first term of 1927 and there were six second-year and five third-year students on the books, while eight students were attached to the College for post-graduate work. There were thus 28 students last year in training at the College. Four third-year students obtained the diploma of the College.

Examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute in Sugar Technology were held in April and for the registration of Agricultural Chemists in July.

The Laureateship of the College was awarded to Mr. R. Olivier for the study of Agricultural Chemistry.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEYS.

(Including Geological Survey.)

No geological survey of the island has ever been made.

The topographical survey of the island was made by the Army Survey Section in 1905 and a map of the island is published on a scale of one inch to the mile.

No important grants of land are now made by Government, the lands retained as Crown lands, of a total acreage of about 80,000 acres, being managed mostly as forest lands.

Of these, 13,621 acres are now given on lease to private parties.

XI.—LABOUR.

Labour, both agricultural and unskilled, is almost exclusively composed of Indians and their descendants, who constitute the majority of the population.

Natives of Africa and Madagascar were introduced as slaves during the French occupation, chiefly for agricultural purposes. Natives of India were also introduced as slaves from Bengal before 1758. On the 11th March, 1839, was published the Royal Order in Council of 7th September, 1838, by which slavery was abolished, and these labourers were liberated.

In 1769, Indians from the Malabar coast, coming mostly from Pondicherry, came to the island and offered themselves for hire as free labourers for a certain number of years, mostly as artificers and peons.

In 1815, forced labour in the shape of convicts was obtained from India, but this supply ceased in 1837. On the other hand, labourers from India were introduced, with the help of Government, by private individuals from 1835 until 1839, when the emigration of agricultural labourers was prohibited in India.

In 1842 the prohibition imposed upon exportation of Indians was removed by Indian Act No. XIV of 1839. Emigration was renewed and in 1844 immigration was carried on under the exclusive agency of the Government of Mauritius.

The several ordinances passed from that time to 1878 were consolidated in Ordinance No. 12 of 1878, which governed the conditions of indentured emigration from India. Such emigration was again prohibited in 1910.

The Government of India was approached by a committee in 1922 for the re-opening of emigration and on 1st June, 1923, a licence was obtained permitting the emigration of 1,500 labourers for a period of one year. Only 732 labourers with their dependants, numbering 1,395 immigrants in all, arrived during that year.

Their conditions of employment were governed by Ordinance No. 12 of 1922, which repealed all the previous labour ordinances and which, with some amendments, is still in force.

On application for an extension of the licence, a delegate of the Indian Government was sent here to investigate the effects of further immigration on the general conditions of labour at that time, and, consequent on his report, the application was not entertained. The number of Indian immigrants in the Colony on 31st December, 1927, was 15,895.

Labourers on estates, when under verbal or written contract binding for not more than one calendar month, receive in addition to their wages free housing, rations, and medical care; but the majority of them prefer to be employed by the day, in which case they reside in the adjoining villages.

The present economical condition of the island has entailed a marked reduction in the amount of wages paid for labour generally when compared with the wages paid during the years of prosperity 1919-22.

The number of artizans employed on estates and elsewhere has also been reduced, with the result that, although there are still openings for unskilled labour, the opportunities for skilled labour have decreased.

On the other hand, through the liberal education afforded to the labour class, artizans are springing up and are swelling the ranks of workers who have now to emigrate in search of work.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Apart from the Ordinances which have been specially mentioned under the relevant sections, the following may be quoted :—

"*The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance*, 1927 (*No.* 28)," which reproduces the provisions of the Carriage of Goods by Sea

Act of 1924, thus applying to Mauritius and its Dependencies the unified rules agreed upon at the International Conference on Maritime Law held at Brussels in October, 1922, as amended in 1923 at Brussels and given effect to in the English Act.

"*The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance*, 1927 (*No.* 40)," which amends the Pensions laws and provides mainly for the computation of pensions in months instead of in years. This Ordinance also allows, amongst other things, the inclusion for pension of non-pensionable service followed without break by service in a pensionable office and charges the Colony with its proportionate share of pension in respect of officers of the Colonial Audit Department transferred to or from the service of this Colony.

"*The Judicial Separation (Amendment) Ordinance* 1927, (*No.* 41)," which amends articles 108 and 311 of the Civil Code, so as to bring our law into line with that of France in the matter of the administrative and proprietary rights of a woman after she has obtained her judicial separation. She is given a domicile of her own and her rights to dispose of her property are unfettered.

The writer of this report arrived in the Colony on the 3rd November, 1927, and has to acknowledge the great assistance rendered by the various heads of departments in its compilation.

...

W. H. INGRAMS,

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

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2672

THE
EMPIRE'S AGRICULTURE

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REPORT FOR 1928.

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MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

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SITUATION AND AREA.

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles east of Madagascar, between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ E. longitude and 19° 50′ and 20° 31′ S. latitude. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ordinance 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its extreme breadth 29 miles, and its area covers 720 square miles (460,800 acres). The density of population is very high, being about 550 persons per square mile for the whole island. The population at 31st December, 1928, was 404,802.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of about 43,000. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital, which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, situated on the highest part of the central plateau, has about 20,000 inhabitants. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phoenix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, and Beau Bassin in the Plaines Wilhems District are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in the other country districts are Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Poudre d'Or, and Bambous.

The island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of the cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours Reunion and Rodrigues, and certainly more stable (J. S. Gardiner).

The dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° S. latitude. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and an estimated population of 7,269, is 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, while lesser islands of some importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the census of May, 1921, the population of the lesser dependencies was ascertained to be 1,810.

HISTORY.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date. A Dutch map copied from Arab sources shows the islands now known as Mauritius, Rodrigues, and Reunion under the names of Dinarobin, Dinanora, and Margabin, and it is possible that certain islands marked on Idrisi's map (1153) are intended to indicate them also.

There can be little doubt too that the island was visited by the Malays who colonised Madagascar in the 15th–16th century.

But Mauritius history really begins with its discovery by the Portuguese in the beginning of the sixteenth century—probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527, when the island is shown on an official map under the name of Santa Appollonia, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Reunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Dom Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island Ilha da Cirnos, or Swan Island, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any permanent settlement by the Portuguese, who for nearly a century only used the island as a port of call for repairs and supplies.

The island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South Eastern Port to which the Commander, Admiral Wybrandt

Van Warwyk, gave his own name. He took possession of the island on behalf of his Government and named it Mauritius, in honour of the Statholder, Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days he set sail, leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton of the "Pearl" visited the island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt at colonisation was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsz Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the "Compagnie Neerlandaise des Indes," landed at Warwick Haven or South Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores, and dwelling-houses were built at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the "13 Cantons" close by. These were followed by other settlers, who established themselves in the neighbourhood where Mahebourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the island was abandoned, and was again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally and which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1664 were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success, whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North-West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned, as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French vessel "Le Chasseur" arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it Ile de France. Settlement, however, was only effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fouge-rai, commanding the "Triton" of St. Malo, resumed possession for the Compagnie des Indes Orientales after landing at Ile aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest, which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Reunion, who had come to settle, and from that time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735, Mahé de Labourdonnais succeeded Mr. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the island. He left the island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions, however, soon became difficult for the settlers owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the "Compagnie des Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the East Indies and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling-house of "Mon Plaisir," and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French Revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery, on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobin leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected, and nearly all links with the mother country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French privateers, using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade, gained for the island its reputation still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared for a vigorous attack in 1810 and, after a memorable fight, Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule on the 3rd December, 1810.

The cession of the "Ile de France" and its dependencies to Great Britain was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, and the island, under its former name Mauritius, has since 1814 remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

In 1835 the emancipation of slaves took place, but as this new class of free men refused occupation as labourers the planters resorted to the introduction of indentured labour from India, which commenced in 1842 and continued practically without interruption until 1910.

In 1825 a Council of Government was established. It was modified in 1832 and reconstituted in 1884; it now consists of the Governor and 27 members, 8 being ex-officio, 9 nominated by the Governor, and 10 elected.

In 1864 the first line of railway was opened from Port Louis to Pamplemousses. Subsequently other lines were built, and the island is now served by a railway system of a total length of 119 miles, which renders access easy to most parts of the island.

In 1868, 1874, and 1892 the island was visited by very destructive cyclones. That of 1892 was one of the most violent ever recorded.

It destroyed a considerable part of Port Louis (the capital), caused terrible damage throughout the island, and involved a death-roll of 1,232 people.

In 1854, 1856, and 1862, epidemics of cholera prevailed. In 1866 an epidemic of fever of great severity broke out, commonly regarded as malarial fever, although recent views appear to indicate that the high death-roll then recorded (over 30,000 people) could not have been due to malaria alone. In any event, from about that time malaria, which was previously absent from the Colony, became endemic and has since rendered the lower parts of the island unhealthy. This does not, however, apply to the central tableland, where malaria is, and always has been, either absent or comparatively insignificant. The reduction of the incidence of malaria has been the subject of much investigation and sanitary effort on the part of the Government of recent years, and it is believed that these measures are having a pronounced effect on the general health of the community.

Between the years 1902 and 1909 the island suffered from a period of severe financial depression owing to the low market value of the staple product, sugar, which at that time prevailed. Matters were further aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great loss of draught animals among the sugar plantations and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

In 1909 a Royal Commission visited the island to inquire into the administration and finances of the Colony.

Mauritius was happily immune from direct action by the enemy during the Great War. A large number of recruits left for Europe for military service, and a Labour Battalion was recruited for service in Mesopotamia. During this period, the Imperial garrison was reduced to a skeleton, and the defence of the island was maintained by a locally-recruited Volunteer Force.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity to the Colony, and both Government finances and the general condition of the community were for a time far more prosperous than at any previous period of its history.

As a result, it has been possible to undertake great and material works for the improvement of the Colony, and a number of schemes of considerable magnitude have been inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water supplies both for domestic and irrigational purposes, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of educational facilities.

During the last few years, however, the inflated prices caused by war conditions have disappeared and while, owing to the foresight of Sir Hesketh Bell, Governor from 1916 to 1924, a large sum of money was put aside for improvement and development, the revenues of the

Colony, although much diminished, have to provide for the carrying on of many important works undertaken in times of greater material prosperity.

LANGUAGES.

The official languages are English and French, and, though the former is widely understood, French is the principal language of social use. The lingua franca is Creole, commonly referred to as a French patois. Creole is a language of which the vast majority of the words are French or of French derivation, but it has close affinities in its formation to the Bantu and Malgache dialects. Hindustani (Urdu and Hindi) is largely spoken among the Indians, but other Indian languages have some currency.

CURRENCY.

The rupee currency (silver rupee of India) which was established by Proclamation No. 23 of 1876 is still in force in the Colony.

The currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The Mauritius bronze coins of 1 cent, 2 cents, and 5 cents.

(2) The Mauritius silver coins of 10 cents and 20 cents.

(3) The nickel coins of 4 annas of the Government of India.

(4) The silver rupee of India and its silver subdivisions of ¼ rupee and ½ rupee.

(5) The Mauritius Government notes of R. 1, Rs. 5, Rs. 10, and Rs. 50.

(6) The currency notes of the Government of India of all denominations.

(1), (2) and (3) are legal tender up to Rs. 5, and (4), (5) and (6) are legal tender to any amount.

Local Money.—Visitors to Mauritius are frequently nonplussed at the use of expressions, by merchants and others, denoting money values which have no legal tender. The principal are as follows : "Cache," R. 0.02 ; "Marqué" (or "sou marqué"), R. 0.03 ; "Franc," R. 0.20 ; "Livre," R. 0.20. The dollar "Piastre," equivalent to Rs. 2, survives in auction sales.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

With regard to weights and measures, the metric system is in general use, but there are some special measures peculiar to Mauritius, the chief of which are :—

L'arpent.—The equivalent of 1,043 acres.

La Gaulette.—A measure of length equal to 10 French feet. It is employed on the estates as a measure of work performed in the fields. The task given to a labourer corresponds to a certain number of gaulettes. The number of gaulettes of work per arpent varies according to the distance between the lines of cane holes.

Le tierçon is a measure of capacity for molasses: it varies from 190 to 192 litres.

La toise is a measure of length equal to 1.94904 metres (2 yards 4 inches English measure or 6 pieds French measure).

La toise carrée (square toise)=36 square feet French. This measure is used in job-contracts, masonry works, etc.

L'aune is a measure of length used in nearly all shops. It is equivalent to 1.191077 metres or about 1 yard and 11 inches.

The aune is generally counted as 1.20 metres.

The *corde* is employed for measuring stacked firewood. The wood is stacked in lengths of 2½ French feet and laid transversely, the stack measuring 4 French feet high, 8 French feet long, 80 cubic feet (French), 96.82 cubic feet (English): 2.742 metres.

La bouteille is a French measure for wine and is used locally for the sale of milk, vinegar, rum, etc. It is equivalent to 800 cubic centimetres (8/10 litres).

La chopine is one-half of a bottle.

La livre.—A local measure of weight=500 grammes or ½ kilogramme (1.10 English lb. roughly).

CLIMATE.

Situated just within the tropics and with no large land masses for many hundreds of miles in any direction, Mauritius enjoys a climate free from any violent extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops and more rarely to buildings. For the greater part of the year the so-called south-east trade winds blow gently over the island, tempering the tropical heat. These winds, carried over thousands of miles of warm sea before reaching Mauritius, are heavily laden with moisture which is easily condensed by the upward movement of the air over the hills, and the rainfall is sufficient from this cause alone to keep most vegetation green and abundant, especially in the higher parts of the island. On the other hand this rain falls mainly in the form of showers of short duration and interferes little with outdoor activities, and sunshine is plentiful. At times, and particularly in the summer months December to March, the south-east trades fail and are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums. The high humidity and nearly overhead sun then cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures recorded are not high compared with those endured in Egypt or India. In the winter months the high humidity acts in a contrary manner and the nights, especially in the European residential districts between 1,300 and 2,000 feet, can feel unpleasantly cold with a temperature of about 50° F. Some of the residents, who can afford to do so, live inland on the hills in the summer months and by the sea in the winter months. Climatic statistics can be consulted in the many publications of the Royal Alfred Observatory in the Mauritus Almanac or in official Blue Books. Here it is sufficient to state that all temperatures measured at the Royal Alfred Observatory, 181 feet above sea-level, fall between 95° F. and 50° F. It will be noted that the upper limit is below the upper limit for London. The yearly rainfall varies from about 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches on the high inland regions. Snow has never been seen on the hill-tops and hail is so rare as to be almost unknown. Thunderstorms are not very frequent and damage from lightning is uncommon. Fog is very rare except on the hill-tops.

Owing in part to the memory of the disastrous cyclone of 1892, in part to the entire absence of strong winds, except during the approach of a cyclone, and the consequent flimsiness of the houses, and chiefly to the damage which may be caused to the principal crop of the island, the sugar-cane, cyclones occupy a place in the fears and conversation of the population out of all proportion to their importance. Cyclones have occurred in all months from October to May, but mostly in the four months December to March. In general, about five per year can be expected to approach within 300 miles of the island and cause anxiety for two days each. Usually no damage is done until a cyclone approaches within 80 or 90 miles, and the number of cyclones within this distance is considerably less than one per year. A graphic description of the catastrophe of 1892 can be found in *Blackwood's Magazine* for September 1892, which has been largely quoted in other places (*The Sugar Industry of Mauritius*, Walter, and *Mauritius Illustrated*, Macmillan). The effect of cyclones are not altogether harmful, the heavy rains associated with such storms are beneficial and indeed necessary to the sugar crop.

The Government maintains a First Order Meteorological and Magnetic Station in the Royal Alfred Observatory situated near Pamplemousses in the north-west of the island. Records of the meteorological and magnetic elements made at the Observatory are available since 1874. A subsidiary station was erected at Vacoas, on the central plateau of the island, in 1924 for the study of the upper air. In addition to maintaining its own records, the Observatory collects information regarding temperature and rainfall from other stations in the island kept by local authorities or private individuals.

The Observatory issues storm warnings to the island and by means of wireless telegraphy to ships in the neighbourhood. For this purpose, daily messages containing meteorological data are received from Rodrigues, Seychelles, Reunion, and Madagascar, also Masters of outgoing ships are requested to communicate by wireless as long as possible. During the cyclone season from November to May a signal is hoisted daily in the harbour, the object of which is to give captains of vessels about to put to sea information regarding the weather of the neighbourhood. The Observatory also acts as timekeeper to the Colony and a ball visible to the harbour and to a considerable part of the population is dropped at 1 p.m. by means of an electrical contact from the Observatory ; in addition, a message is flashed to all railway stations. Results of magnetical and meteorological observations are published in a monthly bulletin and despatched to kindred institutions in all parts of the world. Discussion of results or of research work are published in a special series of publications. During 1928 three papers of this type were prepared for publication but were not actually printed by the end of the year—*The Cyclone Season* 1927–28 *at Mauritius*, *The Disturbed and Quiet day variations of Magnetic Force at Mauritius* 1916–1926, both written by the Director, and *Pilot Balloon Observations at Mauritius July* 1927–*June* 1928 by N. R. McCurdy.

Outstanding features of the year 1928 were :—

(*a*) The excess of rainfall in the first five months of the year notably in May when twelve inches fell in three days at the Observatory and much larger amounts in other parts of the island. Some damage to property was caused in Port Louis by the consequent floods. During this period the island was apparently situated along an almost stationary line where the cooler air originating in the subtropical " high " to the south was undercutting the warm air near the Equator.

(*b*) The shortage of rainfall, with low temperature, from June to December. The temperature deficit was particularly noticeable in November when all but two days in the month had a mean temperature below the normal.

(*c*) The absence of high winds, in spite of unusually active cyclonic conditions in the neighbourhood, in February, March and April. The neighbouring islands of St. Brandon, Reunion and Madagascar suffered severe damage, but the highest hourly wind recorded at the Observatory during the year was only 11 metres per second (25 m.p.h.).

I.—GENERAL.

The period which has elapsed since the last annual report was prepared was one of great anxiety for the Colony of Mauritius and witnessed one of the most serious economic crises this island has been called upon to face. The staple industry of the Colony was seriously embarrassed by the heavy fall in the prices of sugar in the latter part of 1928, even though the crop of that year reached the exceptional figure of 253,000 tons. To meet this emergency the remainder of the special export duty imposed in 1920 was remitted, but it was still found necessary to afford further relief to the industry by a loan of Rs. 6,000,000 repayable by an export duty on sugar.

In the absence from the Colony on leave of His Excellency Sir Herbert Read, K.C.M.G., C.B., the third session of the Council of Government was opened on the 1st May, 1928, by the Officer Administering the Government, Sir Edward Allan Grannum, C.M.G., who made, *inter alia*, the following statements :—

> " In difficult times there is special need for scientific research to assist economies in production. The Research work in progress and the provision for its extension by means of the Sugar Industry Reserve Fund should prove an insurance for the future.
>
> " Concurrently, the necessity exists for the development of subsidiary industries and this question is receiving close attention. The danger of entire dependence on one staple product has so frequently been demonstrated that there is no need to emphasize the importance of this question. In the search for subsidiary industries due account must, however, be taken of their relationships to the staple industry, sugar, and the fact that the majority of the cultivated lands of the Colony are already under cultivation.
>
> " The position of the fibre industry has recently been greatly strengthened as the result of the organisation of the Mauritius Hemp Producers' Syndicate. The increased confidence engendered as the result of the improved system of grading and packing inaugurated by the Syndicate has already, I am told, led to a marked strengthening in demand for the fibres which should in due course be followed by an increase in production.
>
> " The development of the tobacco industry is also a feature of importance. Last year the total production of leaf was estimated to be 331 tons and there appear to be prospects of the local demand for tobacco being in large part met by colonial-grown leaf. Efforts are also being made to establish an export trade for our local tobacco.
>
> " It is hoped that shortly the project for the canning of pine-apples and the manufacture of fruit jam and jellies will successfully be launched. In this connection the question of assistance from the Improvement and Development Fund is under consideration.
>
> " The Revenue for the current year was estimated at Rs.15,162,246 and the Expenditure at Rs.16,867,887, inclusive of a sum of Rs.1,694,700 chargeable to Surplus Balances. Therefore the estimated excess of Expenditure over Revenue was Rs.1,705,641.
>
> " The Receiver-General's revised estimate of the Revenue is Rs.15,450,000 and the Expenditure Rs.16,200,000, an excess of Expenditure over Revenue of Rs.750,000 compared with the original estimate of Rs.1,705,641.
>
> " The Surplus Balances of the Colony on the 30th June, 1927, amounted to Rs.12,754,192, or Rs.621,745 in excess of the original estimate of Rs.12,132,447. The Estimate of the Surplus Balances on the 30th June, 1928, is Rs.12,004,192, or Rs.750,000 less than the balances at the 30th June, 1927, and Rs.955,641 more than the original estimate of Rs.11,048,551.
>
> " The Revenue for the year 1928–29 is estimated at Rs.15,553,730 and the normal Expenditure at Rs.15,354,707, an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of Rs.199,023. This excess deducted from the Expenditure of Rs.1,595,000 appearing in the Draft Estimates as a charge to Surplus Balances gives an excess of Expenditure over Revenue of Rs.1,395,977. Included in the Expenditure which it is proposed to charge to Surplus Balances is a sum of Rs.1,000,000 representing loss on exchange through appreciation in the value of the Rupee which has now been fixed at 1*s.* 6*d.* I would, however, point out that owing to this appreciation in the value of the Rupee the sterling equivalent

of the estimated Surplus Balances at 30th June, 1929, will be less by only £4,463 than the sterling equivalent of the estimated Balance at the 30th June, 1928.

"A Commission has been appointed to inquire into the possibility of increasing the efficiency and decreasing the cost of the Medical and Health Department. The reports of this Commission and of the Commission appointed to enquire into the Police Force have not yet been received.

"The malarial situation is being reviewed, and with the help of recently acquired knowledge steps are being taken to undertake an anti-malarial campaign based upon the general scheme indicated by Mr. M. E. MacGregor in his report on the *Anophelinae* of Mauritius. Progress in the preliminary survey work was temporarily arrested in the first quarter of last year by the discovery of indigenous cases of malaria in the Curepipe-Forest Side area, and steps were immediately taken for the control and eradication of the breeding places of the *Anophelinae* mosquitoes concerned. It would appear that the prompt action taken at that time prevented the extension of the disease to any great extent, for only thirteen indigenous cases have been notified in all since the first case was discovered. The preliminary surveys have since been resumed.

"The subject of tuberculosis in the Colony is exercising the attention of Government. A Committee has been appointed to study the problem. Lack of precise information has hampered the progress to some extent, but the Tuberculosis Officer has been collecting the data which will doubtless enable the Committee to formulate the general lines of an anti-tuberculosis campaign designed with due regard to the financial resources of the Colony. The hookworm campaign has been continued along the lines instituted by the representative of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. D'Arifat, who is now in charge of the campaign, has been collecting valuable data upon the general sanitary and economic condition of the rural population with whom his work is largely concerned.

"The dredging of the Harbour proceeds satisfactorily. Five berths now provide 30 to 32 feet of water at low water and other important berthing areas and channels have been dredged, though not, as yet, to their full depth throughout.

"It is hoped that with the assistance of the new coal-handling equipment, for which provision has been made in the forthcoming Estimates, ships will be able to discharge their cargoes alongside the new quay early next year.

"Considerable improvements have been made to the drinking-water supply in the northern Districts of the island. Other improvements both as regards the quantity and quality of water have been made in the Savanne Grand Port, Flacq, and Moka Districts. Schemes for extending the drinking supplies in these Districts and also in the Black River District are under consideration.

"In regard to the Mare-aux-Vacoas works, main pipes have been provided to improve the supply of the Plaine Wilhems District and large improvements have been and are being made to the filter beds."

His Excellency Sir Herbert Read, K.C.M.G., C.B., returned from leave of absence on the 17th May, 1928, and resumed the administration of the Colony, which had been conducted during this absence by Sir Edward Allan Grannum, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

II.—FINANCE.

The total revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1928, amounted to Rs. 15,308,918.13c., being Rs. 146,672.13c. above the Estimates and Rs. 626,111.36c. above the revenue of the previous year.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,725,513.20c., being Rs. 142,373.80c. below the estimates and Rs. 264,451.40c. above the expenditure of the previous year.

Of the expenditure for 1927–28, Rs. 5,007,756.64c. were spent on Personal Emoluments and Rs. 11,717,756.56c. on Other Charges. The corresponding figures for 1926-27 were: Personal Emoluments Rs. 4,911,972.84c., Other Charges Rs. 11,549,088.96c.

The expenditure incurred during the year exceeded the revenue by Rs. 1,416,595.07c., the financial transactions of the Colony for the year 1927–28 showing therefore a deficit of Rs. 1,416,595.07c.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years.

Years.		*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
		Rs.	Rs.
1923–24 ...	...	19,888,554	16,188,735
1924–25 ...	...	19,672,843	17,355,868
1925–26 ...	...	15,894,763	16,117,988
1926–27 ...	...	14,682,806	16,461,061
1927–28 ...	...	15,308,918	16,725,513

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The totals of assets and liabilities at the end of the year were Rs. 43,281,260.41c. and Rs. 32,539,755.99c., respectively, or a net surplus of Rs. 10,741,504.42c. on 30th June, 1928.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony has, during the year, been increased from £1,765,724 2*s.* 8*d.* to £1,832,390 16*s.* 0*d.* due to the raising of the loan of Rs. 1,000,000, or £66,666 13*s.* 4*d.* at 1*s.* 4*d.* the rupee, for La Nicoliere Irrigation Works under Ordinance No. 15 of 1927.

Against this liability of £1,832,390 16*s.* 0*d.* there was an accumulated sinking fund of £967,723 5*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with £887,181 16*s.* 5*d.* at 30th June, 1927.

The following is a statement of the public debt of the Colony :—

Public Debt of Mauritius, 30th June, 1928.—Government Debentures and Inscribed Stock.

Debts.	*To whom Due.*	*Rate of Interest.*	*When incurred and for what cause.*	*State provisions for Payment of Interest or Sinking Fund and reference to Enactments by which it is made.*	*Amount of Original Debt.*	*Sinking Fund, Amount of Stock.*	*Market Value.*
					£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Mauritius Railways and Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Supply.	Stock Holders.	4 per cent. per annum.	In 1888—To declare the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorised to be raised in England by the Government of Mauritius and to provide for the creation of Mauritius Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 1 of 1887.	Under the provisions of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1 of 1887—Sinking Fund of 1 per cent. per annum.	482,390 16 0	462,848 15 0	410,095 9 1
Hurricane Loan, 1892 (guaranteed by Imperial Government).	Stock Holders.	3 per cent. per annum.	In 1893—To meet the wants and necessities created by the Hurricane of the 29th April, 1892, and to provide funds for certain public works—Ordinances 4 and 12 of 1892.	Under the provisions of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1 of 1887—Sinking Fund of 1 per cent. per annum and liable to be increased under Article 2 of Ordinance No. 12 of 1892.	600,000 0 0	492,214 8 11	412,275 19 10
Public Works Loan.	Stock Holders.	3½ per cent. per annum.	In 1904—To meet the cost of construction of Railways (Black River, Long Mountain, and Bois Cheri lines), and certain drainage and Water Works, as well as the cost of a Dredger—Ordinances 19 of 1903, 49 of 1903-4, and 31 of 1904.	Under the provisions of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1 of 1887—Sinking Fund of 1 per cent. per annum.	150,000 0 0	64,185 19 2 806 16 9†	53,435 1 10 806 16 9†

La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1919 and 1920—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinances 8 of 1919 and 6 of 1920.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919)—Sinking Fund 5¼ per cent. per annum.	33,333 6 8 (*a*)	18,313 12 11	17,464 6 11
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1921 and 1923—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinance No. 24 of 1921.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919)—Sinking Fund 5¼ per cent. per annum.	33,333 6 8 (*a*)	14,090 19 0	13,255 17 4
Mauritius Loan, 1922.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1923—To meet the cost of Drainage, Port Louis, and the construction of Workmen's Dwellings—Ordinance No. 41 of 1922.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 2 of Ordinance 41 of 1922)—Sinking Fund 1·69 per cent. per annum,	333,333 6 8 (*b*)	35,604 12 4	31,827 12 3
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1924—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinance No. 16 of 1924.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919)—Sinking Fund 5 per cent. per annum.	66,666 13 4 (*c*)	15,280 1 3	14,643 0 5
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1925—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinance No. 16 of 1925.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919)—Sinking Fund 5 per cent. per annum.	66,666 13 4 (*c*)	12,045 14 9	10,562 6 1
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1927—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinance No. 15 of 1927.	Secured on the General Revenue of the Colony (Article 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919)—Sinking Fund 5 per cent. per annum.	66,666 13 4 (*c*)	3,327 8 3	3,356 15 4
					£1,832,390 16 0	£1,118,718 8 4	£967,723 5 10

(*a*) Equivalent of Rs. 500,000 at 1*s*. 4*d*. the Rupee.

(*b*) Equivalent of Rs. 5,000,000 at 1*s*. 4*d*. the Rupee.

(*c*) Equivalent of Rs. 1,000,000 at 1*s*. 4*d*. the Rupee.

† Cash Balances.

The following statement gives details of the principal changes in taxation which came into force during the year :—

LICENCES.

Amendment to Schedule A of Ordinance No. 32 of 1915.

Old Legislation.			*New Legislation* (Ordinance No. 29 of 1927).	
Item.	Half-Yearly Rate.	Nature of Licence.	Half-Yearly Rate.	Nature of Licence.
31	Rs. 50	Merchant.	Rs. 50	Private Club or Society of outdoor Games only.
10	„ 100	Retailer Consolidated.	„ 150	Keeper of a Refreshment Room.
5	„ 100	Billiard Room Keeper.	„ 150	Private Club or Society.
8	„ 150	Keeper of a Restaurant.	„ 250	Keeper of a Railway Refreshment Room.
4	„ 200	Keeper of an Hotel.	„ 250	Wholesale Dealer not dealing in liquor.
1	„ 250	Keeper of a Bar.	„ 250	Retailer Consolidated.
5	„ 250	Wholesale Dealer.	„ 300	Wholesale Dealer dealing in liquor.
8	„ 250	Railway Refreshment Room Keeper.	„ 350+400	Keeper of Restaurant.
1	„ 350	Wholesale and Retail Consolidated.	„ 400	Keeper of an Hotel.
3	„ 500	Retailer of Liquor.	„ 400	Wholesale and Retail (Consolidated Licence).
			New Items.	
			Rs. 15	Seller of Wine locally manufactured.
			„ 50	Manufacturer of medicinal tinctures and drugs.

RUM ISSUED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.

Amendment to Ordinance No. 36 of 1904.

Previous Duty.	*Present Duty* (Ordinance No. 31 of 1927).
Rs. 2·75 per litre at 19 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 15 cents per litre for every degree above 19 plus an additional duty of 50 cents for every 25 litres or fraction thereof.	Rs. 2·75 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 plus an additional duty of 40 cents for every 25 litres or fraction thereof.

DENATURATED SPIRITS.

Amendment to Ordinance No. 21 of 1903.

Previous Duty.	*Present Duty* (Ordinance No. 36 of 1927).
Rs. 5 per hectolitre at 36 degrees Cartier, plus an additional duty of 5 cents per hectolitre for every degree above 36 plus an attitional duty of 25 cents for every 100 litres of spirits or fraction thereof.	(i) 4 cents per litre of spirits or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier on Industrial Alcohol. (ii) 4 cents per litre of spirits at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 4 cents per hectolitre for every degree above 36 on DENATURATED spirits for lighting and heating purposes.

VINEGAR.

Amendment to the Laws on Vinegar.

Previous Duty.	*Present Duty* (Ordinance No. 34 of 1927).
Rs. 1·40 per hectolitre at 8 degrees Acetic acid and an additional duty of 18 cents per hectolitre for every degree above 8 degrees.	Rs. 1·70 per hectolitre at 8 degrees Acetic acid and an additional duty of 18 cents per hectolitre for every degree above 8 degrees.

MEDICINAL TINCTURES AND DRUGS.

New Legislation (Ordinance No. 35 of 1927)

An Excise duty of 10 cents per litre of alcohol at any degree used in the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The average amount of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 14,132,970 as compared with Rs. 14,185,000 in 1926–27.

The average amount of silver held by the Commissioners of Currency amounted to Rs. 4,253,750 as compared with Rs. 4,305,500 in 1926–27.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund, which stood at Rs. 9,879,250 on 1st July, 1927) remained the same during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 1,335,806 to Rs. 1,481,294.

The revenue (interest on investments, less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs. 423,282 and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The statement of assets and liabilities of the Commissioners of Currency shows a surplus of Rs. 1,481,294. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June, 1928, the surplus would be increased to Rs. 1,539,850.

Government Savings Banks are established in the nine Districts and in the dependency of Rodrigues, with a head office in Port Louis The total number of depositors on 30th June, 1928, was 36,591, as against 36,510 in the preceeding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,099,990.65, as against Rs. 5,134,555 in the preceding year. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June, 1928, there were 16,323 depositors with Rs. 2,301,576.73 to their credit, as against 15,431 depositors with Rs. 2,287,355.04 to their credit on 30th June, 1927.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. a year.

The Banks are the Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India (Ltd.), and Barclays Bank.

III.—PRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

The industries of the island are entirely agricultural.

Sugar.

The principal crop is sugar. The estimated area under sugar-cane at the commencement of 1928 was 157,731 acres ; estate cultivation then occupied 95,931 acres and plantations off estates 61,800 acres. Of the area cultivated under sugar-cane, Indian planters comprised 70,597 acres, or 44.7 per cent. of the total area under cane. Forty-three factories operated during 1928. Market conditions for sugar have been the most unfavourable since 1913 and the difficulties thereby created have necessitated the consideration by Government of financial help to planters in the way of a loan repayable by small annuities.

Weather conditions have been distinctly favourable during the year and the total production of sugar has exceeded 251 thousand metric tons.

Sugar machinery to the value of Rs. 730,849 was imported during the year, and tramway material to the value of Rs. 410,680. Tractors and ploughs to the value of Rs. 22,309 were imported. There were at the beginning of the year, 1,547 kilometres of tramway line on estates, with 226 locomotives and about 6,700 trucks. The number of farm tractors was 111.

The Sugar Planters' Syndicate, constituted under Ordinances Nos. 31 of 1920 and 7 of 1921, continued operations, controlling more than 80 per cent. of the sugar produced in the Colony. As in previous years, the bulk of the production went to the United Kingdom.

In view of the unsatisfactory market, the local sugar manufacturers found it more advantageous to turn out this year an unusually large proportion of raws, about one-quarter of the total production.

In relation to pests and diseases of canes, the incidence of *Phyialus* has caused some anxiety and further efforts are being made to cope with the situation.

Research in Relation to the Sugar Industry.—Work in this connection has been maintained, both in the field and in the laboratory, by the Department of Agriculture on the availability of potash in the soil, the mineral content of pastures, etc., while a systematical soil survey was undertaken, including the mechanical analysis of soils and the determination of their acidity. On the botanical side, research is in progress concerning Leaf Scald, Gumming disease, Top rot, etc. The Sugar Technologist was delegated to South Africa by the Sugar Industry Reserve Fund Committee for the study of the Suchar Process in sugar refining.

Subsidiary Industries.

Attention has continued to be devoted to industries subsidiary to sugar. Of these *Mauritius Hemp* stands in the first place. *Furcroea gigantea* grows wild or in a semi-cultivated state over 20,000 acres, while sisal covers about 300 acres. The formation of a Hemp Producers' Syndicate and the establishment of a grading and baling station have produced eminently salutary effects on the industry. The export for the year 1928 has been one of the largest on record, namely, 2,496 metric tons. Quotations have been very satisfactory, "prime" reaching Rs. 410 per ton and "good" or "very good" Rs. 340 and Rs. 380 respectively.

In relation to *tobacco*, conditions throughout the year have not been satisfactory. Owing to the failure of the winter crop and to unsatisfactory market conditions, the industry went through a period of regression, which has, however, terminated. The area under cultivation had shrunk to 200 acres but is now over 1,100 acres.

The Tobacco Excise Duty Ordinance, 1928, levying an Excise duty on all tobacco as defined in the Tobacco Ordinance 1927 and manufactured in the Colony, and providing for a drawback of duty on exportation of such tobacco, was passed during the year.

Pine-Apple Canning and Fruit Preserving.—No progress has been made under this head. A remodelling of the original scheme under which the industry was to be started is being contemplated and further assistance is expected from Government.

Alcohol.—About 825,000 litres have been produced during the year ; five distilleries are at present at work, of which the largest is the one annexed to Medine Factory, producing alcohol for human consumption, power spirit and ethers for pharmaceutical and other purposes.

Oil Crops.—The Innova Refinery continued operations during the year, handling mainly copra from oil islands dependencies of Mauritius. The copra production averages 900 tons annually.

Tea.—There has been some slight revival of this industry during the year and application for its assistance from the Development Fund has been received by Government.

Food Crops.—At the beginning of 1928 the area under maize was estimated at 2,000 acres and under manioc at 3,000 acres. Vegetables occupied about 3,500 acres and bananas, potatoes and sweet potatoes together about 1,100 acres.

Vanilla and Coffee.—There is nothing to report on these crops, which maintain a precarious existence.

Live Stock.—Importations of cattle for food from Madagascar numbered 7,173 of a total value of Rs. 459,211, and for other purposes 1,095 heads of a total value of Rs. 65,685. The Government Dairy continued operations on the same lines as heretofore.

Animal Diseases.—The campaign against surra has been continued on the same lines as heretofore : 9,575 animals were examined for the disease during the year and 79 cases detected ; 432 cows were tested for tuberculosis. No serious outbreak of other infectious disease was in evidence during the year.

Rodrigues.—The work at this station was maintained. The agricultural service there, which had been somewhat disorganised owing to various staff changes, has resumed a more promising aspect on the appointment of an active and energetic officer.

Co-operative Credit Societies.—Co-operative Credit Societies are administered under Ordinance No 4 of 1913. They are based on the Indian model. Numerous difficulties have been encountered in their administration, but it seems clear that if properly administered such societies are capable of accomplishing much useful work in the Colony.

On the 30th of June, 1928, there were 28 Societies and the total membership amounted to 2,492, while the total working capital on the same date was Rs. 292,520.

FORESTRY.

The total area of the woodlands under the control of the Forest Department at the end of 1928 was :—

A. Crown Lands	70,062.24	arpents.
B. Private lands under State Control :—		
(1) Mountain Reserve	8,728.56	,,
(2) River Reserves, about	6,000.00	,,
(3) Curatelle Lands	17.90	,,
(4) Waste Lands of Port Louis ...	211.34	,,
Total, about	85,020.00	,,

showing an increase of 234.64 arpents of Crown lands over last year. These new lands were acquired under the Land Purchase Scheme at a cost of Rs. 33,050.58. During the year, the Forest Department supplied the following produce from Crown lands to the public and to the Government departments :—

Timber : 12,340 c. ft. solid, compared with 24,617 c. ft. solid in 1927.

Fuel : 121,320 c. ft. solid stacked, compared with 165,000 c. ft. solid stacked in 1927.

During the financial year 1927–28 a total sum of Rs. 53,216.93 was spent on forest nurseries and plantations. New plantations of 356.599 arpents were formed, chiefly of eucalyptus, pine, and *Cryptomeria*.

Cleanings and other maintenance works were undertaken on 866.47 arpents. This compares with 1926–27 when Rs. 63,734.62 was spent, 350 arpents of new plantations formed, and maintenance works carried out on 1,307 arpents.

The timber requirements of Mauritius are of considerable importance and are supplied mainly by imports, which for the years 1922–27 averaged slightly over Rs. 2,000,000 per annum in value.

Imports for 1928 amounted to :—

		Rs.
Boards, planks, and scantlings.	3,941.00 c. metres valued at	237,518.00
Teak Shingles ...	2,043.044 c.metres valued at	124,828.00
Railway Sleepers ...	1,370.00 c. metres valued at	2,561.00
Timber of all sorts ...	3,897.00 c. metres valued at	300,329.00
		665,236.00

No local forest produce is reported to have been exported during 1928.

FISHERIES.

In 1926 Mr. James Hornell, F.L.S., F.R.A.I., late Director of Fisheries to the Government of Madras, was deputed by the Secretary of State to carry out a rapid survey of the Marine Resources of Mauritius and to submit recommendations for the improvement and development thereof.

Mr. Hornell arrived in the Colony in April and submitted his report in August, 1926. The report was laid before the Council of Government in November, 1926, and ultimately received the approval of the Secretary of State.

As an outcome of this report, a Permanent Advisory Committee was appointed in August, 1927, and the Committee is now studying the best practical means of putting into force the recommendations contained in the report.

The enforcement of the provisions of the Fisheries Ordinance is vested in the Receiver-General, and the whole is under the control of the Inland Revenue Branch of the Receiver-General's Department.

The fisheries industry now chiefly consists of lagoon-fishing, sea-fishing being much less resorted to than in pre-war days.

The outstanding features of the fishing industry (as reported upon by Mr. Hornell) are as follows :—

(*a*) The remarkable variety and natural abundance of good fish both in the lagoon area and in the open sea around.

(*b*) The undue concentration of fishing within the lagoon area, neutralising in large measure the natural abundance of fish therein.

(*c*) The very great decrease from pre-war years in the amount of fishing done in the open sea.

(*d*) The lack of enterprise in the industry save in the exploitation of the lagoon area.

(*e*) The specially favourable conditions that prevail on the coast for marine fish-farming, coupled with the imperfect utilization of these opportunities.

(*f*) The absence of any important minor marine industries save lime making from coral and the half-hearted fish-farming carried on in barachois.

Mr. Hornell has submitted a series of specific recommendations for the development and improvement of the fishing industry, including the creation of a Fisheries Department.

The Department proposed would attend to all matters relating to fisheries and would be under the guidance of a trained Superintendent, who should have qualified in Oceanography at the University of Liverpool and have made a stay of three months in India to study the organisation and methods of the Madras Fisheries Department.

WATER POWER.

The numerous rivers and streams of Mauritius flow generally through deep ravines, their courses being broken by many waterfalls and rapids. The following extract from the list of waterfalls will give some indication of the available water-power in the Colony. It is estimated that 10,000 horse-power is available, of which 1,200 horse-power is utilized at present, principally for electric light service.

Waterfalls Measured during the Dry Season of the Year 1912.

Name of River.	*Name or description of Waterfall.*	*Height of Waterfall in feet.*	*Volume in cubic feet per minute*
G. River, S.E.	Deschiens	19	1,530
do.	Diamamoo	63	2,315
G. River N.W.	Le Reduit	135	450
Savanne River	Cascade Cecile	105	580
do.	Below Terracine Dam	77	250
Tamarind River	Sept Cascades	960	420
R. des Galets	Near Plaine Champagne	130	60
do.	Luchon	400	134
R. du Cap	Chamarel	320	330
R. Moka	Cascade Pigeons	160	80

MANUFACTURES.

An account of the principal manufactures of the Colony has been given above. It may be here mentioned, however, that a brickfield plant which had been started by Government on an experimental basis is now being worked by private enterprise. The bricks produced are of good quality and some villas built of this material are already in existence.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total value of the overseas trade of the Colony in 1928 amounted to Rs. 96,809,220, the value of the imports of merchandise being Rs. 49,437,800 and that of exports Rs. 47,371,420. The figures for the preceding year were Rs. 111,662,220, Rs. 55,185,633, and Rs. 56,476,587, respectively.

The Customs Revenue from imports amounted to Rs. 4,513,588, a decrease of over Rs. 700,000 compared with 1927, and the revenue from the exports was Rs. 1,649,371, against Rs. 1,875,637 in 1927.

The following Ordinances relative to Customs which are of interest not purely local were passed during the year : —

(*a*) *The Customs Tariff* (*Amendment*) *Ordinance,* 1928, validating certain resolutions passed by the Council of Government and amending Schedule B of the Customs Consolidated Tariff Ordinance, 1928.

(*b*) *The Customs Preferential Tariff* (*Amendment*) *Ordinance,* 1928, establishing a new preferential tariff on goods produced in Great Britain and Ireland or in Canada, and consigned therefrom.

TRADE.

The comparative values of imports and exports of merchandise for 1913 and for the past five years are as follows :—

	Imports. Rs.	*Exports.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1913	36,697,671	32,291,706	68,899,377
1924	76,415,648	52,282,533	128,698,181
1925	61,682,844	44,478,894	106,161,738
1926	50,596,137	41,208,198	91,804,335
1927	55,185,633	56,476,587	111,662,220
1928	49,437,800	47,371,420	96,809,220

The value of re-exports was Rs. 1,628,058 in 1928, compared with Rs. 1,660,091 in 1927. Bullion and specie amounting to Rs. 2,573,214 was imported during the year under review, compared with Rs. 1,598,387 in the preceding year, and the exports under that heading amounted to Rs. 1,476,000 and Rs. 2,567,000, respectively.

Imports.

The distribution of the import trade showed in 1928 a decrease of about 14 per cent. in the value of the imports from the United Kingdom compared with that of 1927 ; trade with Australia, Canada, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Madagascar showed an increase but the trade with most countries shows a decrease, notably in the case of France, United States of America, Reunion, China, and Spain.

The principal items of the imports which showed an increase in 1928 over the preceding year are coal and coke, woollen piece goods, oils and fats unrefined, motor-lorries, paraffin and lubricating oils, tramway locomotives, earthenware and porcelain, and gunny bags. The following are the principal items in which decreases are shown :— cement, unmanufactured and manufactured tobacco and cigarettes, spirits and wines, cotton goods, motor spirits, manures and fertilizers, haberdashery and millinery, salt, iron and steel manufactures. The decreases in the importation of unmanufactured tobacco and of manufactured tobacco and cigarettes are due to the rapid progress made in the production of tobacco leaf and the manufacture locally of tobacco and cigarettes.

The following statement gives the character and size of the trade in the principal articles imported in 1928 as compared with the preceding year :—

	1927.		*1928.*	
Rice	59,607	Tons	63,831	Tons
Other Grain	22,307	,,	21,737	,,
Manures and Fertilizers	19,564	,,	13,261	,,
Coal, Coke and Patent Fuel ...	21,025	,,	70,469	,,
Cement	9,001	,,	3,702	,,
Cotton Manufactures	10,614,866	Metres	7,832,275	Metres
Woollen ,, ...	129,001	,,	141,500	,,
Wines in Cask	2,709,433	Litres	1,475,465	Litres
,, in Bottle	96,121	,,	133,035	,,
Spirits	51,766	,,	39,997	,,
Motor-cars (180)	506,558	Rs. (184)	412,363	Rs.
,, Lorries (5)	88,541	,, (104)	269,722	,,
Boots and Shoes	295,505	,,	371,357	,,
Haberdashery and Millinery ...	900,933	,,	604,419	,,
Iron and Steel Manufactures ...	1,810,861	,,	1,408,143	,,
Silk Goods	489,548	,,	539,238	,,
Drugs	422,376	,,	523,382	,,
Wearing Apparel	296,162	,,	321,335	,,

Exports.

Owing to a smaller crop, the export of sugar in 1928 showed a decrease over the 1927 figures. The figures for the past six years are as follows :—

	Kilos.	*Value.* Rs.
1923	223,051,061	67,227,562
1924	182,742,235	49,823,753
1925	192,303,540	41,250,907
1926	181,215,772	37,991,240
1927	227,989,329	53,789,928
1928	219,264,000	44,293,987

The principal domestic exports other than sugar were : aloe fibre, 2,496 tons valued at Rs. 843,446, compared with 1,905 tons valued at Rs. 665,936 in 1927 ; copra increased from Rs. 334,297 in 1927 to Rs. 411,560 in 1928 ; coconut oil and rum showed decreases from Rs. 35,247 and Rs. 20,055 in 1927 to Rs. 17,462 and Rs. 12,347 respectively in 1928.

Re-exports amounted to Rs. 1,628,058 and consisted chiefly of gunny bags, wheat flour, lentils, salted fish, and scrap metal.

DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE.

The following Tables show the distribution of the imports, exports, and total trade with the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and foreign countries in 1913 and for the past five years :—

Imports.

Countries.	*1913.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*
United Kingdom ...	33·2	31·9	27·4	22·2	23·6	23·3
British Possessions ...	42·6	36·9	45·1	48·5	47·2	50·7
Foreign Countries ...	24·2	31·2	27·5	29·3	29·2	26·0
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Exports.

United Kingdom ...	18·5	23·7	61·9	87·4	92·4	92·3
British Possessions ...	77·0	69·2	29·2	7·5	5·3	3·6
Foreign Countries ...	4·5	7·1	8·9	5·1	2·3	4·1
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Total Trade.

United Kingdom ...	26·3	28·8	42·0	51·5	57·8	57·1
British Possessions ...	58·7	50·0	38·4	30·1	25·3	27·6
Foreign Countries ...	15·0	21·2	19·6	18·4	16·9	15·3
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

SHIPPING.

The following statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels using the port (excluding the coasting trade) during the past three years :—

	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	*Tonnage.*	*No.*	*Tonnage.*
1926	187	508,555	194	541,120
1927	224	622,936	226	625,524
1928	236	650,369	235	647,446

In the coastal trade with the dependencies there were 21 vessels inwards of 5,682 tons and 21 vessels outwards of 5,791 tons.

The principal lines of steamships represented by vessels calling at Port Louis were The Union-Castle Steamship Co., Ltd., The British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., The Messageries Maritimes, The Clan Line, The Ellerman Harrison Line, The Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire, and The Mogul Line.

RAILWAYS.

The Mauritius Government Railways, exclusive of Bois Cheri Light Railway, are 120 miles in length, with a gauge of 4 ft. 8½ inches.

The revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 3,217,670, as against Rs. 3,269,391 for the previous year, a decrease of Rs. 51,721, explained as follows :—

	Previous Year. *Rs.*	*This Year.* *Rs.*		*Difference.* *Rs.*
Passenger	1,663,325	1,459,143	–	204,182
Parcels	122,625	109,723	–	12,902
Goods	1,349,782	1,534,830	+	185,048
Miscellaneous	133,659	113,974	–	19,685
	Rs.3,269,391	Rs.3,217,670	–	Rs.51,721
Goods Tonnage ...	480,969	513,250	+	32,281

The fall in passenger revenue is due to loss of traffic caused by intensive competition of private road transport agencies. Passenger traffic loads are short on this small railway and, with the excellent roads provided, this traffic is leaving the railway for the road. There is little doubt that the railway passenger traffic will eventually be reduced to a nominal amount unless decisive steps are taken to co-ordinate the transport facilities of the Colony and give that measure of protection to the railways which will ensure the retention of railway revenues. The economic result on the Colony of road traffic competition against the railways and the resultant loss in revenue causes the Colony to pay for two forms of transport when one will suffice.

The increased goods revenue is due to the harvesting of a larger sugar crop which was transported with despatch to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Working costs show a net reduction on previous years' expenditure of Rs. 221,688, and is evidence that the campaign for economy is having good results. During the past two years working expenditure has been reduced Rs. 717,581 or 22.8 per cent. The railway service has been maintained and improved.

Comparative figures are :—

	Rs.
Net working Expenditure previous year	3,364,687
Net working Expenditure this year	3,142,999
Decrease	221,688

The excess of revenue over net working expenditure amounts to Rs. 74,671. After payment of pensions, interest, etc., and making provision for depreciation, there is a gross loss of Rs. 616,278 for the year.

A system of telephonic train control was instituted on the Midland Line during the year, with excellent results. Overtime expenditure of telegraph clerks has been considerably reduced and the service factor of rolling stock improved.

Bois Cheri Light Railway is 24 miles in length with a gauge of 2 ft. 6 inches, and connects with the Savanne branch of the main line. This line is run for goods traffic only, which principally consists of cane transport. Revenue shows a slight decrease on last year at Rs. 25,628. Expenditure amounts to Rs. 25,611 for the year.

The railway road collection and delivery service was handicapped by the loss by accident of one 5-ton lorry in February. The revenue for the year amounts to Rs. 13,055, as against Rs. 30,189 for the previous year. Expenditure has fallen considerably as the following figures show :—

	Rs.
1926–27	24,498
1927–28	9,063
Decrease	15,435

ROADS.

The island is well served by a system of roads which provide ready communication with all parts of the island. They are maintained from the General Revenue of the Colony and are classed under two categories, namely, the main roads, totalling about 441 miles, which are under the management of the Public Works and Surveys Department, and branch roads, totalling about 193 miles, which are under the management of District Boards.

The most important roads are surface treated with bitumen, their smooth surface and absence of dust making them especially agreeable for motor drives. The mileage of roads thus treated is now about 80 miles and is being yearly extended.

Most of the old bridges which were no longer adapted to modern road traffic have been reconstructed for heavy traffic, and the work of reconstruction is continued yearly.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES, ETC.

26 Messageries Maritimes packets landed European and other mails in 1928, coming, under special agreement with the Colony, directly from Tamatave. The mails, owing to this arrangement, reached the Colony in 34.4 days on the average. The special agreement lapsed on 31st December. Mails from England were also conveyed, by the South African route, by 29 steamers, including 8 Castle Line vessels. The mails remained in transit, except on three

occasions, as long as 60, 65, and 69 days. Communication with India and the East and with other parts of the world was procured by 9 British India Steam Navigation Company's vessels and by other cargo steamers.

On the whole, 250 vessels conveyed mails to, and 247 conveyed mails from, Mauritius. The mails conveyed were both letter and parcel.

The parcel mails conveyed inwards are mainly from England and France ; and parcels from England in 1928 numbered 6,205, out of which 2,280 were C.O.D. On these C.O.D. parcels trade charges amounting to Rs. 92,224 were collected, against Rs. 74,856 on 1,713 parcels in 1927. There seems to be an indication of increase in this item of the British trade with the Colony.

The use of the land telegraphs appears to have been partly resumed during the year, a rise of 7,000 paid messages being noticed after several years' steady fall. This may be due to changes in the tariffs and regulations of the Oriental Telephone Company.

The electric branch of the Railway Department also maintains the Government telephone, a small system at first set up to connect the Government offices in Port Louis. The Government telephone has now been linked, through its exchange at the Colonial Secretary's Office, to the public system owned and worked by the Oriental Telephone Company, and is spreading its network over Port Louis, Plaines Wilhems, and Moka, the three districts more important in regard to population and development.

Outside communication by cable was maintained by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Co., and the Government wireless station provided communication with ships at sea. The wireless was also used by the public for communication with Reunion, but the service with Madagascar was abandoned, the Government of Madagascar desiring to prevent competition with the established cables. It would however be available in cases of emergency.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice and Crime.

Justice is administered in Mauritius by the Supreme Court sitting in Port Louis as a Court of Civil and Criminal Justice and having the power of the King's Bench in England and of a Court of Equity.

In the nine Districts, there are Magistrates' Courts having likewise a limited civil, criminal and stipendiary jurisdiction.

In 1928 the Supreme Court dealt with 382 civil matters out of 671 which were brought before it, as against 334 out of 660 in the previous year.

25 persons were brought before, and tried by, the same Court, sitting as a Criminal Court, out of whom 24 were convicted, the percentage of acquittals being 4.

In the Magistrates' Courts 15,388 persons were brought before the District and Stipendiary Courts and before the Bench of Magistrates (Courts composed of three Magistrates having a wider criminal jurisdiction), and were dealt with as follows :—

Acquitted or discharged by the district Magistrates.	1,315
Convicted	13,874
Committed to the Assizes	19
Acquitted or discharged by the Stipendiary Magistrates.	70
Convicted	110

POLICE.

Re-organisation.—The general re-organisation of the Police Force which commenced in October, 1926, has made slow but satisfactory progress, and efficiency has been improved in many directions.

Recruiting.—The class of recruit now coming forward for enlistment is rapidly improving and there is every reason to believe that the prejudice against the Force, which prevented young men of good standing from joining, is at last dying out.

Distribution.—The Force is divided into Staff, Criminal Investigation Department, Harbour Police, Mounted Police, District Police Motor Traffic Department, Training Depot, and Band.

The Staff comprises Headquarters and the Pay and Quartermaster's Branch.

The Criminal Investigation Department is subdivided into the following branches :—

Investigations, Finger Impressions, Habitual Criminals, *Modus Operandi*, Passports, Gun Permits, and Photography.

The Harbour Police comprises an Immigration Officer and sections of Water and Shore Police operating in the Harbour Area.

The District Police are distributed at 55 Stations in the nine Magisterial Districts, the Stations being of three classes and varying as regards establishment of personnel from 38 to 2.

The Motor Traffic Department is increasing in importance and numbers in proportion to the ever-increasing mass of cars on the roads, and Mauritius will in the near future be confronted with the necessity of having a force of Traffic Police as distinct from Crime Police.

The Police Band has become a popular local institution and gives an increasing number of public performances every year.

Training.—The Police Training Depot at Headquarters, to which is attached Line Barracks Police Station and the Armed Guard at Government House and Treasury, is now a complete and up-to-date school for policemen. In addition to the professional training given by the instructional staff, voluntary educational classes in English, French and general subjects are held at night by a Professor of the Royal College, whose enthusiasm is producing excellent results. In addition to the training of cadets and recruits the police Training Depot conducts periodical refresher courses for non-commissioned officers, promotion examinations, and quarterly mobilizations of the armed detachment.

Crime.—The percentage of undetected serious crime is below the normal average and the proportion of crimes to population is falling steadily.

Commission of Enquiry.—The Commission of Enquiry appointed in August, 1927, continued to sit throughout the year.

During the year, the Obscene Publications Ordinance, 1928, giving effect to the International Convention signed at Geneva on the 12th September, 1923, to which Mauritius had adhered, and completing the local laws for the suppression of the circulation of and traffic in obscene publications, was passed.

PRISONS.

The Department of Prisons is under control of the Superintendent (who is also Inspector-General of Police) and a staff of chief warders and assistant chief warders, usually appointed from the Home Prison Service.

The offices of the Department are in the Port Louis Prison, which dates from the eighteenth century, and serves as the receiving prison in which short-sentence prisoners, debtors, and misdemeanants in general are confined. There is accommodation for 154 male prisoners in single cells. The female prison contains 9 association cells which can accommodate 40 women prisoners.

Long-sentence prisoners are transferred to Beau Bassin Prison, a modern convict establishment opened in 1887 and standing in about 50 acres of Crown land 8 miles from Port Louis.

This institution provides accommodation for 756 male convicts in separate cells and contains a range of workshops where much valuable work is performed in reducing the cost of the establishment and in which prisoners are trained as bakers, tailors, boot, sail, and mattress makers, basket and mat makers, carpenters, tinsmiths, blacksmiths, and stone masons.

The bakery supplies bread to all Government institutions, the daily average output being 709½ lb., and the saving to the public effected by substituting prison-made bread for contract bread being about £1,827 per annum.

About 12 acres of land adjoining the prison is under constant cultivation for the production of the vegetables required as part of the prisoners' dietary, and a poultry farm, which was started in 1922, furnishes a regular supply of eggs and poultry to neighbouring Government institutions.

Many developments have taken place in the past two years as regards clearing of waste land, building of walls and roads, tree-planting, and food-production, and experiments in maize-growing are being conducted which give indications of success.

During the year, 1,879 persons were committed to prison (an increase of 86 on the figures for the previous year), 1,785 being males and 94 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December, 1928, was 424, as against 366 on 31st December, 1927.

Male juvenile offenders are detained after conviction at an institution known as the Industrial School, to which are also sent juvenile vagrants and certain other categories of youths under the age of 18 years.

The boys are kept under strict discipline, and taught various trades and agriculture in addition to the usual primary school instruction. The percentage of re-convictions is not high.

The school provides accommodation for 250 boys, but the number in detention at the end of the year was only 83.

Female juvenile offenders are accommodated in the Women's Prison at Port Louis.

The whole question of juvenile delinquency and its treatment is under consideration by a Committee appointed in 1927.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The most important public works in the Colony are the irrigation works, water works, sewage works of the town of Port Louis, buildings and anti-malarial works.

The irrigation works are carried out under a scheme prepared in 1914 and have been under execution since that date. Under this scheme the works were to provide for the construction of storage reservoirs to irrigate 5,000 acres of mostly uncultivated land in the district of Black River, and of 12,000 acres of land, partly under cane cultivation and partly uncultivated, in the northern districts of Pamplemousses and River du Rempart. The works in the district of Black River, including the construction of a storage reservoir at La Ferme of a capacity of 2,500 million gallons, have been completed and have brought 3,700 acres of barren land under cane cultivation since 1918.

The other works which are to provide for the irrigation of lands in the Northern Districts from two storage reservoirs at Nicoliere and Calebasses, containing together about 250 million gallons, and from one at Midlands, of a capacity of 4,400 million gallons, are in progress. The reservoir at Nicoliere has been completed and, although some land under cane cultivation is being irrigated from it, the full scheme will only be in operation when the reservoir at Midlands is completed.

Water Works.—These include the water supply of the towns of Plaines Wilhems and Moka, of a total population of 80,000, the water supply of the town of Port Louis, of a population of 43,000, and the water supply of towns and villages in the districts, of a total population of 140,000.

The water supply of the towns of Plaines Wilhems and Moka is derived from a storage reservoir at the Mare aux Vacoas at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is 1,167 million gallons: its catchment-ground is entirely protected by forest lands, and the whole of the water is passed through sand filters at the filtering plant at La Marie. The capacity of the reservoir has been increased during the year by 474 million gallons. This has been effected by increasing the height of the dam. Construction was also begun on four service reservoirs, of a total capacity of 3,850,000 gallons, to improve the distribution of water in the several towns.

The water supply of the town of Port Louis is derived from the Grand River north-west of, and at a distance of some 4 miles from, the town, at an elevation of 250 feet. This supply, which was under the control of the Municipality of the town, was put under the control of the Public Works and Surveys Department in 1922. The improvement of the quality of the water by chlorination has been under consideration for the past few years, and a scheme has now been approved for increasing the capacity of the filters and treating with chlorine 5 million gallons of water daily.

The water supply to the towns and villages in the Districts comprises 27 different supplies, each derived from a different spring or stream. These supplies are not filtered, but they are generally protected from pollution by forest reserves in the catchment-grounds of their sources. Several schemes are under consideration for extending the water supply to other towns and villages and for further protecting existing ones by purchase of lands in their catchment-grounds.

Sewerage of Port Louis.—A large portion of the town now has the water carriage system. The sewerage works were begun in 1900 but the scheme was revised in 1922 by Messrs. Mansergh and Sons, and the works are now being carried out on the lines of their report.

Anti-Malarial Works.—These have been in abeyance during the year under review owing to the study which is being made by the Medical and Health Department of the winter refuges of the fever-carrying mosquitoes.

Harbour.—During the year, the first phase of the Harbour Engineer's scheme for the improvement of Port Louis Harbour has been practically completed, viz., dredging of the Harbour berths and the channel, so as to provide a depth of 32 feet at low water, the reclamation of a site of about 10 acres the whole of which forms valuable water frontage, and the construction of one deep-water quay about 500 feet long. Several ships have already been unloaded at this quay with despatch and considerable economy in cost as compared with lighterage.

Granary.—A granary for unloading and containing 300,000 bags of grain has been under construction for the last two years and is making good progress. The building is of two storeys, the top floor being left open for receiving from electric elevators and sorting bag cargoes, the ground and first floors being used for stores. The granary was designed and is being built by the Harbour Engineer on the recommendations of the Medical and Health Department, special steps being taken to prevent the ingress and egress of rats as an anti-plague measure. The service of the granary when in commission should also afford valuable economies in the handling and distribution of grain.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the island is divided into two groups: the general population, which includes Africans and Chinese, and the Indian population.

The estimated total population on the 31st December, 1928, was 404,802 (general population 123,777, Indian population 281,025), showing an increase of 3,109 on the previous year's figures and 28,317 on the last Census figures 20th May, 1921).

The number of births and deaths during the year was 15,206 and 11,342, respectively.

The birth-rate in the general population was 41.2 and in the Indian population 36.4 per mille, as against 36.7 and 33.6, respectively, for the previous year.

The death-rate per 1,000 in the two populations for 1928 were 27.0 and 28.8, as against 23.6 and 25.8, respectively, for 1927.

The highest death-rate for 1928 is shown in Pamplemousses (40.1) and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems (19.0).

The death-rate for the whole Colony was 28.2 per mille, compared with 25.1 in 1927, and the rate for Port Louis was 32.1, as against 27.7 in the previous year.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general position as described in the preceeding annual report has remained much the same in respect of statistics and the assessment of morbidity rates in the Colony. The form of the departmental annual report is being modified and it is hoped that ultimately more information may be available in respect of the occurrence of those parasitic diseases to which it has not so far been possible to give special attention, e.g., schistosomiasis, which is very prevalent in certain localities.

Work in connection with the relief and control of hookworm infection has continued. Field operations were carried out, mainly in Grand Port and Savanne districts. The special Malaria Service instituted since February, 1927, has been attending to the eradication of winter refuges of the insect carriers of the disease and a good deal of improvement work has been effected at Curepipe.

The water carriage system has been extended in Port Louis and 367 connections have been made during the year.

There has been no plague during the year. The usual attention has been devoted to prophylactic measures and the destruction of rats. No outbreak of other contagious or infectious diseases occurred during the year.

IX.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Primary education, though not compulsory, is provided free by Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony.

At the close of the year, there were 150 primary schools—57 Government and 93 denominational schools assisted by Government grants. Of the latter, 64 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 5 Hindoo, and 3 Mohammedan. One of the Roman Catholic aided schools was removed from the list of State-aided schools on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools. The average attendance was 23,076, as compared with 23,183 in 1927. The number of Indian children on the roll was 16,452 (boys 13,454, girls 2,998) a decrease of 149 on the previous year. The total number of girls educated in primary schools was 10,318, as against 10,266 in 1927.

Six Junior Scholarships and six Junior Exhibitions, entitling the holders thereof to free tuition at the Royal College for a maximum period of 8 years, are awarded to primary school boys every year on the results of a competitive examination, the winners of a Scholarship receiving money payments at the rate of Rs. 120 a year in addition.

A Senior Bursary Class for primary school boys was established in 1926. The course of study in this Class extends over a period of two years, at the expiration of which four Scholarships and four

Exhibitions tenable at the Royal College for a maximum period of six years are also awarded every year on the results of a competitive examination. At the examination held in December, 1928, there were 83 candidates as against 112 who entered for the Junior Boys' Scholarship and Exhibition examination.

Six Scholarships tenable in an aided secondary school for five years are awarded every year to primary school girls on the results of a competitive examination, thus allowing the winners to pursue their studies as far as the Cambridge School Certificate examination. 151 candidates sat for the Girls' Scholarship examination held in December, 1928, as against 170 in the previous year.

The recent abolition of the examination result grants and the revision of the salaries of primary school teachers, as well as the complete reorganisation of the Training School, have helped considerably in the recruitment of suitable teachers for primary schools and their proper training.

Technical instruction is provided in three principal centres, viz :—

(1) The Government Technical School in Port Louis, at which about 50 full-time boys of an average age of 16 years and about 200 boys from the primary schools in Port Louis of an average age of 13 years are taught mechanical drawing and receive manual instruction in woodwork ;

(2) The Government Industrial School at Beau Bassin at which about 150 boys from the primary schools in Lower Plaines Wilhems are given manual instruction in woodwork and

(3) The Government Trades School, at Bell Village, with about 80 full-time apprentices of an average age of 18 years, half of whom are carpenters and the rest masons, blacksmiths, or tinsmiths.

Woodwork classes on a more moderate scale are also held in a few aided primary schools, and further developments in this direction are contemplated.

Satisfactory progress is being maintained in school garden work in the primary schools of the Colony, and Nature Study has now been included in the syllabus of examination for Teachers' Certificates.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

One of the aided secondary schools was found unsuitable and had to be closed, thus reducing the number to 9, two of which are for boys only, while the others are girls' schools with a small percentage of boys in the preparatory and junior classes.

The passes at the Cambridge Local examinations held in December 1927 were as follows :—

Junior...	24 boys and 7 girls.
School Certificate ...	10 boys and 10 girls (one of the girls obtaining Honours).

The total number on roll was 689 boys and 664 girls, while the average attendance was 611 and 569, respectively, as compared with 719 boys and 678 girls on roll for the previous year, with an average attendance of 635 and 518, respectively.

The results of the Cambridge Local examinations held in December, 1928, have not yet been received, but there is every reason to believe that the progressive increase in the number of passes will be maintained.

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College.

The staff consists of the Rector, the Senior Master, 10 Masters with British University Degrees, 1 Licencié-ès-Lettres of France, and 11 Assistant Masters. The latter are encouraged to take the B.A. or B.Sc. Examination of the University of London.

The College has well-equipped physical, chemical, and botanical laboratories.

Admission to the College is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or upon winning a primary schools' Scholarship or Exhibition.

The year opened with 374 pupils on roll, and on 31st December, 1928, the number was 363. The average attendance for the year was 339.

Boys receive instruction in classical and scientific subjects, Latin being compulsory and Greek optional and alternative with more advance natural Science in the Entrance, Lower Middle, and Upper Middle Classes. Bifurcation takes place in the Cambridge School Certificate Class.

Two Scholarships, one on the Classical and one on the Modern side, are awarded annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Syndicate of Examiners of the University of Cambridge. These Scholarships are of the value of £1,000 with a temporary increase of 30 per cent., and with first-class passage allowances to and from England, and are tenable for four years at any British University or other place of education in the United Kingdom.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Work at the Mauritius Agricultural College has continued satisfactorily. Eight new students were admitted in the first term of 1928; there were 6 second-year and 6 third-year students together with 3 post-graduate part-time students. Six third-year students obtained the Diploma of the College. Examinations in sugar manufacture of the City and Guilds of London Institute were held in May and for the registration of local agricultural chemists in July.

Elementary Agricultural Education.—The Farm School was well attended during the year, the number of applicants being enormously in excess of the vacancies.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEYS.

The only published map of the island is the one-inch-to-the-mile map published by the Geographical Section, General Staff, War Office.

No important grants of land are now made, the Crown lands, of a total acreage of about 80,000 acres, being mostly managed as forest lands.

XI.—LABOUR.

The conditions of labour remain as stated in the 1927 report. The number of Indian immigrants in the Colony on 31st December, 1928, is estimated at 14,982.

The number of immigrants and their dependants who were repatriated in 1928 is 367.

The number of skilled workmen who emigrated to Portuguese East Africa during the year is 79.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

During the year a Commission was appointed to make full and diligent inquiry into the administrative and financial conditions of the Mauritius Railways, and recommendations for increasing its revenue and reducing its expenditure by such means and in such manner, consistent with efficiency and safety, as will ensure its working on sound economic principles.

Commissions of Enquiry on the Police and Medical Departments, as well as the Liquor Commission, continued their sittings during the year.

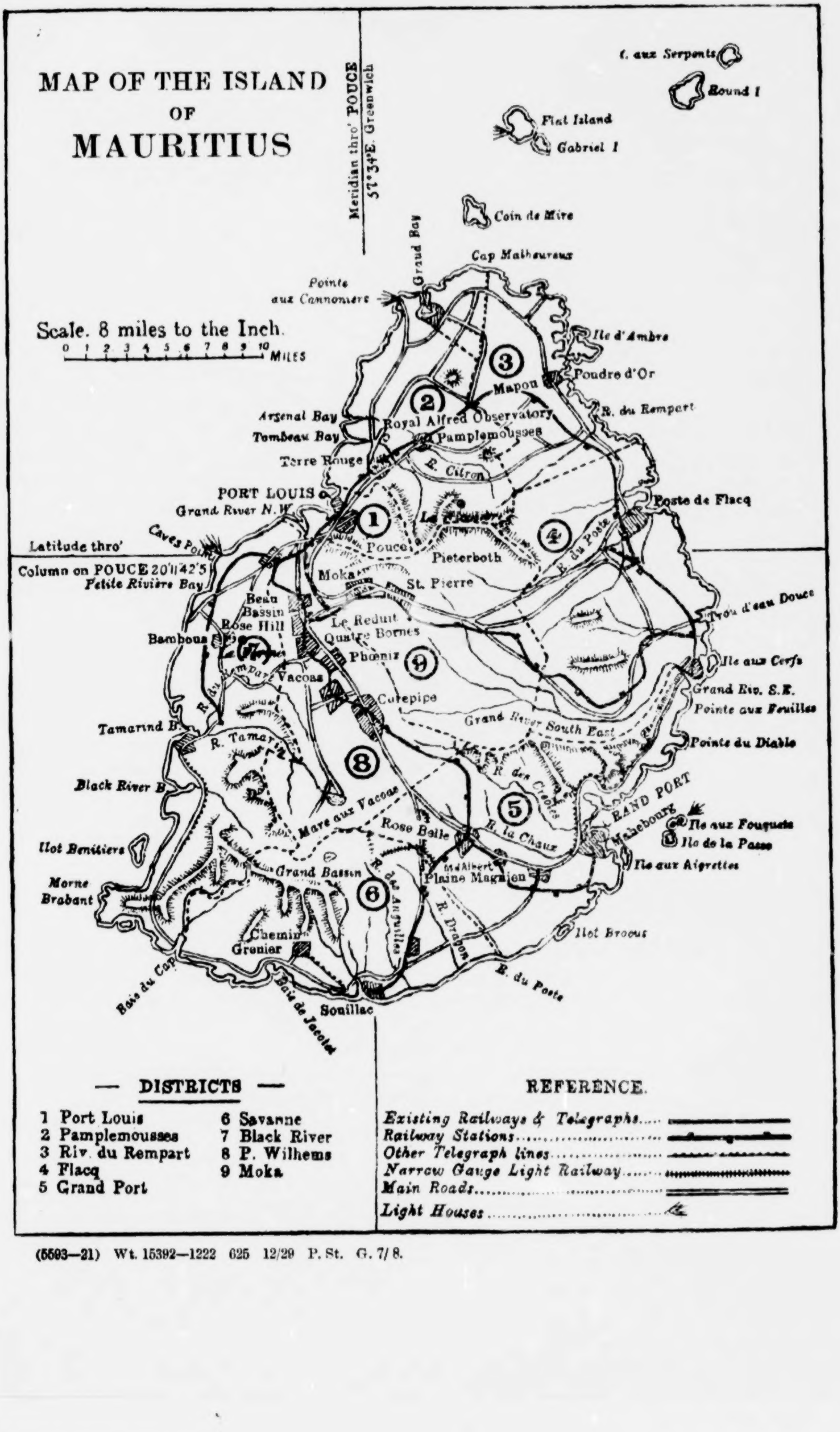
The average cost of living rose from 155.1 to 169.1 during the first three quarters and dropped to 168.6 during the last quarter of the year. The mean for the year was 162.8.

The staple food, rice, decreased during the second quarter to 122, but thereafter oscillated between 128 and 131, the average figure for the year being 127. Other grains (lentils, beans, etc.) oscillated between 117 and 159. Flour rose from 124 to 176 in the last quarter, while milk and meat remained steady at 150 and 140, respectively. Articles for clothing remained high throughout the year, with a trend upward. Extremes in this respect were 180 during the first quarter and 213 during the third.

Upon the whole, the cost of living remained high during 1928 with no very definite tendency towards lowering.

W. H. INGRAMS,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

9th August, 1929.



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.

Meridian thro' POUCE 57°34'E. Greenwich
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES
Latitude thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42"S
Î. aux Serpents
Round I
Flat Island
Gabriel I
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Cannoniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Terre Rouge
R. Citron
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Petite Rivière Bay
Le Pouce
Pouce
Pieterboth
Posto de Flacq
R. du Poste
Moka
St. Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Reduit
Quatre Bornes
Phœnix
Bambous
R. du Rempart
Vacoas
Curepipe
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pointe aux Feuilles
Grand River South East
Pointe du Diable
Tamarind B.
R. Tamarin
Black River B.
Mare aux Vacoas
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
Mahebourg
Ile aux Fouquets
Ile de la Passe
Ile aux Aigrettes
Ilot Benitiers
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Morne Brabant
Grand Bassin
Md Albert
Plaine Magnien
R. des Anguilles
R. Dragon
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Baie du Cap
Baie de Jacotet
Souillac
R. du Poste
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

REFERENCE.

Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

(5593—21) Wt. 15392—1222 625 12/29 P. St. G. 7/8.

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WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.
Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679].
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REPORT FOR 1929.

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MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1929.

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SITUATION AND AREA.

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles east of Madagascar, between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ E. longitude and 19° 50′ and 20° 31′ S. latitude. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ordinance 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its extreme breadth 29 miles, and its area, including the small islets round the coast, covers 720 square miles (460,800 acres). The density of population is very high, being about 560 persons per square mile for the whole island. The population at 31st December, 1929, was estimated at 405,549.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of about 54,147, including the suburbs. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital, lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, on the highest part of the central plateau. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phoenix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, and Beau Bassin, in the Plaines Wilhems District, are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in the other country districts are Mahébourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Poudre d'Or, and Bambous.

The island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of the cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours Reunion and Rodrigues and certainly more stable (J. S. Gardiner).

The dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° S. latitude. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and an estimated population of 7,993, is 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, while lesser islands of some importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the census of May, 1921, the population of the lesser dependencies was ascertained to be 1,810.

HISTORY.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date. A Dutch map copied from Arab sources shows the islands now known as Mauritius, Rodrigues, and Reunion under the names of Dinarobin, Dinarobna, and Margabin, and it is possible that certain islands marked on Idrisis' map (1151) are intended to indicate them also.

There can be little doubt too that the island was visited by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th–16th century.

But Mauritius history really begins with its discovery by the Portuguese in the beginning of the sixteenth century, probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527, when the island is shown on an official map under the name of Santa Appollonia, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Reunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Don Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island Ilha da Cirnos, or Swan Island, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any permanent settlement by the Portuguese, who for nearly a century only used the island as a port of call for repairs and supplies.

The island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South Eastern Port to which the Commander, Admiral Wybrandt Van Warwyk, gave his own name. He took possession of the island on behalf of his Government and named it Mauritius, in honour of the Statholder, Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days he set sail, leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton of the *Pearl* visited the island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt at colonization was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsz Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the "Compagnie Neerlandaise des Indes," landed at Warwick Haven or South Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores, and dwelling-houses were built at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the "13 Cantons" close by. These were followed by other settlers, who established themselves in the neighbourhood where Mahébourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the island was abandoned. It was again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally, which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1664, were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success, whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North-West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned, as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French vessel *Le Chasseur* arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it Ile de France. Settlement, however, was only effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fougerai, commanding the *Triton* of St. Malo, resumed possession for the Compagnie des Indes Orientales after landing at Ile aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest, which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Reunion, who had come to settle, and from that time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735, Mahe de Labourdonnais succeeded Mr. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the island. He left the island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions, however, soon became difficult for the settlers, owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the "Compagnie des Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the East Indies and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling-house of "Mon Plaisir" and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery, on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobin leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected, and nearly all links with the Mother Country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French privateers, using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade, gained for the island its reputation still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared for a vigorous attack in 1810 and, after a memorable fight, Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule on the 3rd December, 1810.

The cession of the "Ile de France" and its dependencies to Great Britain was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, and the island, under its former name Mauritius, has since 1814 remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

In 1835 the emancipation of slaves took place, but as this new class of free men refused occupation as labourers the planters resorted to the introduction of indentured labour from India, which commenced in 1842 and continued practically without interruption until 1910.

In 1825 a Council of Government was established. It was modified in 1832 and reconstituted in 1884; it now consists of the Governor and 27 members, 8 being *ex-officio*, 9 nominated by the Governor, and 10 elected.

In 1864 the first line of railway was opened from Port Louis to Pamplemousses. Subsequently other lines were built, and the island is now served by a railway system of a total length of 119 miles, which renders access easy to most parts of the island.

In 1868, 1874, and 1892 the island was visited by very destructive cyclones. That of 1892 was one of the most violent ever recorded. It destroyed a considerable part of Port Louis (the capital), caused terrible damage throughout the island, and involved a death-roll of 1,232 people.

In 1854, 1856, and 1862, epidemics of cholera prevailed. In 1866 an epidemic of fever of great severity broke out, commonly regarded as malarial fever, although recent views appear to indicate that the high death-roll then recorded (over 30,000 people) could not have been due to malaria alone. In any event, from about that time malaria which was previously absent from the Colony, became endemic and has since rendered the lower parts of the island unhealthy. This does not, however, apply to the central tableland, where malaria is, and always has been, either absent or comparatively insignificant. The reduction of the incidence of malaria has been the subject of much investigation and sanitary effort on the part of the Government of recent years, and it is believed that these measures are having a pronounced effect on the general health of the community.

Between the years 1902 and 1909 the island suffered from a period of severe financial depression owing to the low market value of the staple product, sugar, which at that time prevailed. Matters were further aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great loss of draught animals among the sugar plantations and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

In 1909 a Royal Commission visited the island to inquire into the administration and finances of the Colony.

Mauritius was happily immune from direct action by the enemy during the Great War. A certain number of volunteers left for Europe for military service and a Labour Battalion was recruited for service in Mesopotamia. During this period the Imperial garrison was reduced to a skeleton and the defence of the island was maintained by a locally-recruited Volunteer Force.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity to the Colony, and both Government finances and the general condition of the community were for a time far more prosperous than at any previous period of its history.

As a result, it has been possible to undertake great and material works for the improvement of the Colony. A number of schemes of considerable magnitude have been inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water supplies both for domestic and irrigational purposes, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of educational facilities.

During the last few years, however, the inflated prices caused by war conditions have disappeared and while, owing to the foresight of Sir Hesketh Bell, Governor from 1916 to 1924, a large sum of money was put aside for improvement and development, the revenues of the Colony, although much diminished, have to provide for the carrying on of many important works undertaken in times of greater material prosperity.

LANGUAGES.

The official languages are English and French and though the former is widely understood, French is the principal language of social use. The lingua franca is Creole, commonly referred to as a French patois. Creole is a language of which the vast majority of the words are French or of French derivation, but it has close affinities in its formation to the Bantu and Malgache dialects. Hindustani (Urdu and Hindi) is largely spoken among the Indians, but other Indian languages have some currency.

CURRENCY.

The rupee currency (silver rupee of India) which was established by Proclamation No. 28 of 1876 is still in force in the Colony.

The currency of the Colony consists of :—

(1) The Mauritius bronze coins of 1 cent, 2 cents, and 5 cents.

(2) The Mauritius silver coins of 10 cents and 20 cents.

(3) The nickel coins of 4 annas of the Government of India.

(4) The silver rupee of India and its silver subdivisions of ¼ rupee and ½ rupee.

(5) The Mauritius Government notes of R. 1, Rs. 5, Rs. 10, and Rs. 50.

(6) The currency notes of the Government of India of all denominations.

(1), (2), and (3) are legal tender up to Rs. 5, and (4), (5), and (6) are legal tender to any amount.

Local Money Values.—Visitors to Mauritius are frequently nonplussed at the use of expressions, by merchants and others, denoting money values which have no legal tender. The principal are as follows: "Sou" R. 0.01; "Cache" R. 0.02; "Marqué" (or sou marqué) R. 0.03; "Franc" R. 0.20; "Livre" R. 0.20. The dollar, "Piastre," equivalent to Rs. 2 survives in auction sales.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

With regard to weights and measures, the metric system is in general use, but there are some special measures peculiar to Mauritius, the chief of which are :—

L'arpent.—The equivalent of 1·043 acres.

La Gaulette.—A measure of length equal to 10 French feet. It is employed on the estates as a measure of work performed in the fields. The task given to a labourer corresponds to a certain number of *gaulettes.* The number of *gaulettes* of work per *arpent* varies according to the distance between the lines of cane holes.

Le tierçon is a measure of capacity for molasses; it varies from 190 to 192 litres.

La toise is a measure of length equal to 1.94904 metres (2 yards 4 inches English measure or 6 pieds French measure).

La toise carrée (square *toise*) 36 square feet French. This measure is used in job-contracts, masonry works, etc.

L'aune is a measure of length used in nearly all shops. It is equivalent to 1.191077 metres or about 1 yard and 11 inches.

The *aune* is generally counted as 1.20 metres.

The *corde* is employed for measuring stacked firewood. The wood is stacked in lengths of 2½ French feet and laid transversely, the stack measuring 4 French feet high, 8 French feet long, 80 cubic feet (French), 96.82 cubic feet (English): 2.742 cubic metres.

La bouteille is a French measure for wine and is used locally for the sale of milk, vinegar, rum, etc. It is equivalent to 800 cubic centimetres (8/10 litres).

La chopine is one-half of a bottle.

La livre—a local measure of weight—500 grammes or ½ kilogramme (1.10 English lb. roughly).

CLIMATE.

Situated just within the tropics and with no large land masses for many hundreds of miles in any direction, Mauritius enjoys a climate free from any violent extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops and more rarely to buildings. For the greater part of the year the so-called south-east trade winds blow gently over the island, tempering the tropical heat. These winds, carried over thousands of miles of warm sea before reaching Mauritius, are heavily laden with moisture which is easily condensed by the upward movement of the air over the hills, and the rainfall is sufficient from this cause alone to keep most vegetation green and abundant, especially in the higher parts of the island. On the other hand, this rain falls mainly in the form of showers of short duration and interferes little with outdoor activities, and sunshine is plentiful. At times, and particularly in the summer months December to March, the south-east trades fail and are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums. The high humidity and nearly overhead sun then cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures recorded are not high compared with those endured in Egypt or India. In the winter months the high humidity acts in a contrary manner and the nights, especially in the residential districts between 1,300 and 1,800 feet, can feel unpleasantly cold with a temperature of about 50° F. Some of the residents, who can afford to do so, live inland on the hills in the summer months and by the sea in the winter months. Climatic statistics can be consulted in the many publications of the Royal Alfred Observatory, in the "Mauritius Almanac," or in the official Blue Books. Here it is sufficient to state that all temperatures measured at the

Royal Alfred Observatory, 181 feet above sea-level, lie between 95° F. and 50° F. It will be noted that the upper limit is below the upper limit for London. The yearly rainfall varies from about 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches on the high inland regions. Snow has never been seen on the hill-tops, and hail is so rare as to be almost unknown. Thunderstorms are not very frequent and damage from lightning is uncommon. Fog is very rare except on the hill-tops.

Owing in part to the memory of the disastrous cyclone of 1892, in part to the entire absence of strong winds, except during cyclonic weather, and the consequent flimsiness of the houses, and chiefly to the damage which may be caused to the principal crop of the island, the sugar-cane, cyclones occupy a place in the fears and conversation of the population out of all proportion to their importance. Cyclones have occurred in all months from October to June, but mostly in the four months December to March. In general, about five per year can be expected to approach within 300 miles of the island and cause anxiety for two days each. Usually no damage is done until a cyclone approaches within 80 or 90 miles, and the number of cyclones within this distance is considerably less than one per year. A graphic description of the catastrophe of 1892 can be found in "Blackwood's Magazine" for September, 1892, which has been largely quoted in other places ("The Sugar Industry of Mauritius") (Walter), and "Mauritius Illustrated" (Macmillan). The effects of cyclones are not altogether harmful, the heavy rains associated with such storms are beneficial and indeed necessary to the sugar crop.

The Government maintains a First Order Meteorological and Magnetic Station in the Royal Alfred Observatory situated near Pamplemousses in the north-west of the island. Records of the meteorological and magnetic elements made at the Observatory are available since 1874. A subsidiary station was erected at Vacoas, on the central plateau of the island, in 1924 for the study of the upper air. In addition to maintaining its own records, the Observatory collects information regarding temperature and rainfall from other stations in the island kept by local authorities or private individuals.

The Observatory issues storm warnings to the island and, by means of wireless telegraphy, to ships in the neighbourhood. For this purpose, daily messages containing meteorological data are received from Rodrigues, Seychelles, Reunion, and Madagascar, also masters of outgoing ships are requested to communicate by wireless as long as possible. During the cyclone season from November to April a signal is hoisted daily in the harbour, the object of which is to give captains of vessels about to put to sea information regarding the weather of the neighbourhood. Until November, 1929, the Observatory acted as time-keeper to the Colony and a ball, visible to the harbour and the town of Port Louis and neighbourhood, was dropped at 1 p.m. by means of an electrical contact from the Observatory; in addition, a message was flashed to all railway stations. The advent of wireless telegraphy has made astronomical timekeeping no longer necessary in isolated regions, and in November the time ball work was transferred to the Port Department. Results of magnetical and meteorological observations are published in a monthly bulletin and despatched to kindred institutions in all parts of the world. Discussions of results or of research work are published in a special series of publications of which the following were issued during 1929:—"The Cyclone Season 1927–28 at Mauritius"; "The Disturbed and Quiet Day Variations of Magnetic Force at Mauritius, 1916–1926,' both written by the Director, and "Pilot Balloon Observations at Mauritius, July, 1927–June, 1928," by N. R. McCurdy.

Outstanding features of the weather of the year 1929 were:—

(*a*) The very heavy rainfalls in April and December. Both months provided "record" rainfall amounts at the Observatory since observations began there in 1871. In April certain stations on the island exceeded 40 inches, and in December, in the same district, amounts of over 60 inches were measured.

(*b*) Serious floods resulted from the December rains and considerable damage was done to roads, bridges, and other property, particularly on the two days—December 29th and 30th—when over 39 inches of rain fell at some stations.

(*c*) It is noteworthy that although at the Observatory only four months exceeded the rainfall normal, the total rain for the year has only been exceeded (and that only slightly) in three years, namely, 1873, 1877, and 1912.

I.—GENERAL.

The economic crisis which prevailed in 1928 was enhanced during the year under review by a further fall in the prices of sugar. As a result, most of the sugar concerns closed the year's operations with a loss notwithstanding the successful endeavours made to reduce the cost of production.

At the request of the Government, Sir FRANCIS WATTS, K.C.M.G., lately Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies and Principal of the Imperial College of Agriculture, Trinidad, was delegated by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to enquire into the conditions of the sugar industry in Mauritius and to advise as to its improvement. He arrived in the Colony in October and had not yet completed his task at the end of the year.*

Contrary to expectation, the market for prime grades of aloe fibre was low and some loss has been sustained by manufacturers who had made considerable efforts to increase the output of these grades.

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* Sir Francis Watts' Report has since been published as Cmd. 3518.

Attention has continued to be given to the improvement of existing minor industries and to the establishment of new ones. Proposals for a tobacco central grading warehouse and for the manufacture of sugar bags, wrappers, etc., from aloe fibre were under consideration at the end of the year. Endeavours were being made in various localities to produce rice. A match manufacturer, utilizing pine logs from the Crown forests, started operations in November.

A disastrous flood which took place on the 29th December last did considerable damage to bridges, roads, and private property. The town of Port Louis suffered particularly; many shops, dwelling-houses, and buildings, including the Museum, in the area comprised between the Pouce and Creole Streams, were partially submerged. The town was deprived of its water supply by the complete wreckage of the intake works at the Grand River North-West.

Sir HERBERT JAMES READ, K.C.M.G., C.B., relinquished the Governorship of the Colony on the 9th December, 1929, and Sir EDWARD ALLAN GRANNUM, Kt., C.M.G., assumed the administration of the Government on the same date.

II.—FINANCE.

The total revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1929, amounted to Rs. 13,322,248.40, being Rs. 2,198,981.60 below the Estimates and Rs. 1,986,669.73 below the revenue of the previous year.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,930,182.03 being Rs. 28,744.03 above the Estimates and Rs. 204,668.83 above the expenditure of the previous year.

The expenditure incurred during the year exceeded the revenue by Rs. 3,607,933.63, which amount represents the deficit on the financial transactions of the Colony for 1928–29.

Of the expenditure for 1928–29, Rs. 5,117,611.80 were spent on "Personal Emoluments" and Rs. 11,812,570.23 on "Other Charges." The corresponding figures for 1927–28 were "Personal Emoluments" Rs. 5,007,756.64 and "Other Charges" Rs. 11,717,756.66.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.		*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
		Rs.	Rs.
1924–25	...	19,672,843	17,355,868
1925–26	...	15,894,763	16,117,988
1926–27	...	14,682,806	16,461,061
1927–28	...	15,308,918	16,725,513
1928–29	...	13,322,248	16,930,182

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets and liabilities at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 37,131,880.16 and Rs. 29,998,309.37 respectively showing a net surplus of Rs. 7,133,570.79 on the 30th June, 1929.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony, which on the 30th June, 1928, stood at £1,832,390 16*s*. 0*d*., amounted on 30th June, 1929, to £1,907,390 16*s*. 0*d*. The increase is not due to any fresh loan but to the rate of exchange having been fixed as from 1st July, 1928, at 1*s*. 6*d*. instead of 1*s*. 4*d*. the rupee.

Against this liability of £1,907,390 16*s*. 0*d*. there was an accumulated sinking fund of £1,032,543 13*s*. 2*d*., as compared with £967,723 5*s*. 10*d*. at 30th June, 1928.

The following is a statement of the Public Debt of the Colony :—

Public Debt of Mauritius, 30th June, 1929.—Government Debentures and Inscribed Stock.

Debt.	*To whom Due.*	*Rate of Interest.*	*When incurred and for what cause.*	*State provisions for Payment of Interest or Sinking Fund and reference to Enactments by which it is made.*	*Amount of Original Debt.*			*Sinking Fund. Amount of Stock.*			*Market Value.*		
					£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Mauritius Railways and Mare aux Vacoas Water Supply.	Stock Holders.	4 per cent. per annum.	In 1888—To declare the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorized to be raised in England by the Government of Mauritius and to provide for the creation of Mauritius Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 1 of 1887.	Under the Provisions of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1 of 1887. Sinking Fund of 1 per cent. per annum.	482,390	16	0	481,502 *161	18 14	3 6	427,788 *161	15 14	5 6
Hurricane Loan 1892 (Guaranteed by Imperial Government).	Stock Holders.	3 per cent. per annum.	In 1893—To meet the wants and necessities created by the hurricane of the 29th April, 1892, and to provide funds for certain public works. Ordinance 4 and 12 of 1892.	Under the Provisions of the General and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1 of 1887—Sinking Fund of 1 per cent. per annum and liable to be increased under Art. 2 of Ordinance No. 12 of 1892.	600,000	0	0	520,001 *3	4 7	9 4	432,147 *3	8 7	11 4
Public Works Loan.	Stock Holders.	3½ per cent. per annum.	In 1904—To meet the cost of construction of railway (Black River, Long Mountain, and Bois Cheri Lines) and certain drainage and water works as well as the cost of a dredger — Ordinances 19 of 1903, 49 of 1903–04 and 31 of 1904.	Under the provisions of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1 of 1887. Sinking Fund of 1 per cent. per annum.	150,000	0	0	69,369	9	6	57,077	18	0
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1919 and 1920—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinances 8 of 1919 and 6 of 1920.	Secured on the general revenue of the Colony (Art. 3 of Ord. 8 of 1919). Sinking Fund 5¼ per cent. per annum.	37,500 (*a*)	0	0	21,014 *137	8 6	9 8	19,872 *137	15 6	8 8

* Cash Balances.

(*a*) Equivalent of Rs. 500,000 at 1*s*. 6*d*. the rupee.

Public Debt of Mauritius, 30th June, 1929.—Government Debentures and Inscribed Stock.—*continued.*

Debt.	*To whom Due*	*Rate of Interest.*	*When incurred and for what cause.*	*State provisions for Payment of Interest or Sinking Fund and reference to Enactments by which it is made.*	*Amount of Original Debt.*			*Sinking Fund. Amount of Stock.*			*Market Value.*		
					£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1921 and 1923—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinance No. 24 of 1921.	Secured on the general revenue of the Colony (Art. 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919). Sinking Fund 5¼ per cent. per annum.	37,500 (*a*)	0	0	16,916 *131	18 1	3 5	15,598 *131	14 1	1 5
Mauritius Loan, 1922.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1923—To meet the cost of drainage, Port Louis, and the construction of workmen's dwellings. Ordinance 41 of 1922.	Secured on the general revenue of the Colony (Art. 2 of Ordinance 41 of 1922). Sinking Fund 1.69 per cent. per annum.	375,000 (*b*)	0	0	45,097	10	4	39,072	13	8
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1924—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Work"—Ordinance No. 16 of 1924.	Secured on the general revenue of the Colony (Art. 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919). Sinking Fund 5 per cent. per annum.	75,000 (*c*)	0	0	20 384 *17	7 0	1 8	18,732 17	7 0	1 8
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1925—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinance No. 16 of 1925.	Secured on the general revenue of the Colony (Art. 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919). Sinking Fund 5 per cent. per annum.	75,000 (*c*)	0	0	16,794 *8	10 2	10 1	14,578 *8	5 2	0 1
La Nicoliere Irrigation Works Loan.	Debenture Bond Holders.	6 per cent. per annum.	In 1927—To meet the cost of "La Nicoliere Irrigation Works"—Ordinance No. 15 of 1927.	Secured on the general revenue of the Colony (Art. 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1919). Sinking Fund 5 per cent. per annum.	75,000 (*c*)	0	0	7,011	8	11	7,216	2	8
					£1,907,390	16	0	£1,198,551	9	4	£1,032 543	13	2

(*a*) Equivalent of Rs. 500,000 at 1*s.* 6*d.* the rupee.
(*c*) Equivalent of Rs. 1,000,000 at 1*s.* 6*d.* the rupee.

(*b*) Equivalent of Rs. 5,000,000 at 1*s.* 6*d.* the rupee.
* Cash Balances.

The following statement gives details of the principal change in taxation which came into force during the year, 1929 :—

Medicinal Tinctures and Drugs.

Previous Duty :—	*Present Duty* :—
Article 15 of Ordinance No. 35 of 1927. R.O. 10 cents per litre of alcohol at any degree Cartier for the preparation of medicinal tinctures or drugs.	Ordinance No. 7 of 1929. (i) R.O. 10 cents per litre of alcohol at any degree for the preparation of medicinal tinctures or drugs. (ii) Rs. 2.50 per litre of alcohol at 23 degrees Cartier with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees for the preparation of any alcoolat.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The average amount of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 14,770,750, as compared with Rs. 14,132,970 in 1927–28.

The average amount of silver held by the Commissioners of Currency amounted to Rs. 4,391,500, as compared with Rs. 4,253,750 in 1927–28.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund), which stood at Rs. 9,879,250 on the 1st July, 1927, remained the same during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 1,481,294 to Rs. 1,593,133.30.

The revenue (interest on investments, less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs. 397,635, and this sum was credited to the general revenue of the Colony.

The statement of assets and liabilities of the Commissioners of Currency shows a surplus of Rs. 1,593,133.30. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June, 1929, the surplus would be decreased to Rs. 1,488,440.72.

Government Savings Banks are established in the nine districts of Mauritius and in the dependency of Rodrigues, with a head office in Port Louis.

The total number of depositors on 30th June, 1929, was 36,810, as against 36,591 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,253,897.92, as against Rs. 5,099,880.65 in the preceding year. The savings banks are largely made use of by Indians, of whom on the 30th June, 1929, there were 16,154 depositors with Rs. 2,194,561.91 to their credit, as against 16,323 and Rs. 2,301,576.73 respectively on 30th June, 1928.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. a year.

The Banks are the Mauritius Commercial Bank, The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd., and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

III.—PRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Sugar.

The Colony's production of sugar, which is the principal crop, was 238,035 metric tons (234,276 English tons), distributed in grades as follows :—vesous 23.9 per cent. ; raw sugars 75.2 per cent. ; low sugars 0.9 per cent.

Owing to the altered condition of the sugar market, manufacturers have found it more advantageous to produce in 1929 a larger proportion of raws than heretofore. In 1928, for the same reasons, the production of raws reached 27.3 per cent. The total tonnage of cane ground approximated to 2,195,400, giving a mean extraction of sugar of 10.84 per cent. of cane.

The area under cane cultivation at the beginning of 1929 was 157,700 acres, a figure practically identical with that for the previous year. Estate plantations covered 83,760 acres, the rest being made up of small-holdings, more than half of which belong to Indians.

Owing to unfavourable market conditions, little change was brought during the year to the existing machinery on estates. Importations in this respect reached Rs. 752,000. A sum of Rs. 8,000 was contributed by the Sugar Industry Reserve Fund for the purchase of machinery for experimental purposes. The apparatuses ordered were installed at Mont Desert factory in a central locality where they can be inspected by all interested. The falling off in importations of tramway material was considerable : Rs. 156,000 in 1929 as compared with Rs. 411,000 in 1928.

In relation to irrigation problems, Mr. E. Lesur, an officer of the Department of Agriculture, was entrusted with a mission to Hawaii for the purpose of studying the methods employed in that country. The application of these methods in Mauritius has been started successfully.

With regard to insect pests of the sugar-cane, the outstanding factor continues to be the *Phytalus Smithi*. Over 250 million beetles were destroyed during the year and nearly 100 million larvæ captured. The total cost of the campaign against this pest exceeded Rs. 110,000. Experiments have been continued during the year in relation to the life history of the insect, its ecology, and natural enemies as auxiliary means of control.

The most important of the fungoid diseases of the sugar-cane continues to be Leaf Scald to which White Tanna, which occupies 50 per cent. of the cultivated area, is peculiarly susceptible. The extent of the disease is not, however, greater than in 1928. In this connection mention should be made of the valuable services rendered by Professor Ashby, Mycologist of the Imperial Bureau of Mycology. Professor Ashby arrived in Mauritius in October, 1929, to investigate matters in relation to fungoid diseases of the sugar-cane which appeared to take a menacing character.

From the economic point of view, the year under review was decidedly unfavourable. The average sale prices for sugar approximated to Rs. 7.50 per 50 kilos—a figure which is in many cases below the cost of production.

A Research Station has been annexed to the Department of Agriculture with the object of investigating problems connected with the sugar industry. It is financed partly by the Empire Marketing Board, partly by the College of Agriculture, and the Improvement and Development Fund. Its total annual cost is estimated at Rs. 50,000.

Five experimental stations have been established in various localities of the island with a view to determining the type of cane varieties, both imported and locally-produced, best suited for local conditions. Cuttings of new varieties are being distributed to estates and nursery fields established in co-operation with estates.

A special station for cane seedling work has been started at Pamplemousses Botanical Gardens and already six thousand varieties, produced last season, are under observation.

The Java cane P.O.J. 2878 was imported from Java and is undergoing a greenhouse period of trial.

Mr. L. Baissac, Sugar Technologist of the Department of Agriculture, also went on a mission to Java to enquire about the industrial methods practised in that Colony and their possible application in Mauritius.

Subsidiary Industries.

Fibre.—Quotations for aloe fibre (Mauritius Hemp) were on the downward trend during the year. As a result, production slackened perceptibly. The total exportation for 1929 was 2,476 tons, comprising stocks left over from last year's production.

Attention has been given to the possibility of providing a locally-made fibre sack, as a substitute for the imported jute sack, for packing sugar. Private capital has been subscribed in support of this new venture and a loan from the Improvement and Development Fund has been sanctioned.

Tobacco.—During the year under review, considerable progress was made in the industry and greater quantities of leaf grown locally were absorbed by the various factories. The quality of the leaf produced in some cases is in the opinion of experts as good as any which is produced elsewhere. The total acreage under this crop in 1929 was 2,680, as against 1,600 in 1928. The greater part of the crop, which is estimated at 450 tons, was purchased by local manufacturers. No export trade has, however, yet been established.

Mr. Corbett, Tobacco Officer, went on a mission to South Africa to study the running of tobacco warehouses, with a view to the introduction of the same methods into Mauritius.

Fruit Canning and Preserving.—The movement has recently received fresh impetus and is now offering fair prospects of success. By the end of 1929, over Rs. 100,000 had been subscribed by local capitalists towards the formation of a society with a capital of Rs. 150,000. It is under consideration that so soon as this figure is reached, further assistance, to the same amount, shall be given by the Improvement and Development Fund in the shape of a loan. Pineapple plantations on a scale commensurate with the production contemplated have been started and, in the manufacturing processes, expert advice will be available.

Oil Crops.—The trade in copra in 1929 has been practically the same as in the previous year. The total export approximated to 1,400 tons, valued at about Rs. 400,000 in round figures. The trade in coconut oil has decreased, the total export approximating to 15,000 litres as against 28,000 in the previous year.

Alcohol.—There are seven distilleries at present at work in the island, several of which have well-equipped installations, producing alcohol for human consumption and for industrial purposes. The rum production during the year was 896,490 litres, as against 825,208 in 1928.

Tea.—Efforts are being made to revive this industry and Government has been approached for financial assistance.

Food Crops.—There has been no change of importance during the year. At the beginning of 1929 the area under maize was estimated at 2,000 acres, that under manioc at 3,000 acres, potatoes and sweet potatoes covered about 700 acres, and vegetables and fruit trees 5,000 acres.

Live Stock.—Animal diseases were little in evidence during the year. Measures against surra were enforced on the same lines as heretofore and only 43 cases were detected. Vaccination of bovines against tuberculosis is meeting with increased appreciation on the part of breeders. Importation of cattle from Madagascar for food numbered 6,133 heads of a total value of Rs. 414,783, and for other purposes 937 heads of a total value of Rs. 59,871.

The following tabular statement shows the quantities and values of the annual exports of the principal local commodities during the past five years:—

Year.	*Sugar.*		*Hemp.*		*Copra.*		*Coconut Oil.*		*Rum.*	
	Kilos.	*Value.* Rs.	*Kilos.*	*Value.* Rs.	*Kilos.*	*Value.* Rs.	*Litres.*	*Value.* Rs.	*Litres.*	*Value.* Rs.
1925	192,303,540	41,250,907	1,896,445	557,072	868,335	154,308	75,786	48,321	86,370	112,202
1926	181,215,772	37,991,240	2,577,372	838,980	999,506	284,960	67,997	43,126	55,079	24,576
1927	227,989,329	53,789,928	1,904,731	665,930	1,395,521	334,297	61,330	34,597	59,589	20,055
1928	219,264,110	44,293,987	2,495,765	843,446	1,415,438	411,560	28,519	17,462	40,085	12,347
1929	277,836,342	49,407,725	2,459,306	828,481	1,390,750	280,843	14,325	6,800	70,913	34,247

In 1929 the export of the local commodities was distributed as follows :—

Sugar.	*Kilos.*	*Value.* Rs.
United Kingdom	254,970,238	45,390,608
Union of South Africa	101,622	11,025
Canada	22,262,217	3,921,065
Hong Kong	253,857	43,155
Seychelles	41,969	5,869
France	316	57
Madagascar	145,156	26,191
Ceylon	60,967	9,755
	277,836,342	Rs. 49,407,725
Hemp.		
United Kingdom	484,632	209,403
Holland	5,120	1,250
Belgium	617,519	188,814
France	252,475	93,390
Germany	99,651	33,600
Spain	133,180	33,512
United States of America ...	866,729	268,512
	2,459,306	Rs. 828,481
Copra or Poonac.		
United Kingdom	1,081,000	230,850
India	280,000	42,000
Madagascar	4,750	1,187
Norway	25,000	6,806
	1,390,750	Rs. 280,843
Coconut Oil.	*Litres.*	
Madagascar	5,625	2,758
Réunion	8,700	4,042
	14,325	Rs. 6,800
Rum.		
United Kingdom	37,000	8,365
Hong Kong	5,688	5,842
Seychelles	28,225	20,040
	70,913	Rs. 34,247

Co-operative Credit Societies.—On the 30th of June, 1929, there were 26 Societies with a total membership of 2,415. The total working capital on the same date was Rs. 295,561, or an increase of Rs. 3,041 on the previous year's figure.

FORESTRY.

The indigenous forest which covered the island before the arrival of the first settlers was gradually cleared, partly to obtain ebony and other valuable timbers but mainly to provide space for agriculture. Concessions made by the Crown and found unsuitable for the cultivation of sugar-cane were abandoned and purchased by Government with a view to the protection of water supplies and the formation of State forests. The State forests now total 50,773 arpents, consisting of scrub forests, plantations, and small areas of the primaeval forest bordered by regrowth of indigenous trees.

The "Pas Geometriques" consist of a narrow strip of land around the coast which is the inalienable property of the Crown.

Nearly the whole area of these "Pas Geometriques," 13,647 arpents in extent, is leased to neighbouring estate-owners and others, who are bound to plant and maintain filaos (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) or coconuts. These plantations beautify the coastline, yield supplies of excellent fuel, and afford shelter for cattle.

Other Crown lands are leased to the public or occupied by other Government Departments. Suitable areas are being purchased, after very careful selection, in pursuance of a re-afforestation scheme or for the protection of the sources of water-supplies. During 1929, 553 arpents were acquired at a cost of Rs. 105,983 (1 arpent = 1.04 acres). At the end of the year, the total area under the general supervision of the Forest Department was as follows:—

	Arpents.
A. Total area of Crown lands	70,616
B. District Board lands	1,074
C. Private lands—	
Mountain Reserves	8,748
River Reserves	6,000
Vacant lands	145
Total	86,583

The policy formulated during the year was:—

(*a*) The improvement of immature, and the systematic felling and regeneration of mature, plantations.

(*b*) The systematic clearing and plantation of the scrub areas.

(*c*) The cleaning and conservation of the comparatively small areas of valuable indigenous forest.

In the interests of economy and efficiency, the number of forest nurseries was reduced from 22 to 20 during the year and certain necessary permanent improvements were carried out in the most important ones. Special attention was paid to the production of larger numbers of plants of shade-bearing species for urgent underplanting work.

A total sum of Rs. 30,505 was spent on nursery and plantation work. New plantations, chiefly of pines, cryptomeria, and eucalyptus, were formed on 261 arpents with 312,200 plants. Tending work on 449 arpents absorbed 158,100 plants. (In 1928, 357 arpents were newly planted, and 866 arpents tended, at a cost of Rs. 53,217.)

The forest produce from the operations undertaken was of small volume and value. Fuel and small timber were obtained by clearing the site of the proposed Midlands Reservoir. Logs for the new Mauritius match factory were obtained from Chinese pine plantations about 45 years old. Plantations at lower elevations supplied poles and some squared timber, mainly of eucalyptus tereticornis. Fuel was also obtained from clearings in the plantations. The total volumes sold to the public and to Government Departments during the year were :—

Timber, 9,000 c.ft. solid (12,340 c.ft. in 1928).
Fuel, 113,833 c.ft. solid (121,320 c.ft. in 1928).

The revenue of the Department during the year was as follows :—

	Rs.
Sale of forest produce	53,554
Lease of Crown lands	57,258
Shooting and fishing leases...	23,384
Fines and damages in forest cases in Courts ...	4,077
Game licenses	7,860
Minor receipts	64
	Rs. 146,197

The operations of the Department were limited by the absence of working plans and by the lack of data as to the growing stock. During the year under review a start was made with a preliminary stock survey which will eventually be followed by an enumeration survey and the preparation of preliminary working plans. Intensification of working will then be possible, with corresponding increase in the annual volume and value of forest produce.

Most of the timber used in Mauritius is imported, mainly from India, Australia, Madagascar, and Singapore. The local test of a good timber is that it shall withstand the ravages of white ants. Home-grown timber will have a better reputation when it is more carefully seasoned.

Owing to the financial depression of the Colony, timber imports declined in value from Rs. 665,236 in 1928 to Rs. 497,379 in 1929, as follows :—

	Value. Rs.
Boards and planks, 86,415 c.ft.	164,944
Teak shingles, 1,025,500 pieces	60,467
Other shingles, 47,825 pieces	1,333
Railway sleepers, 14,125 pieces	84,446
Other timber, 101,606 c.ft.	186,189
Total, 241,250 c.ft. (approx.) ... ... Rs.	497,379

Practically all this timber can eventually be supplied from the State forests.

No timber was exported in 1929.

The interesting indigenous trees of Mauritius include *Imbricaria Maxima* (Natte), *Imbricaria Petiolaris* (Makak), *Canarium Colophania* (Colophane), *Sideroxylon Grandiflorum* (Tambalacoque), *Diospyros Melandia* (Ebony), and *Foetida Mauritiana* (Bois puant), all of which yield valuable timber but grow too slowly to be used in the formation of plantations. The scrub forests have been occupied mainly by exotics as *Psidium Cattleyanum* (Chinese Guava) and *Ligustrum Japonicum* (Privet), while these species, together with *Eugenia Jamrosa* and *Tetranthera Monopetala* (Yati), form the underwood of all but the densest forests. In the lower forests and waste lands the scrub consists of *Tetranthera Haurifolia* (Bois d'oiseaux), *Inga Dulcis* (Cassis de Manille), *Haematoxylon Campechianum* (Campeche), and *Leucaena Glauca* (Acacia). Many species have been successfully planted, the commonest being *Pinus Massoniana* (Chinese Pine), *Eucalyptus Tereticornis* and *Eucalyptus Robusta*, *Michelia Champaca*, *Albizzia Lebbek* (Bois noir), *Cryptomeria Japonica*, *Araucaria Cunninghamii* and *Casuarina Equisetifolia*. Others of interest include *Swietenia Mahogani*, *Credrela Toona*, *Eugenia Minii*, *Pinus Taeda*, and *Laurus Camphora* (?) (Camphor).

FISHERIES.

Owing to the financial position of the Colony, it has not been possible to give effect to all the recommendations of Mr. Hornell for the improvement and development of the marine resources of the Colony.

An Inspector of Fisheries has, however, been appointed and the Fisheries Committee, of whom the Receiver-General is the Chairman, is doing good work towards regulating lagoon fishing. At the close of the year, the question of the shark industry was under consideration by the Committee.

WATER POWER.

The numerous rivers and streams of Mauritius flow generally through deep ravines, their courses being broken by many waterfalls and rapids. The following extract from the list of waterfalls will give some indication of the available water-power in the Colony. It is estimated that 10,000 horse-power is available, of which 1,200 horse-power is utilized at present, principally for electric light service.

The following is a list and description of the waterfalls of the Colony measured during the dry season of 1912 :—

Name of River.	*Name or description of Waterfall.*	*Height of Waterfall in feet.*	*Volume in cubic feet per minute.*
G. River, S.E.	Deschiens	19	1,530
do.	Diamamoo	63	2,315
G. River, N.W. ...	Le Reduit	135	450
Savanne River	Cascade Cecile	105	580
do.	Below Terracine Dam ...	77	250
Tamarind River ...	Sept Cascades	960	420
R. des Galets	Near Plaine Champagne ...	130	60
do.	Luchon	400	134
R. du Cap	Chamarel	320	330
R. Moka	Cascade Pigeons	160	80

MANUFACTURES.

In addition to the principal manufactures, of which an account has been given above, bricks, salt and soap are being made on a small scale by private enterprise. In order to encourage the local manufacture of salt, the Customs duty on that article has been raised from Rs. 3 to Rs. 3.50 for importations from countries accorded a preferential tariff and to Rs. 5.50 for importations from other countries.

A match factory started operations at the end of the year.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total value of the overseas trade of the Colony in 1929 amounted to Rs. 98,878,100, the value of the imports of merchandise being Rs. 46,428,424 and that of exports Rs. 52,449,676. The figures for the preceding year were Rs. 96,809,220, Rs. 49,437,800, and Rs. 47,371,420, respectively.

The Customs revenue from imports amounted to Rs. 4,088,436, a decrease of over Rs. 400,000 compared with 1928, and the revenue from the exports was Rs. 895,551, against Rs. 1,649,371 in 1928.

The following Ordinance relative to Customs, which is of interest not purely local, was passed during the year :—

> The Customs Tariff (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1929, amending and consolidating the Customs Tariff of 1908 and its numerous amendments from 1908.

TRADE.

The comparative values of imports and exports of merchandise for 1913 and for the past five years are as follows :—

	Imports. Rs.	*Exports.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1913	36,607,671	32,291,706	68,899,377
1925	61,682,844	44,478,894	106,161,738
1926	50,596,137	41,208,198	91,804,335
1927	55,185,633	56,476,587	111,662,220
1928	49,437,800	47,371,420	96,809,220
1929	46,428,424	52,449,676	98,878,100

The value of re-exports was Rs. 1,661,046 in 1929 as compared with Rs. 1,628,058 in 1928. Bullion and specie amounting to Rs. 10,096 were imported during the year under review, as compared with Rs. 2,573,214 in the preceding year, and the exports under that heading amounted to Rs. 1,388 and Rs. 1,476,000 respectively.

IMPORTS.

The distribution of the import trade showed in 1929 a decrease of about 4 per cent. in the value of the imports from the United Kingdom as compared with that of 1928 ; trade with Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Holland, Norway, and Sumatra showed an increase ; but the trade with most countries shows a decrease, notably in the case of France, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Switzerland, and Madagascar.

The principal items of the imports which showed an increase in 1929 over the preceding year are beer and ale in cases, coffee, salt, chemical manures, spirits edible, gunny bags, petroleum lamp oil, petrol spirits, cement, unmanufactured tobacco, and cotton piece-goods. The following are the principal items in which decreases are shown : grain, wine in casks and in cases, coal, coke and manufactured fuel, woollen piece-goods, oils and fats unrefined, motor-cars, machinery and millwork, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, lubricating oils, matches, earthenware and glasses, haberdashery and millinery, and tramway locomotives.

The decrease in the importation of cigarettes is due to the rapid progress made in the local manufacture of cigarettes.

The following statement gives the character and size of the trade in the principal articles imported in 1929 as compared with the preceding year :—

	1928.	1929.
Rice	63,831 tons	55,068 tons
Other grains	21,737 ,,	19,735 ,,
Manures and fertilizers	13,261 ,,	16,717 ,,
Coal, coke and patent fuel	70,469 ,,	50,251 ,,
Cement	3,702 ,,	6,840 ,,
Cotton manufacture	7,832,275 metres	10,919,746 metres
Woollen manufacture	141,500 ,,	97,613 ,,

	1928.	1929.
Wines in casks	1,475,465 litres	1,092,109 litres
Wines in bottles	133,035 ,,	100,576 ,,
Spirits	39,997 ,,	48,695 ,,
Motor-cars	412,363 Rs.	327,834 Rs.
Motor-lorries	269,722 ,,	294,873 ,,
Boots and shoes	371,357 ,,	307,808 ,,
Haberdashery and millinery	604,419 ,,	542,313 ,,
Iron and steel manufactures	1,408,143 ,,	880,948 ,,
Silk goods	539,238 ,,	257,202 ,,
Drugs	523,382 ,,	407,700 ,,
Wearing apparel	321,335 ,,	180,054 ,,

Exports.

The following table shows the sugar exports for the past six years :—

	Kilos.	*Value.* Rs.
1924	182,742,235	49,823,753
1925	192,303,540	41,250,907
1926	181,215,772	37,991,240
1927	227,989,329	53,789,928
1928	219,264,110	44,293,987
1929	277,836,342	49,407,725

The principal domestic exports other than sugar were aloe fibre 2,459 tons valued at Rs. 828,481, compared with 2,496 tons valued at Rs. 843,446 in 1928 ; copra decreased from Rs. 411,560 in 1928 to Rs. 280,843 in 1929. Coconut oil showed a decrease from Rs.17,462 in 1928 to Rs. 6,800 in 1929, while rum showed an increase from Rs. 12,347 in 1928 to Rs. 34,247 in 1929.

Re-exports amounted to Rs. 1,661,046 and consisted chiefly of gunny bags, wheat flour, salted fish, and scrap metal.

Distribution of Trade.

The following tables show the sources of the imports, the destination of the exports, and the total trade with the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and foreign countries in 1913 and in each of the past five years :—

Imports.

	1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
United Kingdom	33·2	27·4	22·2	23·6	23·3	23·8
British Possessions	42·6	45·1	48·5	47·2	50·7	46·3
Foreign Countries	24·2	27·5	29·3	29·2	26·0	29·9
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Exports.

	1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
United Kingdom	18·5	61·9	87·4	92·4	92·3	87·6
British Possessions	77·0	29·2	7·5	5·3	3·6	8·8
Foreign Countries	4·5	8·9	5·1	2·3	4·1	3·6
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Total Trade.

	1913	*1925*	*1926*	*1927*	*1928*	*1929*
United Kingdom	26·3	42·0	51·5	57·8	57·1	57·6
British Possessions	58·7	38·4	30·1	25·3	27·6	26·4
Foreign Countries	15·0	19·6	18·4	16·9	15·3	16·0
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

SHIPPING.

The following statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels using the port (excluding the coasting trade) during the past three years :—

	Inwards.		*Outwards.*	
	No.	*Tonnage.*	*No.*	*Tonnage.*
1927	224	622,936	226	625,524
1928	236	650,369	235	647,446
1929	194	542,314	198	552,596

In the coastal trade with the dependencies there were 19 vessels inwards, 6,639 tons, and 20 vessels outwards, 6,956 tons.

The principal lines of steamships represented by vessels calling at Port Louis were the Union-Castle Steamship Co. Ltd., the British India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., the Messageries Maritimes, the Clan Line, the Ellerman Harrison Line, the Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire, and the Mogul Line.

RAILWAYS.

The Mauritius Government Railways consist of the following Lines :—

	Miles.
Gauge 4′ 8½″ :—	
North Line	31
Midland Line...	35·30
Moka-Flacq Line	26·20
Black River Line	12·75
Savanne Line...	10·90
Montagne Longue Line	3·50
	119·65
Gauge 2′ 6″ :—	
Bois Cheri Light Railway	24·00
Total	143·65 miles

In the course of the year, the whole of the Black River Line and a section of the Moka-Flacq Line, 11 miles in length, were closed to passenger traffic, on the recommendation of the Railway Commission.

owing to the continued decline in passenger revenue and the consequent loss on the working of those lines.

Revenue figures for 1929 as compared with those for 1928 are as follows :—

	Revenue, 1928.	*Revenue*, 1929.	*Difference.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers ...	1,278,651	953,555	— 325,096
Parcels	113,755	106,283	— 7,472
Goods	1,549,944	1,336,557	— 213,387
Miscellaneous ...	111,398	79,664	— 31,734
Net Revenue ...	4,335	37,918	+ 33,583
Total ...	Rs. 3,058,083	Rs. 2,513,977	— Rs. 544,106

The total goods tonnage was 503,131 in 1928 and 415,096 in 1929, showing a decrease of 88 035.

The continued and increasing fall in passenger revenue from all lines is due to the competition set up by road passenger transport agencies. The low fares of motor-bus traffic, notwithstanding the reduction of the railway tariff and the regularity and punctuality of the railway service, have rendered successful competition impossible.

The continued fall in goods revenue is mainly due to the smaller sugar-cane crop harvested, road traffic competition, and the reduction of the tariff for the transport of sugar-canes.

The transport of the higher classes of goods and commodities is passing gradually into the hands of the motor traffic agencies, owing principally to their advantage of a door-to-door service.

The working expenditure for 1929 showed a satisfactory decrease on the previous year's figure, as shown under :—

	1928.	1929.	*Decrease.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Working Expenditure ...	2,973,676	2,615,655	−358,021

The Bois Cheri Light Railway Line, which is 24 miles in length with a gauge of 2 ft. 6 inches, connects with the Savanne branch line. It is run for goods traffic only, principally sugar-cane. The working of this line left a loss of Rs. 4,292 during the year under review.

The comparative figures of revenue, expenditure, and tonnage of this line were as follows during 1928 and 1929 :—

	1928	1929	*Decrease.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Expenditure	21,466	21,130	— 336
Revenue	21,766	17,484	— 4,282
Tonnage carried	19,955	17,193	— 2,762

The comparative revenue and expenditure figures of the railway road transport service for goods are given hereunder :—

	1928	1929	*Decrease.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Expenditure	10,196	5,551	— 4,645
Revenue	12,958	5,306	— 7,652

The reduction, viz., Rs. 7,652, in the revenue of this service was due to the discontinuation of the transport of sugar by road lorries.

In order to maintain passenger communication over those sections of the island affected by the discontinuation of railway passenger traffic, a passenger bus service was introduced by contract with a local road transport company. The financial results for the year's working are given hereunder :—

Section.	*Date of Inauguration.*	*Mileage.*	*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.	*Loss.* Rs.
Black River ...	July, 1929	29,368	7,201.89	17,493.20	–10,291.31
Moka Flacq ...	May, 1929	21,924	7,205.49	23,494.40	–16,288.91

These services were maintained as feeders to the railway and also to ensure through connection by all trains for the convenience of the travelling public. They assisted towards the retention of the railway passenger clientele which otherwise would have resorted to other means of transport by road.

The December floods caused considerable damage to the Railway. One bridge and one culvert were destroyed, two miles of track were washed away, and the underground traffic control cable on the Midland Line was also damaged.

ROADS.

The Colony is well served by a system of 441 miles of first-class roads, termed "Main Roads," and 215 miles of second-class ones, called "Branch Roads."

The main roads are water-bound macadam. Approximately 130 miles are surface-coated with bitumen.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

Twenty-six vessels of the Messageries Maritimes Company conveyed European and other mails in 1929. The average time taken for conveyance of mails by these steamers was 38.7 days.

Mails from England were also conveyed via the South African route by 37 steamers, including 9 Union-Castle vessels. The average time taken by this route was 36.5 days. Mails from India and the East were conveyed by 10 steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company Limited, and other cargo boats.

On the whole, 202 vessels conveyed mails to and 202 vessels took mails from Mauritius.

The number of foreign inward parcel mails amounted to 24,825, of a value of Rs. 1,087,635 as under :—

Origin.	*No. of Parcels.*	*Value.* Rs.
England	4,060	193,132
England C.O.D.	2,508	101,990
India	1,622	39,906
France	13,192	572,729
Other Countries	4,043	179,878

The number of outward parcels amounted to 3,840, of a value of Rs. 199,605.

Postage, money orders, and parcels showed a decrease in revenue as compared with 1928, due to a reduced crop, low prices obtained for sugars, and bad trade.

The length of telegraph lines opened for traffic is 381 miles.

The number of telegrams over the land-lines of the Colony showed a decrease of 650 as compared with that of 1928.

Foreign telegraphic communication is maintained by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company and by the Rose Belle Wireless Station which was opened for public traffic on the 1st of March, 1924. The range of the Station is limited and it is only able to communicate with ships at sea and with Reunion Island. Daily weather reports are received from Madagascar, Reunion, and Rodrigues, and during the cyclonic season the station renders invaluable assistance to ships at sea by indicating the danger zones of passing cyclones. It maintains a 24 hours' service.

The telephone system in the Colony is divided into two groups—one, serving the main Government establishments, is owned and maintained by the Government, and the other, serving the general public, is owned and maintained by the Oriental Telephone Company. The number of subscribers' instruments connected to the Government group is about 25 per cent. of those connected to the Oriental Telephone Company's.

The two groups are interconnected by junction lines, thus enabling, with a few exceptions, intercommunication to be effected between any subscriber of one with any subscriber of the other.

Apart from a few isolated subscribers, the whole of the telephone system is concentrated within the chief industrial and residential zone bounded on the one side by the capital of the Colony, Port Louis, and on the other by the residential town of Curepipe, a distance of about fifteen miles.

The area outside this zone is served chiefly by the Government telegraph system, the lines of which more or less follow the coast-line and thereby encircle the island, with a branch across the central plateau forming, as it were, a diameter thereto.

Most of the local lines are overhead, underground cables being used for interconnecting exchanges.

The quality of speech transmission compares very favourably with that in other damp tropical climates.

The number of subscribers' lines connected to the public telephone system at the end of the year 1929 was 695.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

Justice is administered in Mauritius by the Supreme Court, sitting in Port Louis as a Court of Civil and Criminal Justice and having the power of the King's Bench in England and of a Court of Equity.

In the nine Districts are Magistrates' Courts having likewise a limited civil, criminal, and stipendiary jurisdiction.

In 1929 the Supreme Court dealt with 414 civil matters out of 549 which were brought before it, as against 334 out of 660 in the previous year.

Twenty persons were brought before and tried by the same Court, sitting as a criminal court, out of whom 19 were convicted.

14,107 persons were brought before the Magistrates' Courts (District and Stipendiary) and before the Bench of Magistrates (Courts composed of three Magistrates having a wider criminal Jurisdiction).

POLICE.

Organization.—The Force is of a semi-military character, with a proportion of the establishment fully trained to bear arms.

Further progress has been made in placing the Force on a satisfactory footing as regards modern methods for the prevention and detection of crime, and the work of reorganization which began in 1926 is practically completed.

Recruiting.—Owing to a reduction of the establishment, there was very little wastage of personnel during the year, and recruiting was confined to the enlistment of sixteen men from local sources.

Distribution.—The Force is divided into Staff, Criminal Investigation Department, Motor Traffic Branch, Training Depot, Harbour Police, District Police, Railway Police, Rodrigues Police, Mounted Police, and Band.

The Staff comprises Headquarters and the Pay and Quartermasters' Branch located at Line Barracks, Port Louis.

The Criminal Investigation Department is subdivided into branches dealing with investigations, habitual criminals, finger impressions, *modus operandi* of criminals, passports, photography, draughtsmanship, and gun permits.

The Motor Traffic Branch continues to expand proportionately with the increase of motor-cars, and has made steady progress towards a higher standard of efficiency.

The Training Depot contains all the requirements of a modern school for police recruits, and comprises a police station and the armed guards at Government House and the Treasury.

The Harbour Police controls the area comprising the Customs Department, Post Office, docks, wharves, quays and granary, and includes in its personnel of water and shore police an Immigration and Passport Officer.

The District Police are distributed throughout the Colony in the nine Magisterial Districts. There are 52 stations of three categories varying as regards numbers of personnel from 38 to 1.

The Railway Police is recruited from trained men of the general Force, but is under the control of the General Manager of Railways.

The Rodrigues Police is similarly staffed and is controlled by the Magistrate of that Dependency.

The Band is a highly efficient organization recruited originally from India but now from local men, trained when boys, by the European Bandmaster.

Crime.—The number of offences dealt with by the police during 1929 is less than that recorded in the previous year and below the average for the past ten years.

The percentage of undetected serious crime is below the normal average, and the proportion of crimes to population is falling steadily.

The Commission of Enquiry appointed in 1927 was still sitting at the end of the year under review.

PRISONS.

Organization.—The Prisons Department is directed by the Superintendent of Prisons, who is also Inspector-General of Police, with a staff of European chief warders and assistant chief warders and locally-enlisted subordinate officers.

Distribution.—The staff and prisoners are divided between the Port Louis and Beau Bassin prisons, of which the former has accommodation for 154 males and 40 females and the latter for 756 males.

Port Louis Prison contains the offices of the Department and serves as the receiving and local prison in which short-sentence prisoners, debtors, and misdemeanants are confined.

Beau Bassin Prison is a modern convict establishment eight miles from Port Louis, to which all long-sentence prisoners are transferred.

Labour.—At Port Louis the prisoners are principally employed on cleaning various Government buildings and grounds, cartage of stores, and, in the Female Prison, on laundry work and repairs to prison clothing. There is also a carpenter's shop where much useful work is performed for Government.

At Beau Bassin Prison there is a range of workshops comprising a bakery and shops for tailors, boot, sail and mattress makers, basket, brush and mat makers, carpenters, tinsmiths, blacksmiths, and stone masons. First-class work is turned out at a very considerable saving to public funds. In addition to convicts employed in the shops, a large number are employed on agricultural work in the adjoining gardens which provide all the necessary vegetables, etc., for the Department.

The Prison grounds and gardens are considered to be a model of their kind and are much admired by official and other visitors.

Population.—During the year, 1,873 persons were committed to prison (a decrease of 6 on the figures for the previous year), 1,796 being males and 77 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December, 1929, was 476, against 424 on 31st December, 1928.

Juvenile Offenders.—Male juvenile offenders are detained after conviction at an Industrial School directed by the Superintendent of Prisons, to which are also sent juvenile warrants and certain other categories under the age of 16 years. They may be kept at the school until they attain the age of 18.

The inmates are principally employed on agricultural work in the garden of the institution, and instruction in useful trades is given in addition to the usual primary education.

The school provides accommodation for 200 boys, but the number detained at the end of the year was only 66, as compared with 83 at the close of the previous year.

The future of the institution was still under consideration by a Committee.

Female juvenile offenders are accommodated in the Women's Prison at Port Louis.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The most important public works in the Colony are the irrigation works, water works, sewage works of the town of Port Louis, buildings, and anti-malarial works.

Irrigation Works.—Government storage irrigation works were started in 1914 according to the plans and designs prepared by Mr. G. M. Harriott, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, Central Provinces, India, and Consulting Engineer for Irrigation to the Government of Mauritius.

The La Ferme scheme for the irrigation of the south-west of the island, between Grand River North-West and River Dragon, has been completed, and the Nicoliere-Calebasses scheme for the irrigation of 12 to 15,000 acres in the north, between the rivers du Rempart and Tombeau, has been started. These two schemes cover almost all the fertile lands of the Colony, which, being situated below the 60-inch rainfall contour, cannot be efficiently cultivated without irrigation water.

The La Ferme scheme, which consists of a low-level reservoir of 2,500 million gallons, has brought about 3,700 acres of barren land under sugar-cane plantation since 1918.

The Nicoliere-Calebasses scheme consists of a high-level storage reservoir at Midlands of 4,400 million gallons capacity, which is designed to replenish two level reservoirs of about 250 million gallons capacity at Nicoliere and Calebasses.

The Midlands reservoir is under construction. The Nicoliere reservoir has been completed and, although some land under cane cultivation is being irrigated from it, the full scheme will only be in operation when the Midlands reservoir is completed.

The final position and design of the Calebasses reservoir is still under consideration.

Water Works.—These consist of :—

(*a*) The Mare-aux-Vacoas water supply which supplies Plaines Wilhems and part of Moka, Black River, and Port Louis Districts.

(*b*) The Port Louis water supply for the town of Port Louis.

(*c*) The District water supplies for the Districts of Pamplemousses, Riviere du Rempart, Flacq, Grand Port, Savanne, Black River, and the remaining parts of Moka.

The Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Supply, which is the most important one of the Colony, is derived from a storage reservoir, the "Mare-aux-Vacoas," situated at an altitude of 1,825 feet. Its capacity, which was of 1,167 million gallons, has been increased to 1,641 million gallons by raising the height of the dam ; its catchment area is entirely protected by forest lands and the whole of the water is passed through sand filters at the filtering plant at La Marie. One of the four service reservoirs, of the total capacity of 3,850,000 gallons, constructed with a view to improving the supply, has been completed.

The Port Louis Water Supply is derived from the Grand River North-West at a distance of about four miles from the town and at a level of 250 feet. This supply was under the control of the Municipality of the town until 1922, when it was transferred to the Public Works and Surveys Department.

The improvement of the quality of the water by chlorination has been under consideration for the past few years, and it is expected that the process will be started early next year.

The capacity of the whole plant and filters has been increased in order to deal with 5 million gallons of water daily to meet the Port Louis requirements.

District Water Supplies.—The water supplies of the towns and villages in the districts comprise 27 different schemes, each derived from a different spring or stream. These supplies are not filtered but are generally protected from pollution by forest reserves in the catchment grounds of their sources.

Several schemes are under consideration for the improvement and extension of these water supplies and for the protection of their catchment areas.

Sewerage of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922 the scheme was revised by Messrs. Mansergh & Sons, and the works are now being carried out on the lines of their report. A large portion of the town of Port Louis has now the water-carriage system. The works are in full progress.

Anti-Malarial Works.—These have been in abeyance during the year under review owing to the study which is being made by the Medical and Health Department of the winter refuges of the fever-carrying mosquitoes.

Harbour.—The extensive dredging and reclamation works which were undertaken to increase the deep-water accommodation of Port Louis harbour have been completed. A new quay, 500 feet long, providing 32 feet of water alongside, with direct inland road and rail access, has been constructed on part of the reclaimed area. 52,000 tons of cargo have been discharged from 21 ships at the quay, at a considerable advantage to ships as regards convenience and despatch and at a reduced cost to the importer.

Granary.—Good progress has been made with the construction of the Granary.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

VITAL STATISTICS.

For statistical purposes the population of the island is divided into two groups, the Indian population and the general population. The term "general population" includes all persons who are not Indian.

The estimated total population on 31st December, 1929, was 405,549 (Indian population 280,998, general population 124,551), showing an increase of 747 on the previous year's figures and of 29,064 on the figures at the census taken on 20th May, 1921.

The numbers of births and deaths during the year were 13,771 and 12,413 respectively.

The birth-rate in the Indian population was 32.5 per mille, and in the general 34.5 per mille. The rates for 1928 were 36.4 and 41.2 respectively per mille.

The death-rate per 1,000 of the population was as follows in the two groups: Indian 31.7, general 28.4, as compared with 28.8 and 27.0 respectively for the previous year.

The highest death-rate is furnished by the Black River District, 44.0; the lowest, by Plaines Wilhems District, 22.2.

The death-rate for the whole Colony was 30.7 per mille as compared with 28.2 in 1928. The death-rate for Port Louis was 35.0, as compared with 32.1 for 1928.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Public Health Department is beginning to find a formidable opponent entering the lists in the form of under-nourishment. Increasing numbers of persons are being seen at the dispensaries whose real illness is not any communicable disease but the much more insidious condition of defective nutrition. This is the inevitable consequence of the serious economic depression prevalent in the Colony. The rising death-rate is largely attributable to this, and there is no sign of the increase slackening. The tendency is towards a further rise.

Work for the relief and control of hookworm infection has continued. Field operations have been in progress, mainly in Grand Port, Savanne, and Plaines Wilhems.

Fortunately, plague has not reappeared. The usual preventive measures have been carried out and the rat repression campaign proceeds continuously.

An outbreak of mild influenza occurred during March and May. Smallpox has not occurred in the Colony during the year and no outbreak of other infectious disease was recorded.

Malaria has been on the increase, although the activities of the Malaria Service have succeeded in keeping it in check to some extent in Plaines Wilhems. The disastrous floods which occurred in the last days of December, especially in the district of Flacq, will probably be followed by an increase of this disease.

On 29th December a large flood at the Grand River North West wrecked the intake of the Municipal water supply to the town. The town was thereby suddenly deprived of its water-supply, excepting for a comparatively small quantity of Mare-aux-Vacoas water and of the supply from the Bathurst canal. Arrangements were immediately made to bring in an emergency supply to the town.

IX.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Primary education, though not compulsory, is provided free by Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony.

At the close of the year there were 148 primary schools. 56 Government and 92 denominational, assisted by Government grants. Of the latter, 63 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 5 Hindoo, and 3 Mohammedan. The average attendance was 22,854, as compared with 23,076 in 1928. The number of Indian children on the roll was 17,547 (boys 13,918, girls 3,629), showing an increase of 1,095 on the previous year. The total number of girls educated in primary schools was 10,870, as against 10,318 in 1928.

Six junior scholarships and six junior exhibitions, entitling the holders thereof to free tuition at the Royal College for a period of about seven years, are awarded to primary school boys every year on the results of a competitive examination, the winners of a scholarship receiving money payments at the rate of Rs. 120 a year in addition. 195 candidates sat for the Junior Boys' Scholarship and

Exhibition Examination held in December, 1929, as against 112 in the previous year.

A Senior Bursary Class for primary school boys was established in 1926. The course of study in this class extends over a period of two years, at the expiration of which four scholarships and four exhibitions tenable at the Royal College for a period of about five years are also awarded every year on the results of a competitive examination. At the examination held in December, 1929, there were 60 candidates as against 83 in the previous year.

Six scholarships tenable in an aided secondary school for five years are awarded every year to primary school girls on the results of a competitive examination, thus allowing the winners to pursue their studies as far as the Cambridge School Certificate examination. 166 candidates sat for the Girls' Scholarship Examination held in December, 1929, as against 151 in the previous year.

The difficulties recently experienced in the recruitment of suitable teachers for primary schools are gradually disappearing.

Technical instruction is provided in three principal centres, viz. :—

(1) The Government Technical School in Port Louis, at which about 50 full-time boys of an average age of 16 years and about 200 boys from the primary schools in Port Louis of an average age of 13 years are taught mechanical drawing and receive manual instruction in woodwork ;

(2) The Government Industrial School at Beau Bassin, at which about 150 boys from the primary schools in Lower Plaines Wilhems are given manual instruction in woodwork ; and

(3) The Government Trades School, at Bell Village, with about 80 full-time apprentices of an average age of 18 years, half of whom are carpenters and the rest masons, blacksmiths, or tinsmiths.

Woodwork classes on a more moderate scale are also held in some aided primary schools, in which satisfactory progress is being maintained.

The number of school gardens in the primary schools of the Colony is on the increase, and nature study now forms part of the syllabus of examination for teachers' certificates.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The number of aided secondary schools remained at nine, two of which are for boys only, while the others are girls' schools with a small percentage of boys in the preparatory and junior classes.

The total number on the roll was 1,364, 685 boys and 679 girls, while the average attendance was 606 and 608 respectively, as compared with 689 boys and 664 girls on the roll for previous year, with an average attendance of 611 and 569 respectively.

The passes at the Cambridge Local Examination held in December, 1928, were as follows :—

		Aided Secondary Schools.		*Other Schools.*	
		Boys.	*Girls.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*
School Certificate	...	13	9	13	3
Junior do.	...	8	2	23	2

The detailed results of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1929, have not yet been received.

The following table shows the results of the London Chamber of Commerce local examination held in 1929.

	*Book-Keeping**		*Banking and Currency.*		*Shorthand.*		*Arithmetic.*		*Elementary Mathematics.*	
	Number of		*Number of*		*Number of*		*Number of*		*Number of*	
	Candidates.	*Passes.*	*Candidates.*	*Passes.*	*Candidates.*	*Passes.*	*Candidates.*	*Passes.*	*Candidates.*	*Passes.*
Senior ...	22	9†	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Junior...	36	19	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	1‡

A revised system of elementary and primary education, including, *inter alia*, an extension of the technical instruction now given to primary school children, the creation of commercial classes and a further reorganisation of the Government Training School, was prepared at the beginning of the year 1929 by Mr. W. H. Ingrams, Assistant Colonial Secretary and member of the Schools Committee, Mauritius, and formerly a member of the Advisory Council of Education at Zanzibar. The scheme was still under consideration at the end of the year.

Regulations were made by the Governor in Executive Council providing, *inter alia*, (i) for reductions in the rates of salaries paid to probationers and monitors in primary schools, and (ii) for the payment of the whole, or of a portion only, of the grants hitherto paid to the Managers of aided primary schools according to the classification of such schools ; but, on reconsideration, the operation of that part of the regulations referred to at (ii) above was suspended, having been found to be *ultra vires*.

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College and at the Port Louis School.

The staff of the Royal College consists of the Rector, the Senior Master, 11 Masters with British University Degrees, and 11 Assistant

---

* Read " Book-Keeping and Accountancy " in the case of Senior Candidates.

† Two candidates passed with distinction.

‡ With distinction.

Masters: that of the School consists of the Headmaster, 2 Masters, and 8 Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. or B.Sc. examination of the London University.

The College has well-equipped chemical and physical laboratories.

Admission to the College is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or upon winning a primary schools' scholarship. The pupils are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, including boys of European, Chinese, Indian, and mixed parentage, ranging in age from 10 to 20 years.

The year opened with 365 pupils on the roll, and on 31st December, 1929, the number was 347; the average attendance for the year was 299 at the Royal College. The School opened in 1929 with a fair number of pupils, which steadily increased during the year, and the number on the roll on 31st December, 1929, was 196, while the average attendance for the year was 185.

Boys receive instruction in classical and scientific subjects, Latin being compulsory and Greek optional and alternative with more advanced natural science in the Entrance, Lower, and Upper Middle Classes. Bifurcation takes place in the Cambridge School Certificate Class.

Two scholarships, one on the classical and one on the modern side, are awarded annually in the highest class, which is examined by the Syndicate of Examiners of the Cambridge University. These scholarships are of the value of £1,000 with a temporary increase of 30 per cent. and with first-class passage allowance to and from England, and are tenable for four or five years at any British University or any scientific or technical institution of the United Kingdom.

The Laureates and those boys whose parents are well-to-do sometimes go to Europe to take up a profession, but they usually return to Mauritius in due course and occupy positions of importance. Of the others, a fair number obtain employment in the Government; some, after a course of studies at the College of Agriculture, go to sugar estates, a few join the newly-constituted Police Cadet Corps and will no doubt in time make good sub-inspectors; some join commercial firms, but a large number cannot obtain suitable employment.

The ambition of many parents of the artisan class and even of the labouring class seems to be to send their sons to the Royal College that they may obtain the Cambridge School Certificate and join the Civil Service. Many more boys are being educated than can be reasonably expected to obtain suitable employment in Mauritius. A few young men secured employment under the Government of Kenya.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

A change was brought to the curriculum of the Agricultural College whereby the duration of the studies has been reduced to two years. At the same time, the level of the entrance examination has been raised so that, upon the whole, the standard attained by students who complete the course, remains practically unchanged.

Fourteen students followed the regular courses in 1929, while four post-graduate students carried out special work at the College.

The examination in sugar manufacture of the City and Guilds of the London Institute was held, as in previous years, under the auspices of the College of Agriculture. Two students obtained the final certificate.

The students who obtained the College diploma have so far found ready employment on estates in Mauritius. A few have secured employment abroad. The advantages accruing to the sugar industry by the introduction of specially trained men on estates is already perceptible and will increase with time.

Elementary Agricultural Education.—Work at the Farm School attached to the Department of Agriculture was carried out on the same lines as heretofore. Fifteen students were in attendance. Two second-year students obtained agricultural cadetships and four obtained forestry cadetships.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEYS.

The only published map of the island is the one-inch-to-the-mile map published by the Geographical Section, General Staff, War Office.

No important grants of land are now made. The Crown lands, of a total extent of about 80,000 acres, are mostly managed as forest lands.

The value of land in Mauritius varies from Rs. 20 to Rs. 3,000 per acre except in townships where the value may reach Rs. 20,000. Agricultural lands are worth from Rs. 300 to Rs. 3,000 per acre.

XI.—LABOUR.

The labour force of this Colony, both agricultural and unskilled, is almost entirely composed of Indian immigrants and of their descendants. The introduction of indentured labour from India was discontinued in 1924.

The number of Indian immigrants in Mauritius was estimated at 14,180 on the 31st of December, 1929. During the course of that year the number of immigrants and their dependents repatriated was 172.

Owing to the closing down of several sugar factories through centralization and to the prevalent economic depression, the openings for skilled workmen, especially mechanics, are insufficient. Fortunately for this class of artizans, employment on the sugar estates in Portuguese East Africa was found for a number of men, and 92 emigrated in 1929 under contracts of service for one or two years

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

LEGISLATION.

During the year 1929, twenty-eight Ordinances were passed of which the following deserve special mention :—

No. 1.—*The Sugar Export Duty (Refund) Ordinance*, 1929, suspends the payment, on the sugars of the 1928–29 crop, of the export duty of 50 cents. per 100 kilogrammes leviable under Article 13 of the Sugar Industry Loan Ordinance 1926, and it further provides for the refund of the duty which had been paid on the sugars of such crop prior to the commencement of the Ordinance.

No. 5.—*The Naturalization (Deprivation) Ordinance*, 1929, authorizes the revocation of certificates of naturalization issued under Ordinances Nos. 26 of 1871 and 21 of 1872, and provides for the loss of naturalization in regard to the wife and children of any person whose certificate is so revoked.

No. 6.—*The Sugar Industry Loan Ordinance*, 1929, authorizes the Governor to borrow £200,000 from the Crown Agents and a further sum of Rs. 3,300,000 by the issue of Treasury Bills in the Colony for the purpose of making loans to sugar factory owners and sugar-cane planters in order to assist the sugar industry of the Colony.

No. 9.—*The Mauritius Sugar Syndicate Ordinance*, 1929, incorporates a syndicate which is the medium through which sales of sugar belonging to its members are made.

No. 13.—*The Sugar Industry Loan* (*No.* 2) *Ordinance*, 1929, authorizes the Crown Agents, acting on behalf of the Colony, to raise a loan of £200,000 in London and repeals the provision of the Sugar Industry Loan Ordinance 1929 (No. 6), under which the amount was authorized to be borrowed from the Crown Agents.

No. 14.—*The Sugar Industry Loan* (*No.* 3) *Ordinance*, 1929, authorizes the raising of a loan of Rs. 3,300,000 in the Colony, refundable in thirty years, to provide funds for the repayment of the Treasury Bills issued under the provisions of the Sugar Industry Loan Ordinance, 1929 (No. 6).

No. 15.—*The Sugar Special Export Duty (Consolidated) Ordinance*, 1929, amends and consolidates the special export duties leviable on sugar under Ordinances No. 15 of 1926 and 13 and 14 of 1929. The Ordinance, together with Ordinances Nos. 1, 6, 13, and 14, are a series of special legislation passed during the year to assist the sugar industry of the Colony.

No. 24.—*The Customs Tariff (Consolidated) Ordinance*, 1929, amends and consolidates the Customs Tariff of 1908 and its numerous amendments from 1908 onwards.

No. 27.—*The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance*, 1929, facilitates the procedure for the enforcement within reciprocating British possessions or territories under His Majesty's protection of maintenance orders made by Courts in Mauritius. The effect of the new provisions is mainly to dispense with the necessity of transmitting copies of orders through the Secretary of State.

Commission of Enquiry.

In March a Commission was appointed to enquire into the system of Government poor relief and the working of the law and procedure in force and to make recommendations with a view to ensuring an adequate distribution of available funds to the needy and destitute and assisting them, whenever possible, by employment of other methods. This Commission, as well as those on the Police, Medical, and Railway Departments, had not completed their labours at the close of the year.

Cost of Living.

Upon the whole, the cost of living during 1929 was perceptibly less than during the previous year.

The index for rice, the staple food, showed but small fluctuations: it was 127 for the first quarter and 120 for the last. The cost of other grain (lentils, beans, etc.) was fairly high during the first two quarters, the average index being 145, but it dropped to 129 during the third quarter and rose to 133 during the last. Flour, which had dropped to 115 during the first quarter, rose to 125 during the last quarter. Oils and fats decreased steadily; 148 during the first quarter and 127 during the last. Milk and meat remained steady at the same figures as last year, viz., 125 and 160 respectively.

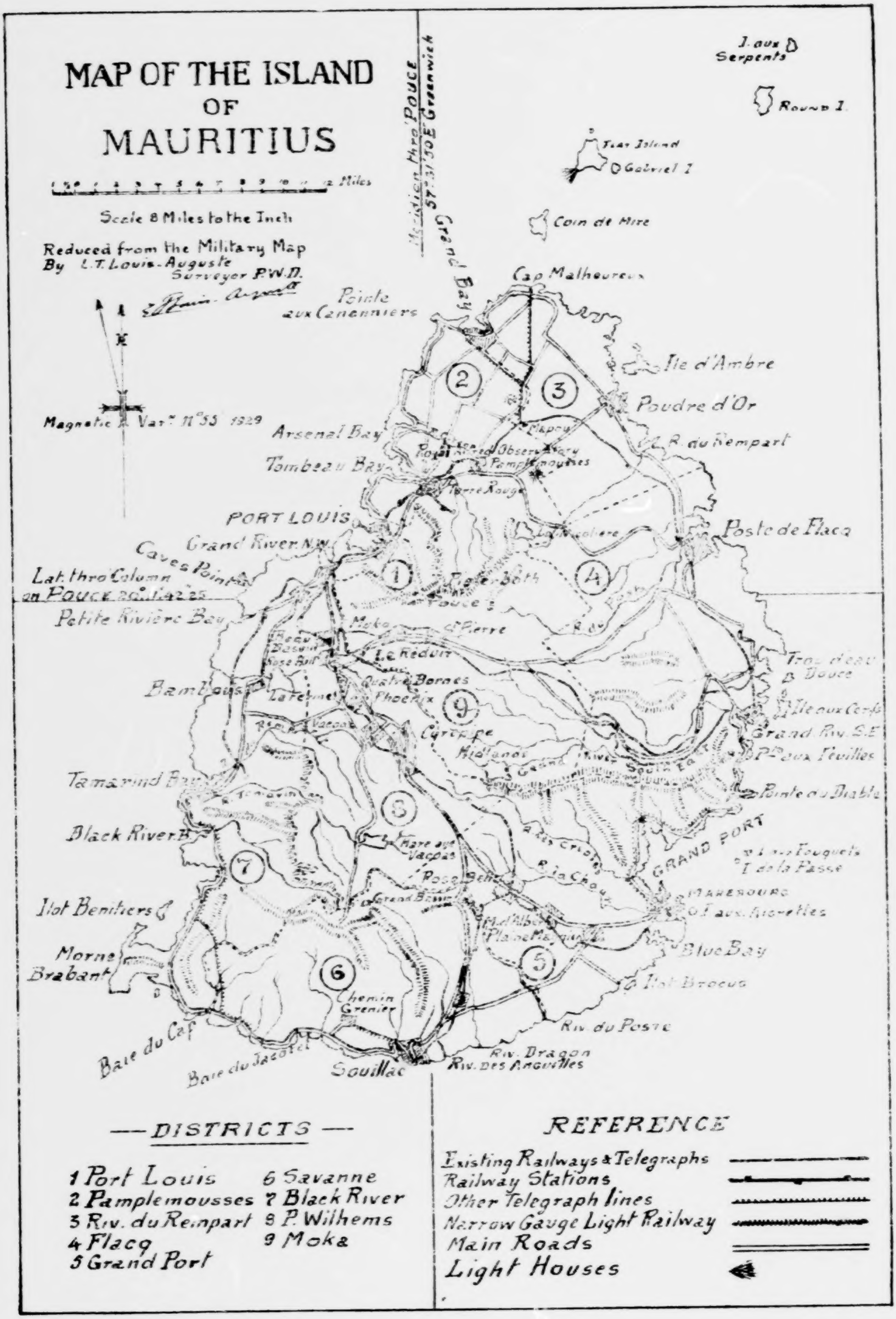
Articles of clothing were at 201 during the first quarter and 175 during the last.

In the mean, the cost of living for 1929 was indexed 152.4, as compared with 162.8 in 1928.

R. VIADER,
Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

30th June, 1930.

MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS


0 ½ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Miles
Scale 8 Miles to the Inch
Reduced from the Military Map
By L.T. Louis-Auguste
Surveyor P.W.D.
Magnetic Var.n 11°55 1929
Meridian thro' Pouce
57°31'30"E Greenwich
Lat. thro' Column on Pouce 20°11'42"S
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Canonniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal College
Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Petite Rivière Bay
Peter Both
Pouce
Moka
St Pierre
Le Reduit
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
Bambous
La Ferme
Vacoas
Curepipe
Midlands
Grand River South East
Poste de Flacq
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pte aux Feuilles
Pointe du Diable
Tamarind Bay
Tamarin
Black River B.
Mare aux Vacoas
Rose Belle
Grand Bassin
R. des Cresses
R. la Chaux
GRAND PORT
I. aux Fouquets
I. de la Passe
MAHEBOURG
I. aux Aigrettes
Blue Bay
Ilot Brocus
Mt Albert
Plaine Magnien
Ilot Benitiers
Morne Brabant
Baie du Cap
Baie du Jacotet
Souillac
Chemin Grenier
Riv. du Poste
Riv. Dragon
Riv. des Anguilles
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs	━━━
Railway Stations	━•━
Other Telegraph lines	┈┈┈
Narrow Gauge Light Railway	━━━
Main Roads	═══
Light Houses	◀

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MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1930.

(For Reports for 1928 and 1929 see Nos. 1465 and 1503
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MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1930.

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SITUATION AND AREA.

The island of Mauritius lies off the east coast of Africa in the South Indian Ocean some 500 miles to the east of Madagascar, between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ of East Longitude and 19° 50′ and 20° 31′ of South Latitude. Its official time has been fixed by law as four hours in advance on Greenwich. The greatest length of the island is 38 miles and its greatest breadth 29 miles. Its area, together with that of the small islets lying round its coast, is 720 square miles. The population was reckoned at 404,458 on the 31st December, 1930,* so that the island is very thickly peopled, there being about 562 souls to the square mile.

The city of Port Louis, which is the chief port and the seat of Government, has a population of about 54,000 which includes its outlying parts. The towns of the inland parts are all modern. Curepipe, the chief residential centre in the higher levels, lies 1,800 feet above the level of the sea on the highest part of the central tableland which rises from the plains of the coast; the smaller towns of Vacoas, Phoenix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, and Beau Bassin are all in the Plaines Wilhems district and at lower levels on the same tableland. The chief towns and villages in the other districts of the country are Mahébourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, Saint Pierre, Moka, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Poudre d'Or, and Bambous.

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* Though the census of 1931 gives the number as 393,503.

The island is mainly volcanic although signs of an older formation are to be seen at some places (R. Thompson—1880). It is hard to define its age as the effects of cyclones and floods on its rocks lead one astray. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, speak of great age, but all that can be said is that it seems older than its neighbours Réunion and Rodrigues and that it is certainly more stable (J. S. Gardiner).

The dependencies of Mauritius consist of a large number of small islets of which the nearest is 230 miles away, and the most distant about 1,200 miles away in 6° South Latitude. The largest, Rodrigues, an island of 42 square miles with a population of 8,256, lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, while lesser islands worthy of note are Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, which is the largest of the Chagos Archipelago. The population of the lesser dependencies numbered 1,810 in May, 1921.

HISTORY.

A note on the history of Mauritius will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Reports, No. 1503.

LANGUAGES.

The official language of Mauritius is English, though French may also be spoken in the Council of Government. English is widely understood but French is the chief tongue of social use. The speech of the people is Creole, which is often called a French patois. Creole is a dialect of which the greatest part of the words is French or derived from French, but it is closely akin in its formation to the Bantu languages, and it includes a certain number of words of Malagasy and Bantu origin. Hindustani (Urdu and Hindi) and Tamil are largely spoken among the Indians but some other of the tongues of the Peninsula also have currency. The Chinese mostly speak the Canton dialect.

CURRENCY.

The money of Mauritius is expressed in rupees and cents of a rupee. There are local bronze coins of one cent, two cents, and five cents, and local silver coins of ten cents and twenty cents. The higher values are represented by silver rupees of India, Indian half-rupee and quarter-rupee pieces; there are also current Indian nickel coins of four annas which pass in Mauritius for twenty-five cents.

The Commissioners of Currency issue notes on behalf of the Government with values of one rupee, five rupees, ten rupees, and fifty rupees, respectively. In addition the notes of the Government of India of all values are current. The Mauritius bronze and silver coins and the Indian nickel four-anna pieces are legal tender up to five rupees, and the Mauritius and Indian notes up to any amount.

Merchants and others in Mauritius use special local terms for some money values, e.g., a " sou " is one cent, a " cache " (or " casse " in Creole) is two cents, a " franc " twenty cents, and a " livre " twenty cents. The dollar, " piastre," which is two rupees, still lives in sales by auction. A fifty-cent piece is often referred to as a shilling, and a twenty-five-cent piece as sixpence.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The metric system is in general use but there are a number of English, French, and local measures also used, and as some of them will appear in this report, it may be of use, as well as of interest, to mention them here.

Of French measures of length the *ligne française* is equal to 2·2558 millimetres or 0·0888 of an English inch. The French inch contains twelve *lignes* and the French foot twelve French inches. The French foot is equal to 1·0657653 English feet, and is used by masons, carpenters, surveyors, and others.

The *lieue* is nearly equivalent to two and a-half English miles.

The *gaulette* is a measure of length equal to ten French feet. It is used on the estates as a measure of the work performed in the fields : a labourer is given a number of *gaulettes* as his task.

Forty thousand square French feet make one *arpent* which is equal to 1·0430263 acres ; almost all land in Mauritius is measured by the *arpent*. The number of *gaulettes* in each *arpent* varies according to the distance between the lines of cane holes.

Other local measures of length and area are the *toise*, equal to two yards four inches or six French feet and the *toise carrée* (square *toise*), which is equal to thirty-six square French feet. This measure is used in masonry and similar jobs.

The *aune* is a measure of length used in most shops and is equal to about one yard and eleven inches.

English measures of length are generally used by Government, and road distances are measured in English miles. Places often derive their names from their distance from Port Louis or other important centres ; thus there are places called *dix-huitième mille*, *seizième mille* and so on. The kilometre is rarely used.

Of the local measures of capacity there is the *barrique* (equal to fifty gallons), which is used in sugar mills for measuring the amount of juice drawn from the cane.

The *tierçon* is a measure of capacity for molasses which varies from one hundred and ninety to one hundred and ninety-two litres.

The *velte* is a measure for oil, especially coconut oil, and is equal to 7·4505 litres.

The *bouteille* of eight hundred cubic centimetres is used in selling milk, vinegar, rum, and other like liquids. The half bouteille is called *chopine*.

The weekly ration of rice of the labourer given on estates is called *gamelle* ; it is equivalent to 5·250 kilogrammes.

The *livre* is equal to five hundred grammes or 1·10 English pounds.

The *corde* is employed for measuring stacks of firewood. The wood is stacked in lengths of two and a-half feet and laid crosswise until the stack measures four French feet high and eight French feet long and contains eighty cubic French feet or 96·82 English cubic feet.

Besides local and French measures of capacity, English measures are also in use and, when speaking of agricultural and other products, it may be well to say that four bales of aloe fibre go to the metric ton, that a bag of sugar, unless otherwise specified, weighs eighty kilos, and that a " pocket " of sugar is generally thirty-nine and a-half kilos.

CLIMATE.

A note on the climate of Mauritius will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Reports, No. 1503.

I.—GENERAL.

The outlook of the sugar industry became gloomier and gloomier as the year wore to its close. By way of temporary relief a loan of £1 for each ton of sugar produced was granted to the planters in August, and this had a good moral effect. The Mauritian planter has had in the past to face bad times, perhaps not so bad as those through which he is at present passing, but bad enough, and he has always shown courage in adversity. This, with the aid of confirmed optimism, has hitherto carried him over his troubles, and though in the present crisis there has been as yet little sign of a brighter day, the year closed with the feeling that with the promise of a good crop the industry might tide over its difficulties. Since the end of the year the elements have allied themselves against the Colony and we have had the cyclone—but this belongs to the tale of the year 1931.

Government finances, too, have been and are in a bad way. With an excess of expenditure over revenue the surplus balances have dwindled slowly away despite measures of economy and it has at times been difficult to make both ends meet.

The last session of the Council of Government was opened by Sir Allan Grannum, administering the Government after the departure of Sir H. Read, on the 27th May. In the course of his speech on this occasion he said :—

> " In October last, Sir Francis Watts arrived in the Colony to enquire into the conditions of the sugar industry. It will be seen from his report that with the authority which attaches to his name Sir Francis Watts makes the definite statement that the present cost of the production of sugar exceeds the market price.
>
> " The sugar industry is the mainstay of the Colony and upon its fortunes largely depend the prosperity and well-being of the people of Mauritius. Although further and renewed endeavours have been made to decrease the cost of production, yet the future prospects of our staple industry remain a matter of grave anxiety.
>
> " I have lived in this Colony now for twenty-one years and can bear witness to the courage and ability of the Mauritian planter. I am convinced that notwithstanding the present grim outlook he will continue to give proof of his energy and resourcefulness endeavouring cheerfully to look forward to the time when it may be possible to find a solution of his present difficulties.''

Sir Allan also referred to the health conditions of the Colony in the following words :—

> " The abnormal climatic conditions experienced in the second half of December and early in this year have, unfortunately, led to a general recrudescence of the (malaria) disease in the coastal areas of the Colony. Measures have been taken to increase the quantity of quinine distributed in the affected region and to facilitate its distribution. In this respect the co-operation of the Elected Members of the Council of Government and of the Municipality of Port Louis has been most valuable.
>
> " The disastrous flood which took place in Port Louis on the 29th December last deprived the town of its normal supply of water by completely wrecking the intake works at the Grand River North-West. Steps were immediately taken to establish a temporary supply, but during the interval needed for the performance of the necessary works, conditions were such as to lead to an outbreak of gastro-intestinal disease (in the affected population). Fortunately the epidemic was milder than was expected and though its duration was somewhat prolonged, the total number of cases and deaths was not high."

Reference will be made in fuller detail to the health of the population later on in this report, but it may be said that the state of affairs that confronted the local Government during the year was a serious one. Lack of money and the consequent wherewithal to buy the necessities of life told hard on the poorer folk of the labouring classes and the artisans have been even worse off.

A great deal of the spread of disease was accentuated by the reduced buying-power of the poorer classes, and despite the charitable measures of relief taken by Government and private bodies and persons there has been a heavy death-roll. Two factors have, however, somewhat improved matters.

The first, an event of economic importance, was the removal of the embargo on the export of silver on the 1st of August which was accompanied by an arrangement by which Government sells drafts on India. Before that date the export of silver coin had been forbidden, in order to prevent the reduction of the reserves held by the Commissioners of Currency against their note issue below the legal minimum. Though this result was achieved, the measure had resulted in a depreciation of the currency, consequent on the compulsory domicile of the rupee in the Colony.

The results of its release have been good, for the price of sterling and the cost of remittances to India have come down, and with freer money the prices of many necessities of life have fallen.

In addition, the price of rice has fallen in India so that although there has been less money food has been considerably cheaper.

The other factor which has improved the condition of the working classes really belongs to the year 1931, but lest it be thought that the poorer folk are in as bad a plight as they were in December last it may be well to say here that the cyclone, an ill enough wind in most ways, has blown at any rate plenty of work to the artisan class and a good deal to the labourers.

H.M.S. *Effingham*, flying the flag of Rear-Admiral E. J. A. Fullerton, C.B., D.S.O., paid its annual welcome visit from 2nd to 14th July, and entertained and was entertained in customary hospitable fashion.

News was received in March that Mr. W. E. F. Jackson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast, had been appointed to succeed Sir Herbert Read as Governor, and His Excellency accompanied by Mrs. Jackson arrived in the Colony on the 30th of August.

The Council of Government came to an end of its five-year spell of life on the 22nd December, when it was dissolved.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ending on the 30th June, 1930, was Rs. 14,483,467·89 which was Rs. 480,845·11 less than that estimated and Rs. 1,161,219·49 more than the revenue of the year before.

The expenditure was Rs. 15,575,001·17 which was Rs. 883,335·17 above that estimated and Rs. 1,355,180·86 below the expenditure of the year before. Of this expenditure Rs. 5,056,573·79 were spent on Personal Emoluments and Rs. 10,518,427·38 on Other Charges. Like figures for the year 1928 to 1929 were Personal Emoluments Rs. 5,117,611·80 and Other Charges Rs. 11,812,570·23. It will be seen that the expenditure of the year was Rs. 1,091,533·28 more than the revenue, and the resources of the Colony have therefore had to bear a loss of this amount.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years have been as follows :—

Year.		*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.
1925–26	...	15,894,763	16,117,988
1926–27	...	14,682,806	16,461,061
1927–28	...	15,308,918	16,725,513
1928–29	...	13,322,248	16,930,182
1929–30	...	14,483,467	15,575,001

The Colonial Government pays a military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its total revenue as a contribution to the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. The amount of the contribution for the year ended 30th of June, 1930, was Rs. 729,928·78.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets and liabilities at the end of the year were Rs. 31,367,278·43 and Rs. 24,729,147·83 respectively, which shows a surplus of Rs. 6,638,130·60 on the 30th June, 1930.

Public Debt.

On the 30th June, 1929, the public debt of the Colony was £1,907,390 16*s.* 0*d.* This figure was later revised at £2,484,890 16*s.* 0*d.*, and by the 30th of June, 1930, had reached £2,796,994 7*s.* 7*d.* This latter increase was brought about by the raising of two loans : in the first place the 5 per cent. Sugar Industry Loan of 1929 for sums of £204,603 11*s.* 7*d.* and £255,000 which were borrowed under the authority of the Ordinances Nos. 13 and 14 of 1929, and in the second place by the raising of a 5 per cent. Loan for irrigation purposes of £100,000 under Ordinance No. 35 of 1928. To account for the exact increase there must be taken from the sum of these loans £247,500 worth of 5 per cent. Treasury Bills issued under Ordinance No. 6 of 1929, which were repaid.

There is to be set off against the total debt an accumulated Sinking Fund which was £1,032,543 13*s.* 2*d.* on the 30th June, 1929, and had been brought to £1,144,934 3*s.* 8*d.* at the 30th June, 1930.

Two Government Notifications affecting the revenue of the Colony were passed during the financial year 1929–30, to wit, No. 205 of the 5th October, 1929, which provides for a half-yearly licence of Rs. 25 for dealers in tobacco leaf whether cured or not, and No. 234 of the 30th November of the same year which provides for a half-yearly licence of Rs. 100 for manufacturers of matches.

Currency and Banking.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 14,747,250 or rather less than the average of Rs. 14,770,750 for the previous year. Against these notes the Commissioners of Currency held silver coins to the average value of Rs. 4,862,000 as compared with Rs. 4,839,000 in 1928–29. Their investments on the 1st July, 1927, were Rs. 9,879,250 (which does not include Depreciation Fund) and the figure remained unchanged during the year under review. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 1,593,133 to Rs. 1,790,189. From their investments the Currency Commissioners gained interest which, after allowing for the increase to the Depreciation Fund, enabled Rs. 422,563·25 to be credited to the general revenue of the Colony.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Commissioners of Currency shows a balance in their favour of Rs. 1,790,189, but if the investments are valued at the market rate of the 30th June, 1930, this surplus will be decreased to Rs. 1,595,496·38.

The Head Office of the Government Savings Bank is in Port Louis, and there are nine banks in the Districts of the Colony and one in the dependency of Rodrigues.

On the 30th June, 1930, 37,168 persons had money deposited in the Bank which amounted to Rs. 5,393,790·70 compared with 36,810 holding Rs. 5,253,897·92 in the year before.

The increase in the amount of money in the Savings Bank is due largely to a number of new large deposits. Other contributory causes were firstly the low prices obtained for sugar which discouraged depositors from expending funds on their plantations, and, secondly, that no withdrawals were made from the Bank for investment in local industries, which showed a marked slackness.

Much use of the Savings Banks is made by the Indians and of the number of depositors given above there were 16,601 of this race who had Rs. 2,313,378·71 to their credit, compared with 16,154 holding Rs. 2,194,561·91 in the year before.

Interest is paid on the accounts in the Savings Banks at the rate of 3 per cent. a year.

The Banks with establishments in the Colony are The Mauritius Commercial Bank, The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas).

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture and Industries.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN 1930.

The kind of weather that prevailed during the growing and harvesting seasons is shown in the table below. It will be seen that in almost every month the temperature was below normal and that for the first eight months of the year the rainfall was less than the average. Speaking generally, therefore, the weather was unfavourable and the amount of sugar produced considerably under the average. The harm caused to the 1930 crop by the erosion and leaching of the soil after the extraordinary rainfall of December, 1929, was considerable. Such losses are very much more serious than is generally realized.

STATION—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REDUIT.

Month and Year.	*Air Temperature. °C.*	*Departure from average. °C.*	*Rainfall. mm.*	*Departure from average. Per cent.*
1929.				
November	21·8	+ 0·2	12·2	– 63
December	22·9	– 0·4	760·–*	+455
1930.				
January	23·2	– 0·8	242·3	– 5
February	23·6	– 0·8	178·4	– 35
March	22·8	– 0·8	98·2	– 68
April	21·8	– 0·7	53·4	– 51
May	20·2	– 0·3	52·8	– 47
June	17·9	– 0·4	51·4	– 41
July	17·9	0·0	43·9	– 38
August	17·1	– 0·7	43·8	– 18
September	19·1	+ 0·5	52·1	+ 12
October	19·7	0·0	60·7	+ 21
November	21·5	– 0·1	66·5	+ 26
December	23·3	0·0	162·8	+ 19

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

220·96 thousand tons of sugar were produced as compared with an average crop of 228·65 thousand for the past five years. Field returns were especially low in the north of the island, where the drought was most severe: the crop in that part was nearly 25 per cent. less than the previous year. This reduction in the north was most marked on the lands of small Indian planters where no irrigation water was to be had. In many of these cases an acre yielded no more than five or six tons.

The extraction of sugar per cent. of cane in 1930 was 10·92 per cent. which is the highest on record.

The following figures compiled from factory returns give the production for each district of the island during the last six years :—

District.	1930.	1929.	1928.	1927.	1926.	1925.
Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart.	43·00	54·68	59·55	52·72	44·15	51·86
Flacq...	37·81	38·91	41·17	33·21	26·02	43·06
Moka	32·10	35·97	34·76	30·88	31·27	34·68
Plaines Wilhems ...	14·62	15·66	16·40	15·06	17·14	18·18
Black River ...	9·81	9·22	9·72	9·03	7·18	8·66
Savanne	37·09	36·41	41·41	35·88	35·13	39·72
Grand Port ...	46·53	47·18	50·42	41·22	31·70	45·06
Total	220·96	238·03	253·43	218·00	192·59	241·22

Grades of sugar produced.—On account of the changed nature of the market, local manufacturers are producing an increasingly large proportion of so-called raw sugars of 98½° polarization. The following table illustrates the great change which has taken place in the industry during the past five years owing to the alteration in the tariffs of the United Kingdom which penalize sugars of over 99° polarization.

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* Gauge overflowed.

Year.	Per cent. Vesou.	Per cent. Raws.
1921	95·98	—
1922	97·20	—
1923	97·61	—
1924	98·34	—
1925	98·21	—
1926	98·10	—
1927	98·63	—
1928	71·80	27·30
1929	23·90	75·20
1930	16·80	82·50

Area under cultivation.—As a result of the first agricultural census taken in Mauritius during 1930 in connexion with the World's Agricultural Census it was found that the total area in the island devoted to the cultivation of the sugar-cane was 137,182 acres. Of this area, estates with factories cultivated 48,525 acres; estates without factories 38,833, and small planters on or off estates 49,824 acres. Of this latter 42,576 acres were planted by Indians. Indian cultivation on estates adds another 10,164 acres, which brings the total Indian cultivation up to 52,740 acres or 38·5 per cent. of the total cane area of the Colony. The Indian cane lands produced about 28 per cent. of the total crop or 566,000 tons of cane.

These figures show an apparent decrease of about 19,000 acres in the total area under cane and of 16,000 acres in the area cultivated by Indians. It should be said, however, that this decrease is not entirely real, as in the past the figure for area under cane apart from estates was roughly reckoned from the amount of cane received by factories from small planters.

Disposal of the sugar crop.—As in former years, the greater part of the sugar went to the United Kingdom. The Mauritius Sugar Syndicate worked on the same lines as heretofore, controlling about 80 per cent. of the sugar production of the Colony.

The average net price of sugar in 1929 was Rs. 7·50 for 50 kilos which was low, but in the year 1930 it fell to Rs. 6·08 which is the lowest known, at any rate since 1881.

Conditions affecting the sugar industry in 1930.—Owing to the state of the sugar market the whole industry of the Colony has become very shaky. The late Sir Francis Watts, whose mission has been referred to above, recommended in his report* that "the Imperial Government should be invited to make grants-in-aid to the Colony calculated to make good the losses which have been incurred after all reasonable efforts have been made by those engaged in the industry." It was further suggested by Sir Francis Watts that the grant to be made in any one year should be equal to the loss calculated to have been borne in the previous year and that such assistance should be continued for a period of not less than five years. It was reckoned at the time when the report was written (December, 1929) that when sugar was selling at below Rs. 8·98 per cwt. f.o.b. Mauritius, that the industry was being conducted at a loss.

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* Report on the Mauritius Sugar Industry: Cmd. 3518. Pub. 1930.

The recommendations made in this report were not carried out, but a certain measure of relief was given locally by a reduction in the export duties levied on sugar from 75 cents to 9 cents per 100 kilos and by a loan-in-aid from the Mauritius Improvement and Development Fund of £1 per ton of sugar *produced* in the year, which is to be repaid in a period of thirty years. The special export duty which is to be levied for the recovery of this 1930 loan has not yet been imposed.

These measures of relief were carried out by three Ordinances. The first of these, No. 22 of 1930, intituled The Sugar Special Export Duty (Amendment) Ordinance, 1930, relieved the sugar of the 1930–31 crop from the export duty levied under Ordinance No. 15 of 1929. Provision is also made for the refund of any such export duty collected on the sugars of 1930–31 crop before the date on which the Ordinance came into effect.

The second, No. 23, intituled The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1930, practically removes all export duty on sugar. There is, however, an export duty of 2 cents per 100 kilos which is kept; the proceeds are intended to pay for the destruction of *Phytalus Smithi*, which does much harm to the sugar-cane.

Lastly, Ordinance No. 24 of 1929, intituled The Sugar Industry Loan Ordinance, 1930, provides for the distribution of the loan to sugar manufacturers from the Improvement and Development Fund.

Mechanical cultivation.—Tractors and ploughs to the value of Rs. 27,231 (c.i.f.) were brought into the colony. The number of farm tractors used on estates in 1930 was 101. Material to the value of Rs. 232,139 was brought for use on the light tramways on which canes and sugar are carried on estates.

Insect pests of sugar-cane.—In spite of all the measures, mechanical and biological, which are taken against the chief pest of the island, *Phytalus Smithi*, this redoubtable insect still multiplies exceedingly and its increase is greater than that of the creatures that prey upon it. It continues too to cause great concern as it spreads to parts hitherto untouched by its ravages. There were slain of these insects in the year 265 millions, 13 millions more than in the previous year, while the war against them cost the Government more than Rs. 112,400.

Much harm has been done during the year by the capture and sale by untrained persons of its natural enemy, *Tiphia parallela*. It is reckoned that at least a million of these insects were captured and sold in this way during the year, and the deaths due to unskilled methods of capture were excessive. A law is being made to check this evil.

At the suggestion of the late Sir Francis Watts, a memorandum describing the problem of the *Phytalus* in Mauritius was written by the Department of Agriculture and sent to Dr. Myers of the Imperial Institute of Entomology for his views.

Cane Diseases.—Leaf Scald and Gumming Disease were still the gravest diseases of the cane in the island. The position was made worse by the fact that much of the land is planted with the Big Tanna variety of cane which is proving very sensitive to Leaf Scald. The only real way of dealing with this matter is to produce seedlings which will resist disease and to achieve this is the chief concern of the Sugar-cane Research Station at the present time. Surveys are made of the canes as they arrive at the factories so that the percentage of diseased canes can be found out. It appeared that the incidence of the two diseases taken together was 16·8 per cent. in 1930.

As the result of Mr. Ashby's report on the cane disease in Mauritius, Mr. Shepherd, the Botanist and Mycologist, left for Australia in October in order to study the work done to control disease in New South Wales by Mr. D. S. North of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and by the staff of the Bureau of the Sugar Experiment Stations, Queensland. Mr. Shepherd will visit Java on his way back and will be able to study the methods of controlling disease there.

Irrigation.—The Irrigation Officer carried out a number of experiments to show the cheaper way of irrigating canes in short rows used in Hawaii.

As has happened before, La Ferme Reservoir dried and ceased to give water during the dry season at the close of the year which caused a great set-back to irrigated canes in the Black River area.

LESSER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

Mauritius Hemp Industry.—There were 1,464 tons of a value of Rs. 347,000 of this fibre (*Fourcroya* sp.) exported during the year, as compared with 2,500 tons worth Rs. 900,000 in 1929. The drop has been brought about chiefly by the fall in prices from Rs. 386 per ton f.o.b. in January to Rs. 276 in December. As a result many factories have been closed for a time and some hundreds of people are out of work.

Mr. F. Lincoln, of the Mauritius Hemp Producers' Syndicate, went to Europe to study the uses of Mauritius hemp, as Sir F. Watts had stated that the matter was not well understood in the island.

The fibre is for the most part used in Belgium to make ropes, binder-twine, etc. It is not sold in such a finished condition as Java Cantala, so that prices suffer. With the aim of improving matters an officer of the Agricultural Department, now in Java, is studying the Java industry.

Plans have been made to set up a factory to make bags from the low-grade Fourcroya fibre. Sugar-bags to the value of Rs. 1,900,000 were imported from India in 1929 and we need about 3,000,000 a year.

Tobacco industry.—Greater interest was shown in this crop during the year, there being 3,057 acres registered as against 2,680 and 1,600 in 1929 and 1928 respectively. The crop was reckoned at 525,000 kilos, of which 426,951 kilos were bought by local manufacturers, as against 450,000 kilos and 408,394 kilos in 1929 and 1928 respectively. The amount of local leaf used was 261,852 kilos as against 270,792 in 1929, and the total amount of manufactured tobacco produced was 235,885 kilos as against 251,050 kilos in 1929. Imports of tobacco showed further decreases in all types with the exception of cigars and cigarettes which showed an increase of 4,735 kilos. Revenue from tobacco showed an increase of Rs.159,945 the highest figure recorded since 1927. Imports of leaf from Rodrigues were lower than in the year before by 5,902 kilos.

A good deal of experimental work was done during the year.

The Tobacco Production and Marketing Ordinance No. 38 of 1930 puts the control of the production and sale of leaf tobacco in the Colony in the hands of a Government Tobacco Board. It provides for the registration by the Board of all land on which tobacco is planted, for the keeping of books by growers of and dealers in tobacco, and for the setting up and management of a Government Tobacco Warehouse to deal with all leaf-tobacco grown in the Colony, and to dispose of such leaf-tobacco in such manner as the Board may find of greatest profit.

Fruit Canning and Preserving.—The factory of the new Mauritius Pineapple and Canning Company had not been finished by the end of the year. It is expected that the factory will be able to turn out 10,000 cans of pines each day of eight hours' work.

There were 260 acres planted with pineapples at the end of the year.

Oil Crops.—There were 700 acres of coconuts and 100 acres of ground-nuts planted in the island. The Innova Refinery handled 400 tons of copra and 58 tons of ground-nuts and made 30 tons of soap.

There was little profit from the coconut oil and copra in the Oil Island Dependencies as the prices were so low. Much of the stock is still unsold.

The export of copra amounted to 1,734 tons and that of coconut oil to 14,450 litres.

Food Crops.—Owing to the low price of sugar there has been little money among the people and an effort has been made to encourage small Indian planters to grow food and especially rice. This movement has been helped by the building by a private person of a rice-mill in Port Louis which can deal with two tons of paddy a day. In 1929, the area under hill rice was approximately 30 acres. In December, 1930, it was reckoned that nearly 300 acres of hill rice had been planted from seed supplied by the Department of Agriculture. While it is felt that Mauritius will never be able to supply a tithe of the 50,000 tons of rice needed each year in the island, the state of affairs makes it needful that the small planters should try to feed themselves until such time as the sugar industry improves.

Not only are the people of the island unused to growing their own food but also the greater part of them, the Indians, do not care for any other staple food than rice. Such crops as maize, yams, manioc, and sweet potatoes, which grow here very much better than rice, are not greatly liked and are eaten but little.

Seed of divers kinds of dhall is being imported by the Agricultural Department for trial as this crop is not grown. The average import of dhall for the past five years amounted to 3,683 tons of an average value of Rs. 748,400.

The acreage of food crops in 1930 was reckoned as follows: vegetables 3,300, manioc 1,600, maize 1,300, rice 300, potatoes 220, sweet potatoes 160 and ground-nuts 100. These figures are very low when it is remembered that the people number about 400,000 and that most of them are agriculturists.

Alcohol.—According to excise figures, the number of litres of alcohol distilled in 1929–30 (July to June) was 908,241 as compared with an average of 707,519 litres for the past five years.

Tea.—The Colonial Development Fund bore the cost of a visit to Mauritius by Commander Goolden, of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company Limited, to advise on the tea industry and report on the development of tea cultivation in the island.

His report has not yet been published.

There are three tea gardens in the Colony; their total production in 1930 was 19,000 kilos. Imports of tea from abroad amounted to 177,274 kilos valued at Rs. 319,510 c.i.f.

LIVE STOCK.

Cattle.—The number of bullocks imported from Madagascar for food was 4,843, worth Rs. 301,500. The average figure for the previous five years was 7,238, the fall in 1930 being due to the little money held by the people. These animals are sold to butchers at prices averaging from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 each. Locally-bred bullocks which are of larger size are worth more. 246 bullocks for slaughter were also imported from Rodrigues.

The total number of oxen in the island in 1930 was 31,869 as compared with 44,339 in the year 1929. This decrease is mostly due to the smaller number of draft oxen used on estates. The general condition of animals during the year was good. In order to improve the cattle industry, the Government undertook to pay half the cost of pure-bred animals imported for breeding purposes provided that previous approval of importation was obtained. A sum of Rs. 1,035 was paid for this purpose during the year.

Equines.—The total number of horses, mules, and asses in the island is only 1,460 as compared with 2,400 in 1921.

Sheep, Pigs, and Goats.—The numbers of these animals in the Colony in 1930 were 1,230, 1,926, and 4,791 respectively compared with 1,501, 3,586, and 6,226 in 1921. A number of them were imported from Rodrigues.

Government Dairy.—During the year, the Government Dairy at Curepipe sold 89,000 litres of milk at the price of twenty-five cents for a litre.

RESEARCH.

Sugar-cane Research Station.—This Station, opened on the 15th of January, 1930, has been formed to deal with the more pressing problems connected with the genetics, physiology, and bio-chemistry of the sugar-cane in Mauritius. The most urgent problem in hand is the search for new varieties of cane to replace the Big Tanna, which is now failing after the period of thirty years in which it has held the first place in the island.

Half of the expenditure of this Station up to £2,000 each year for a period of five years is being met by a grant from the Empire Marketing Board.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

The number of Societies in 1930 was twenty-nine with a total membership of 2,420, the total share capital originally contributed being 83,875 rupees.

Forestry.

It has been said above that the native forests, which covered the island before the coming of the first settlers, were stripped of their ebony and other valuable timbers, but later on they were almost completely cleared to make room for the planting of crops. Lands granted by the Crown for this purpose, which were not found suitable for the planting of sugar, were abandoned and bought by Government to protect water supplies by the replanting of forest.

There are now 56,241 arpents of State forests, consisting in scrub areas, plantations, and small blocks of the old forest, bordered by native trees which have again grown up.

The " Pas Géométriques " consists of a narrow strip of land around the coast, which is the property of the Crown and may not be estranged. Nearly the whole area of about 13,500 arpents is leased to neighbouring estate owners and others, who are bound to plant and maintain filaos (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) or coconuts. These groves beautify the coastline, yield much good fuel and give shelter to the herds.

Of the other Crown Land, 3,180 arpents are leased to the public, and 4,675 arpents are in use by Government Departments. Suitable areas are still bought after careful consideration. During 1930, 1,274 arpents were bought at a cost of Rs. 16,007. At the end of the year the land under the care of the Forest Department was 92,650 arpents, of which 76,083 arpents were Crown Land, 1,074 arpents District Board Land, and the rest including 8,748 arpents of Private Land Mountain Reserves, about 6,000 arpents River Reserves, and 145 arpents Vacant Lands.

The general policy of the Department is to improve the immature plantations and to fell and regenerate the mature plantations on a plan laid down to clear and plant the scrub areas according to plan and to clean and care for the small areas of forests which, though much reduced, still contain wood of great price.

The Department aims to set up fewer but larger nurseries, and those thought most suitable are being enlarged and made better.

During 1930, 586,480 plants were issued or sold, and the stock at the end of the year in twelve nurseries was 1,246,980, of which more than 50 per cent. were cryptomeria and other shade-bearing species.

During the year it was decided to concentrate on smaller areas, and to plant closely, rather than to set up patchy and open plantations on a larger scale. The harm done to nursery stocks by the great flood of December, 1929, seriously reduced the planting material. Rs. 25,308 were spent on nursery and plantation work. 127·44 arpents of new plantations were set up with 205,658 plants, mainly pines and cryptomeria. 263·84 arpents were tended, and increased by 161,488 plants. (In 1929, 261 arpents were newly planted, and 449 arpents tended, at a total cost of Rs. 30,505.)

Work done towards making use of forest produce was on a small scale and largely of an experimental and educational nature. A small stock was stored for seasoning, and the rest was mainly used to repair departmental buildings. The question of treating pine and eucalyptus so that they may resist the attacks of insects, was studied. 10,049 cubic feet of round timber was sold to the Mauritius match factory. Fuel was got from the felling area, and from land cleared for planting. The amounts supplied to the public and to Government Departments during 1930 were 21,260 cubic feet solid of timber as compared with 9,000 cubic feet in 1929, and 193,333 cubic feet solid of fuel as compared with 113,833 cubic feet in 1929.

The Forest Department earned during the year :—from the sale of forest produce, Rs. 68,728 ; from the lease of Crown lands, Rs. 60,360 ; from shooting and fishing leases, Rs. 17,771 ; from fines and damages in forest cases in Court Rs. 3,401 ; and from game licences, Rs. 7,950 ; a total of Rs. 158,210.

Sales of forest produce diminished on account of the extensive cutting of poles and fuel on private lands. The price of fuel was very low and the Forest Department sold good fuel for Rs. 5 a cord stacked beside the main roads.

Most of the timber used in Mauritius is imported from Singapore, India, Australia, and Madagascar, and consists mainly of Australian mahogany, teak, " Singapore " (mainly toon of medium quality), and locally known Madagascar timbers. Imports were classified as follows :—

	1930. *Rs.*	*1929.* *Rs.*
Boards and Scantlings, 104,959 c. ft. ...	164,339	164,944
Shingles, 861,000 pieces	53,254	61,800
Railway Sleepers, 14,000 pieces	134,400	84,446
Other timber, 80,803 c. ft.	207,861	186,189
Total 245,550 c. ft. approx.	559,854	497,379

The State forests could eventually supply most, if not all, of the needs of Mauritius.

No timber was exported in 1930.

The trees grown in Mauritius which are not native to the isle are of a number of kinds and of great interest. While the valuable native timbers grow too slowly to be of economic value, it appears likely that Mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*), Cigarbox cedar (*Cedrela odorata*), Toon (*Cedrela toona*), *Cassia florida*, *Tecoma sp.*, *Cryptomeria japonica*, *Juniperus bedfordiana*, and *Pinus taeda* can all be grown on a large scale on a rotation of 50 years. *Eugenia minii* yields a useful timber : *Cassia florida* and *Tecoma* are woods much sought after for the making of furniture. *Pinus caribaea* does very well in the nursery and may replace *Pinus taeda* as a plantation tree. So many trees thrive in Mauritius that the prospects of making forestry pay are good.

Fisheries.

Mauritius is happy in possessing in its coast line a variety of different " bottoms " which provide all that is requisite and necessary to form an ideal feeding ground for numerous species of fish with different habits. Of fish that are good for eating, the " grey mullet " is especially abundant and the fish locally known under the names of " Baroi," " Dame Beri," " Capitaine," with others belonging to the same genus (*lethrini*) and " Cordonnier " (*tenthis*), are also plentiful. There is therefore a constant supply of fresh fish, and the whole catch is daily eaten by the people so that no salting or drying is resorted to.

From St. Brandon Islands there comes a fair quantity of frozen fish which also finds a ready sale ; for salt fish the Colony relies on her dependencies and on South Africa.

There are possibilities in the way of an industry for the exploitation of shark products and the Government has under consideration the grant of a concession to this end. There is certainly plenty of raw material, as sharks are numerous all round the coast.

There are about a dozen Chinamen who collect the " bêche-de-mer " or " trepang " locally known as " bambara."

Several well-kept " barachois " along the coast yield a good return to their owners but others through neglect are being gradually silted up with mud. A " barachois " is a creek, estuary, or mouth of a river in which the sea flows and reflows, enclosed towards the sea by a weir or dam, so as to form a fish-pond.

The Fishery Branch of the Receiver-General's Department came into being on the 1st December, 1929, with a staff of one inspector and fourteen guards.

During August and September of 1930 experiments in trawling were carried out by the Raphaël Fishing Company with their new trawler *Fume*, but unhappily the trawls got fouled on the rough coral bottoms round the coast and the experiments had to be discontinued.

In November, the Fishery Amendment Ordinance No. 33 of 1930 was passed. It gives effect to certain of the recommendations contained in Chapter V of Mr. Hornell's report on the fishery resources of the Colony. By its provisions the use of the " small net " and of the " shrimp net " (that is to say, nets having meshes of less than three to five centimetres from knot to knot) and seining within the lagoons between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. are forbidden. It also amends the main Fisheries Ordinance No. 9 of 1918 in order to protect the owners and lessees of barachois, and powers are given to Fishery, Police, or Inland Revenue Inspectors to issue search warrants in any case where there is reason to suspect that unlicensed nets or other unlawful fishing implements or gear are concealed in any house or place.

During the year two reserves were declared at the Bay of Grand Black River and the Bay of Souillac. An oyster and mussel bed was set up at Grand Sable by a private individual.

On the coast of Mauritius the catches by large net were fairly normal and the price of fish at the Central Market varied from 35 to 20 cents for choice fish. Basket, net, and line fishermen have, however, commonly complained that they cannot make a good living owing to the ravages of sharks.

Water Power.

The many rivers and streams of Mauritius flow generally through deep ravines and their courses are often broken by waterfalls and rapids. It is reckoned that there is 10,000 horse-power available from these falls, of which 1,200 is used at present, chiefly to provide electric light.

The following is a list and description of some of the waterfalls of the Colony measured during the dry season of 1912 :—

Name of river.	*Name or description of waterfall.*	*Height of waterfall in feet.*	*Volume in cubic feet per minute.*
G. River S.E. ...	Deschiens	19	1,530
ditto	Diamamoo	63	2,315
G. River N.W. ...	Le Reduit	135	450
Savanne River ...	Cascade Cécile	105	580
ditto ...	Below Terracine Dam ...	77	250
Tamarind River ...	Sept Cascades	960	420
R. des Galets	Near Plaine Champagne ...	130	60
ditto	Luchon	400	134
R. du Cap	Chamarel	320	330
R. Moka	Cascade Pigeons	160	80

During the year 1930 the first step was taken to set up an extra high tension transmission line from the General Electric Supply Company's water power station at Tamarin Falls to the Plaine Lauzun Railway Workshops. When it is finished, power will be supplied from it to the railway workshops, the granary, the Port Louis pumping station, and the pumping station proposed to be built at Fanfaron, the Government printing office and all other Government establishments. A sub-station is being built at Plaine Lauzun to transform the 22,000 volts to 6,600 volts for re-transmission to Port Louis, and a transformation to 400/230 volts will also be made to supply the railway shops.

The change to electric power drive on a fairly large scale in a Colony in which, if one excepts a few small motors, electricity has only been used for lighting purposes, has made it necessary to consider the training of artisans in the work of the upkeep of such plants. To this end a class was started in January, 1930, to train apprentices and others engaged in other branches of the Railway department who show a readiness for this kind of work. The results have far exceeded even what was hoped and there are now a number of trained men able to carry out not only ordinary maintenance works but major repairs.

Manufactures.

Besides the chief manufactures described above, bricks, tiles, salt, soap, and matches are made by private enterprise. The latest addition to this list is that of matches ; the local match factory employs about 150 persons, and the manufacture was in its earlier stages supervised by an expert from Japan. The matches made are of a very fair quality, but there was no increase in the amount manufactured in 1930 over that of the year 1929.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The value of the foreign trade of the Colony in 1930 was Rs. 66,407,144, of which the imports were worth Rs. 39,806,180 and the exports Rs. 26,600,964. The figures for the year before were Rs. 98,878,100, Rs. 46,428,424, and Rs. 52,449,676 respectively.

The customs revenue from imports amounted to Rs. 4,136,008, more than Rs. 45,000 over that of 1929 and the revenue from the exports was Rs. 220,584 compared with Rs. 895,551 in 1929. The fall was due to the lower rate of duty on sugar and to the less amount of sugar exported in 1930.

Trade.

The values of the imports and exports of merchandise for 1913 and for the past five years are as follows :—

	Imports. Rs.	*Exports.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1913	36,607,671	32,291,706	68,899,377
1926	50,596,137	41,208,198	91,804,335
1927	55,185,633	56,476,587	111,662,220
1928	49,437,800	47,371,420	96,809,220
1929	46,428,424	52,449,676	98,878,100
1930	39,806,180	26,600,964	66,407,144

The value of re-exports was Rs. 941,670 in 1930 compared with Rs. 1,661,046 in 1929. Bullion and specie amounting to Rs. 1,165 were imported during the year, compared with Rs. 10,096 in the year before, and the exports of treasure amounted to Rs. 4,500 and Rs. 1,388 respectively in the two years.

Imports.

The import trade showed in 1930 a decrease of about 6 per cent. in the value of the imports from the United Kingdom, compared with that of 1929 ; trade with China, Union of South Africa, Canada, Italy, Germany, and Belgium showed an increase ; but the trade with most countries shows a drop, notably in the cases of India, United States of America, France, Australia, Chili, Madagascar, and Holland.

The principal articles of the imports which showed an increase in 1930 over the preceding year were iron manufactures, cement, rubber manufactures, provisions (preserved), vehicles, woollen manufactures, coal, machinery and millwork, soap, and silk.

The principal articles showing a decrease were spirits potable, gunny bags, apparel, petroleum lamp oil, petrol spirits, textile manufactures, spices, implements of all sorts, chemical manures, edible oils, coffee, confectionery, haberdashery and millinery, and hardware.

The following statement gives the nature and size of the trade in the principal articles imported in 1930 and the year before :—

	1930.	1929.
Rice	51,912 tons	55,068 tons
Other grain	16,863 ,,	19,735 ,,
Manures and fertilizers ...	16,653 ,,	18,397 ,,
Coal, coke, and patent fuel ...	54,668 ,,	50,251 ,,
Cement	10,132 ,,	6,840 ,,
Cotton manufacture	7,627,913 metres	10,919,746 metres
Woollen manufacture	99,604 ,,	97,613 ,,
Wines in casks	671,582 litres	1,092,109 litres
Wines in bottles	90,322 ,,	100,576 ,,
Spirits	30,994 ,,	48,695 ,,
Motor cars	No. 209 454,277 Rs.	No. 129 327,834 Rs.
Motor lorries and parts	No. 82 203,871 ,,	No. 104. 294,873 ,,
Boots and shoes	245,927 ,,	307,808 ,,
Haberdashery and millinery ...	375,512 ,,	542,313 ,,
Iron and steel manufactures ...	1,288,996 ,,	880,948 ,,
Silk goods	429,117 ,,	257,202 ,,
Drugs	350,918 ,,	407,700 ,,
Wearing apparel	207,189 ,,	180,054 ,,

Exports.

The following table shows the sugar exports for the past six years :—

	Kilos.	*Value.* Rs.
1925	192,303,540	41,250,907
1926	181,215,772	37,991,240
1927	227,989,329	53,789,928
1928	219,264,000	44,293,987
1929	277,836,000	49,407,725
1930	185,539,000	24,846,253

The principal domestic exports other than sugar were 2,469 tons of aloe fibre valued at Rs. 347,889 compared with 2,359 tons valued at Rs. 828,481 in 1929, Rs. 280,370 worth of copra against Rs. 280,843 in 1929, Rs. 9,131 worth of coconut oil compared with Rs. 6,800 in 1929, and Rs. 14,499 worth of rum compared with Rs. 34,247 in 1929.

Re-exports amounted to Rs. 941,670 and consisted chiefly of gunny bags, wheat flour, salted fish, and scrap metal.

Distribution of Trade.

The following tables show whence the imports came, whither the exports went, and the total trade with the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries in 1913 and for the past five years :—

Countries.	*Imports.*					
	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
United Kingdom	33·2	22·2	23·6	23·3	23·8	25·1
British Possessions ...	42·6	48·5	47·2	50·7	46·3	44·5
Foreign Countries ...	24·2	29·3	29·2	26·0	29·9	30·4
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
	Exports.					
United Kingdom	18·5	87·4	92·4	92·3	87·6	71·5
British Possessions ...	77·0	7·5	5·3	3·6	8·8	24·7
Foreign Countries ...	4·5	5·1	2·3	4·1	3·6	3·8
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
	Total Trade.					
United Kingdom	26·3	51·5	57·8	57·1	57·6	43·9
British Possessions ...	58·7	30·1	25·3	27·6	26·4	36·6
Foreign Countries ...	15·0	18·4	16·9	15·3	16·0	19·5
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

The following statement shows the number and tonnage of ships using the port, apart from the coasting trade, during the past three years :—

	Inwards.		*Outwards.*	
	No.	*Tonnage.*	*No.*	*Tonnage.*
1928	236	650,369	235	647,446
1929	194	542,314	198	552,596
1930	179	496,245	180	500,944

In the coastal trade with the Dependencies there were 19 ships inwards of 6,244 tons and 17 outwards of 5,779 tons.

The chief lines of steamships whose vessels called at Port Louis were The Union Castle Steamship Company, Limited, the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, The Messageries Maritimes, The Clan Line, The Ellerman Harrison Line, The Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire, and The Mogul Line.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways are 143·65 miles long. The lines can be seen in the map at the end of this report. They are the North Line of 31 miles, the Midland Line of 35·30 miles, the Moka-Flacq Line of 26·20 miles, the Black River Line of 12·75 miles, the Savanne Line of 10·90 miles, and the Montagne Longue Line of 3·50 miles. All these lines are of 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge and there is also the Bois Cheri Light Railway of 24·00 miles which is of 2 ft. 6 in. gauge.

The whole of the Black River Line and a part of the Moka-Flacq Line, 11 miles in length, were closed to passenger traffic in 1929.

Passengers in the areas served by these lines were carried by means of a Road Bus Service, kept up under contract by a local road transport company.

The revenue for 1929 and 1930 was as follows :—

	Revenue, 1929.	*Revenue*, 1930.	*Difference.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers	953,555	664,988	288,567
Parcels	106,283	85,640	20,643
Goods	1,336,557	1,200,621	135,936
Miscellaneous... ...	79,664	54,321	25,343
Net Revenue ...	37,918	29,611	8,307
Total	2,513,977	2,035,181	478,796
Goods Tonnage ...	415,096	377,750	37,346

The further waning of the revenue is caused by the forsaking of the rail for the road. Passenger fares were reduced in January, 1930, to try to stem the loss of passengers. Some success attended this measure at its start but it was not lasting, and the railway, up to now, has been unable to win back its lost supporters in numbers enough to make up for the lessened fares.

The further fall in goods revenue is mainly due to a fall of 18,000 tons in the carrying of sugar and sugar-canes, and to a fall of 20,000 tons in the carrying of general goods.

Working expenditure has shown a decrease over the working of the year before, and is mainly due to measures of careful saving practised to try to make up for the serious fall in revenue and the general financial state of the railway. Comparative figures are as follows :—

	1929.	1930.	*Difference.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Working Expenditure	2,615,655	2,313,070	– 302,585
Excess of Working Expenditure over Revenue			277,889

The Bois Cheri Light Railway works with the Savanne Line and is mainly used for carrying canes.

Revenue, expenditure, and tonnage figures are given hereunder :—

	1929. Rs.	1930. Rs.	*Difference.* Rs.
Expenditure	21,130	19,364	– 1,766
Revenue	17,484	14,474	– 3,010
Tonnage carried ...	17,193	17,564	+ 371

Although these figures show an increase of 371 tons, the revenue is less on account of a lowering in the tariff for the carrying of canes which was brought into force at the beginning of the 1930-31 crop.

The Railway Goods Road Transport Service has been mainly used for carrying Government merchandise from the customs wharves to the different departmental depots.

Comparative figures for the service are as follows :—

	1929. Rs.	1930. Rs.	*Difference.* Rs.
Expenditure	5,551	4,469	– 1,082
Revenue	5,306	6,093	+ 787

The passenger bus services were started in 1929, when passenger traffic on the Black River and Moka-Flacq lines was stopped as it was thought necessary to keep up a passenger service. The present contract with the bus company comes to an end in July, 1932.

The figures for this service are as follows :—

Section.	*Mileage.*	*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.	*Loss.* Rs.
Black River ...	52,771	12,388	42,217	29,829
Moka-Flacq ...	34,909	11,278	27,927	16,649
	87,680	23,666	70,144	46,478

Roads.

The Colony is well served with 479·9 miles of first-class roads called "Main Roads" and 215 miles of second-class ones, called "Branch Roads."

The Main Roads are water-bound macadam.

The surface of nearly 130 miles is coated with bitumen.

Posts and Telegraphs.

We receive some of our mails from Europe through Marseilles and the Suez Canal and some by the Cape of Good Hope. The former mails via Marseilles are brought by the ships of the Messageries Maritimes Company which come every fortnight. Twenty-seven of these ships brought mails from Europe in 1930, and the average time each took was 38·5 days. The latter are carried by the Royal Mail Steamers to Durban and are there put on board of any steamer sailing for the Mauritius. Forty-three such ships brought us mails, and the mails were an average of 39·3 days coming from Europe. Altogether the tale of the ships carrying mails to the Mauritius was two hundred and one and that of the ships carrying them away was one hundred and eighty-nine.

The total number of articles, other than parcels, which passed through the Post Office in 1930 was 3,516,251.

The number of parcels received from abroad was 25,463 of a value of Rs. 1,110,483. There came from the United Kingdom 4,335 parcels worth Rs. 193,665 and 2,097 for cash on delivery worth Rs. 87,599. From India there came 814 worth Rs. 25,430, from France 13,689 worth Rs. 599,296, and from other countries 4,528 of a value of Rs. 204,493.

The number of parcels sent away amounted to 4,152 or a value of Rs. 168,989.

Money Orders for £15,952 were issued on the United Kingdom and Europe, for Rs. 450,238 on India, and for Rs. 26,831 on Ceylon.

The length of telegraph lines open for traffic is 381 miles and the number of messages dealt with during the year was 102,588.

Telegraphic communication with the world outside is kept up mainly by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, but there is also the Rose Belle Wireless Station which keeps a twenty-four hour service and works mainly with ships at sea and with Reunion. During the four months that cable communication with Reunion and Madagascar was broken, all messages to and from Europe were forwarded by the Wireless Station.

The public telephone system belongs to the Oriental Telephone Company.

There were 702 subscribers at the end of the year which was seven more than the year before but 22 per cent. less than at the end of the year 1927.

The Government owns a Departmental telephone system, the total length of which is 150 miles. It is joined up with the Company's system.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice is administered in Mauritius by the Supreme Court which sits in the capital as a Court of Civil and Criminal Justice. It has the powers of the Court of King's Bench in England and of a Court of Equity.

In the nine districts, there are Magistrates' Courts which have a limited civil, criminal, and stipendiary jurisdiction.

In 1930, the Supreme Court dealt with 334 civil matters out of 483 which were brought before it, as against 414 out of 549 in the year before.

In 1930, nineteen persons were brought before this Court and tried on criminal charges and of them seventeen were convicted.

12,857 persons were tried in the Magistrates' Courts and by Benches of Magistrates, of whom 1,168 were acquitted or discharged by the District Magistrates, 11,549 were convicted, and 24 committed to the assizes. 44 were acquitted or discharged by the Stipendiary Magistrates and 72 were convicted.

The Magistrates have also held 170 Judicial Enquiries under the provisions of Ordinance 23 of 1888 as amended by Ordinance No. 25 of 1926.

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force has its headquarters at Line Barracks in the city of Port Louis.

The Force is chiefly employed on the normal duties of a civil police force, but some of its members are instructed in the use of arms and mobilized periodically for training.

The officers of the Force are provided by appointment or transfer from other Police Forces or by promotion of local men from the ranks. The rank and file are recruited locally, and include natives of Mauritius, Rodrigues, India, and Seychelles.

Distribution.—The Force is divided into staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Motor Traffic Branch, Training Depot, Harbour Police, District Police, Railway Police, Rodrigues Police, Mounted Police, and Band.

The District Police are distributed throughout the nine districts in fifty-two stations of three categories varying as regards numbers of personnel from one to thirty-five.

The Railway Police are under the control of the General Manager of Railways and its members are found from trained men of the general force.

The Rodrigues Police is staffed in like fashion and is controlled by the Magistrate of that dependency.

The Band is composed of local men and boys, with some musicians enlisted in India, who have been trained to a high standard of efficiency by a European bandmaster.

Crime.—The number of offences dealt with by the police in 1930 is slightly more than that of the previous year in minor offences and less than the average for the past ten years.

The percentage of undetected serious crimes is below the normal average and better than last year's figure.

The proportion of the crimes to the number of the people is lower than the figures for the past ten years.

Prisons.

Organization.—The Inspector-General of Police is also Superintendent of Prisons. He has a staff of European Chief Warders and Assistant Chief Warders, and the lower ranks of officers are enlisted locally.

Establishments.—There are two prisons in the Colony, the Port Louis Central Prison and the Beau Bassin Convict Prison. The Barkly Industrial School, a house of correction for young offenders, is also in his charge.

Port Louis Prison contains the offices of the Department, quarters for two chief warders, the female prison with accommodation for forty prisoners and two wardresses, and the male prison with separate cells for 154 prisoners.

Beau Bassin Prison contains separate cells for 756 male prisoners, and near by the Prison are Government quarters for the Superintendent and two chief warders.

Barkly Industrial School is the place of detention for young male offenders and has room for 200 boys. There are Government quarters for the officer in charge and six instructors or guards in the grounds.

Labour.—Short sentence prisoners are kept at Port Louis Prison. The men work chiefly at cleaning Government buildings and grounds, at carting supplies and stores, and at carpentry for various Government Departments. The women prisoners do laundry work and sew uniforms.

Beau Bassin Prison has workshops where prisoners are trained as tailors, boot and mattress makers, mat, blind, and brush makers, carpenters and cabinet makers, blacksmiths, and tinsmiths. There is also a bakery where bread is baked for all the Government hospitals, etc., and there are quarries where prisoners are taught the trade of stone-mason by an expert trade warder.

Large numbers of convicts are also employed outside the prison at agricultural work, repairing roads, building walls, and keeping the prison grounds and buildings in good order.

Population.—During the year 2,105 persons were sent to prison (an increase of 232 on the previous year); 2,000 of them were males and the remainder women. It is worthy of note that 86 of these were imprisoned for offences in connexion with illicit distillation.

The total number in custody on 31st December, 1930, was 529, against 476 on 31st December, 1929.

Juvenile Offenders.—The aim of the Barkly Industrial School is to teach the inmates agriculture or a useful trade. They are given the usual Primary School education and religious instruction and are kept under strict discipline while at work and friendly supervision while at play or rest.

The results as regards reformation and backsliding into crime compare favourably with those of similar institutions of the Borstal type elsewhere.

There are at present 62 boys at the School compared with 66 the previous year and 83 in 1928.

Female juvenile offenders are seldom committed to prison as room can usually be found for them at a convent but such cases as occur are dealt with at the Female Prison, Port Louis.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The chief public works in the Colony are the irrigation works, water works, sewage works of the town of Port Louis, buildings, and anti-malarial works.

Irrigation Works.—Government storage irrigation works were begun in 1914 according to plans made by Mr. C. M. Harriott, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Central Provinces, India, and Consulting Engineer for Irrigation to the Government of Mauritius. Since then the plans have suffered modification.

The La Ferme scheme for the irrigation of the south-west of the island, between Grand River North West and River Dragon, has been finished, and the Nicolière scheme, to irrigate land in the north, has been started. These two schemes cover a great deal of the fertile lands of the colony which are below the level which enjoys 60 inches of rain and cannot be properly cultivated without irrigation water.

The La Ferme scheme is a low-level reservoir of 2,500 million gallons and has brought about 3,700 acres of poor land under sugar-cane plantation since 1918.

The plans for the Nicolière scheme include a high-level storage reservoir at Midlands, of 4,400 million gallons capacity meant to fill a low-level reservoir at Nicolière of a capacity of about 250 million gallons.

The Midlands reservoir is being built. The Nicolière reservoir has been finished and although some land under cane cultivation is being irrigated from it, the full scheme will only be working when the Midlands reservoir is completed. Owing to financial conditions the plans have been curtailed.

Water Works.—The chief is the Mare-aux-Vacoas water supply which gives water to Plaines Wilhems and parts of Moka, Black River, and Port Louis Districts. Then there are the Port Louis water supply for the town of Port Louis and the District water supplies for the Districts of Pamplemousses, Rivière du Rempart, Flacq, Grand Port, Savanne, and the other parts of Moka and Black River.

The Mare-aux-Vacoas water supply is obtained from a storage reservoir, the Mare-aux-Vacoas, 1,825 feet above the level of the sea. It was built to hold 1,167 million gallons which has been increased to 1,641 million gallons by raising the height of the dam; its catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands and the whole of the water is passed through sand filters at the filtering plant at La Marie. Two additional service reservoirs have been built.

The old four-inch main from Petite Rivière to Port Louis which had been replaced by an emergency line of eight-inch and twelve-inch pipes to supply Port Louis after the flood of December, 1929, has now been replaced by a permanent eight-inch and seven-inch main, and the supply of Mare-aux-Vacoas water to Port Louis thereby increased from about 150,000 gallons to about 900,000 gallons in every twenty-four hours. To make this possible an additional storage reservoir had also to be built at Petite Rivière.

The Port Louis water supply is obtained from the Grand River North West at a distance of about four miles from the town and at a level of 250 feet. This supply was under the charge of the Municipality of the town until 1922 when it was handed over to the Public Works and Surveys Department.

The dam in the river was burst by the flood of December, 1929, and much of the pipe leading from it was also swept away.

After these things Port Louis was given water partly from the Mare-aux-Vacoas and partly from the Pailles Canal which was turned aside for this purpose. Later on, water was pumped from Grand River North West to give Port Louis its full supply, until such time as the works could be restored.

The water to Port Louis is now being chlorinated and this has proved satisfactory.

The water supply to the villages and hamlets in the Districts comes from twenty-seven different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered, but they are generally guarded by reserves of forest in the land wherein they have their sources.

Several of these water supplies which had suffered harm from the flood have been set right.

Sewerage of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900; in 1922 the scheme was revised by Messrs. Mansergh and Sons, and the works are now being carried out on the lines of their report.

A large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system. The works are in full progress.

No anti-malarial works of importance were carried out during the year under review.

Granary.—The Granary was practically finished by the end of the year, but could not be operated as the works for supply of electric power had not been completed.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated total population on 31st December, 1930, was 404,458* (General population 125,315 and Indian population 279,143) which shows a decrease of 1,091 on the previous year's figures and an increase of 27,973 on the census figures of the 20th of May, 1921.

The births during the year numbered 12,793, and the deaths 14,341. The birth-rate in the General population was 37·3 and in the Indian 29·2 in a thousand, as against 37·5 and 32·5 respectively for the year before. The death-rates per thousand in the two groups of the people for 1930 were 34·8 and 35·6 as against 28·4 and 31·7 respectively for 1929.

The highest death-rate for 1930 is shown in Pamplemousses (48·3) and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems (25·6).

The death-rate for the whole Colony was 35·4 per thousand compared with 30·7 in 1929, and the rate for Port Louis was 43·3 as against 35·0 in the previous year.

It will be seen from these figures that the prophecy made last year of a rise in the death-rate has been fulfilled. In addition to widespread poverty, the general floods of 1929 caused malaria to increase and multiply and also caused an increase in ailments of the respiratory tract.

The town of Port Louis, suddenly shorn of its normal water supply in the manner described above, suffered from an outbreak of typhoid fever which caused 179 notified cases and 45 deaths from 7th February to 15th April. In the restoration of the supply, arrangements were made to chlorinate the filtered water and, for the rest of the year, chlorinated water was supplied.

Whooping-cough swept through the country districts during the last three months of the year and caused a large number of deaths among children. The disease is one not generally thought of as fatal and its results on this occasion may be taken as giving an unfavourable indication of the general condition of the people. It is not notifiable and accurate figures of the cases cannot be given, but reports from Government Medical Officers showed that it caused many deaths.

The effects of the ravages of the hookworm are being made worse by the increased stress of poverty under which the casual worker in the fields is labouring. Many more cases of lack of blood due to hookworm are being met, and there are many more severe cases of this kind seen than a few years ago. The Director of the Medical Department is of the opinion that malaria, hookworm disease, and poor feeding are the chief causes of the greater number of deaths now taking place.

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* The 1931 census figure is 393,503.

There has been no plague, cholera, smallpox, yellow fever, or typhus fever in the Colony during the year.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Primary education is not compulsory, but it is given free by Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony.

At the close of the year there were 147 primary schools : fifty-six of them were Government, and ninety-one schools assisted by Government grants. Of the latter sixty-two were Roman Catholic, nineteen Church of England, two Presbyterian, five Hindoo, and three Mohammedan. The average attendance was 22,394 as compared with 22,854 in 1929. The number of Indian children on the roll was 16,988, of whom 13,700 were boys and 3,288 girls. The number of girls taught in primary schools was 11,504 as against 10,870 in 1929.

Six junior scholarships and six exhibitions which give the holders free teaching at the Royal College for a period of about seven years are awarded to primary school boys every year on the results of a competitive examination. The winners of a scholarship receive money payments at the rate of Rs. 120 a year as well.

Two hundred and fifty-five candidates sat for the Junior Boys' Scholarship and Exhibition Examination held in December, 1930, compared with one hundred and ninety-five in the year before.

A Senior Bursary Class for primary school boys was set up in 1926. The course of study in this class lasts two years, at the end of which four scholarships and four exhibitions which may be held at the Royal College for a period of about five years are also given on the results of a competitive examination each year. At the examination held in December, 1930, there were 124 candidates as against 60 in the year before.

Six scholarships to be held in an aided secondary school for five years are given each year to primary school girls on the results of a competitive examination. This allows the winners to follow their studies as far as the Cambridge School Certificate examination. One hundred and sixty candidates sat for the Girls' Scholarship examination held in December, 1930, compared with one hundred and sixty-six in the year before.

Technical instruction is provided in three principal centres. The first of these is the Government Technical School in Port Louis, at which about fifty full-time boys of an average of 16 years, and about two hundred boys from the primary schools in Port Louis of an average age of 13 years are taught mechanical drawing, and are given manual instruction in woodwork; secondly, the Government Industrial School at Beau Bassin, where about one hundred and fifty boys from the primary schools in Lower Plaines Wilhems are given manual instruction in woodwork; and thirdly, the Government Trades School, at Bell Village, where there are about eighty full-time apprentices of an average age of 18 years. Some half of them are carpenters and the rest are masons, blacksmiths, or tinsmiths. Woodwork classes on a more modest scale are also held in a few aided primary schools and make satisfactory progress.

There are now twenty-eight school gardens in the primary schools which are regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice on their proper cultivation. Nature study now forms one of the subjects of examination for Teachers' Certificates.

In addition to the College of Agriculture, training in agriculture is also given at the Farm School where there were fifteen students during the year, nine of whom were in the first year and six in the second year. The course, which is elementary, covers a period of two years after which time the best boys usually find openings in the Agricultural Department or on estates. The standard of education of many of the candidates who apply for admission to this school is distressingly low and the Director of Agriculture reports that the average candidate shows little knowledge of or interest in the chief industry of his country.

Secondary Education.

There are nine aided secondary schools, two of which are for boys only and the others for girls, with a small number of boys in the preparatory and junior classes.

The total number on the roll was 715 boys and 720 girls, while the average attendance was 586 and 588 respectively, as compared with 685 boys and 679 girls on the roll for the previous year, with an average attendance of 606 and 608 respectively.

Six boys and twelve girls belonging to these schools and fifty-six boys and four girls from outside obtained passes in the School Certificate Examination held by the University of Cambridge, and three boys in the Secondary Schools and sixteen boys and two girls outside obtained passes in the Junior Cambridge Examination.

The higher education of boys is chiefly carried out at the Royal College.

The staff at Curepipe, where is the College proper, consists of the Rector, the Senior Master, eleven Masters with British University Degrees, and eleven Assistant Masters; at Port Louis, there is the Royal College School with a Headmaster, two Masters, and eight Assistant Masters. The College has well fitted chemical and physical laboratories.

To gain entrance to the College it is necessary to pass an entrance examination or to win a Primary Schools' Scholarship or Exhibition. The boys are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and they range in age from ten to twenty years.

The year opened with three hundred and forty-eight pupils on the roll of the Royal College, and, on 31st December, the number was three hundred and thirty ; the average attendance for the year was two hundred and ninety-four. At the Port Louis School the number of pupils on the roll was one hundred and ninety-seven at the beginning of the year and, on 31st December, 1930, the number was one hundred and seventy-eight ; the average attendance for the year was one hundred and eighty-one.

Boys are taught classical and scientific subjects, Latin being compulsory and Greek optional and alternative with more advanced natural science in the Entrance Lower and Upper Middle Classes. The boys are divided into classical and modern sides in the Cambridge School Certificate Class.

Two scholarships, one on the classical side and one on the modern, are given annually in the highest class, which is examined by the Syndicate of Examiners of the Cambridge University. These scholarships are of the value of £1,000 (with a temporary increase of 30 per cent.) and with first-class passage allowance to and from England. They may be held for four or five years at any British University, or any Scientific or Technical Institution of the United Kingdom.

The Laureates and those boys whose parents are well-to-do, sometimes go to Europe to take up a profession, but they usually return to Mauritius afterwards. Of the others, a fair number obtain employment in the Government ; some, after a course of studies at the College of Agriculture go to sugar estates, some join commercial firms, but a large number cannot obtain suitable employment.

The ambition of many parents of the artisan class and even of the labouring class seems to be to send their sons to the Royal College that they may obtain the Cambridge School Certificate and join the Civil Service. In this way many more boys are being educated to this level than can be reasonably expected to obtain suitable employment in Mauritius.

The games at the College are organized by the Sports Club. Rugby and Association football are played, together with hockey, and the boys reach a very good standard. In athletics, the records achieved compare very favourably with those of English schools. An annual boxing tournament is held and cross-country running is becoming more and more popular.

Higher agricultural education is carried out at the College of Agriculture. The training of chemists for work in sugar factories was started by the late Mr. P. Boname, Director of the former "Station Agronomique." When the Department of Agriculture replaced the old "Station Agronomique" the course of training given was extended and a small School of Agriculture formed. This School gave special attention to the teaching of sugar technology.

The present College of Agriculture was founded in 1923. The courses of instruction given were greatly extended in order to give scientific training not only to sugar chemists but also to field and factory employees. A laureateship of Rs. 16,000 was given to the best graduate each year, to allow of specialization in Europe for a further two or three years. In 1929 the College courses were reorganized and the period of studies reduced from three to two years, while at the same time the standard of the Entrance Examination was raised. The regular award of the laureateship has now been discontinued.

Since the College of Agriculture opened in 1923, twenty-six students have qualified for the Diploma, of whom twenty-four are now occupying various posts and the other remaining two unemployed. This problem of unemployment is one that will have to be closely watched and the number of graduates limited as far as possible to the needs of the Colony as the prospects of employment elsewhere are small.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEYS.

The only published map of the island is the one-inch-to-the-mile map issued by the Geographical Section of the General Staff at the War Office.

No important grants of land are now made and the Crown lands which amount to about 79,355 acres are mostly managed as forest lands.

During the year, only four small sales of land, of the total extent of three acres forty-two were made.

The amount of land leased is as follows :—

	Acres.
Bare lands	3,165·15
Pas Géométriques...	6,735
Docks and patent slips	26·06
Islets adjacent to the coast	3,018·58
Barachois	677·89

The terms " Pas Géométriques " and " Barachois " are explained in Chapter III under Forestry and Fisheries respectively.

The value of land in Mauritius varies from Rs. 20 to Rs. 3,000 an acre except in townships where it may reach Rs. 20,000. Agricultural lands are worth from Rs. 300 to Rs. 3,000 an acre.

XI.—LABOUR.

During the French occupation the labour supply of the island consisted almost entirely of slaves brought from East Africa and Madagascar with a few from the Guinea Coast and from the French establishments in India.

Slavery continued during the early years of the British occupation but was abolished in 1835, after which the freed slaves soon gave up their agricultural work.

From 1842 Indian labour was introduced under the sole agency of the Government of Mauritius, until 1910 when the Indian Government forbade the departure of indentured labour from Indian ports. In 1923, however, that Government gave permission for 1,500 labourers to be recruited, but only 732, together with their dependants, or 1,395 in all, arrived in that and the succeeding year. It is estimated that on the 31st December, 1930, there were 13,613 Indian immigrants remaining in the Colony.

Labour on the estates is mainly composed of the descendants of the Indian immigrants. It is reckoned that there are between 70,000 and 72,000 of them, but it will not be possible to know the exact number until the figures of the 1931 census are ready ; the 1921 census showed that there were 69,034.

Labourers are employed by the month or by the day. The hire of the labourer who works by the day is 50 to 75 cents for a day's work during the season between the crops and 75 cents to Rs. 1·25 in harvest time. Women receive from 30 to 45 cents a day, and boys, locally called " chokras," 25 to 30 cents per day. The estates engage fewer labourers for a monthly hire each year, but those who are engaged for this period receive, in addition to free housing and medical care, wages in cash and rations in kind according to the following averages:—a man has Rs. 10·50 each month in cash and a weekly ration consisting of 23½ pounds of rice and 2 pounds of dhall ; he also receives each month 1½ pounds of oil and 1½ pounds of salt. A woman gets Rs. 5·50 per month in cash, 12 pounds of rice and 6 pounds of dhall per week and she receives monthly one pound of oil and one pound of salt. The monthly hire of a " chokra " is Rs. 3 in cash and 9½ pounds of rice and 2½ pounds of dhall per week. His monthly issue of oil and salt is three-fourths of a pound in each case.

The wages, rations, and other privileges received by a man is reckoned as being worth about Rs. 25 a month.

The fall in the price of sugar has brought about a great reduction in the wages which used to be paid for labour generally, but this is compensated by the decrease in the cost of the chief articles of food and clothing.

Of recent years the artisan class has increased considerably, but on the other hand as a result of centralization a number of engineering shops and sugar factories have closed down with the result that there are not sufficient openings available for skilled men. Employment on sugar estates in Portuguese Africa has been found for a number of men and thirty-eight emigrated in 1929 under contract of service for one or two years.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

It remains in this chapter to chronicle such Ordinances as have not been mentioned above. There were in all 40 Ordinances passed during the year, of which the following are of sufficient importance to notice here :—

No. 5.—The Census Ordinance, 1930, permitted of a numbering of the people to be made in the Colony and its dependencies during the year 1931 on a day fixed by Proclamation.

No. 7.—The Registration of United Kingdom Designs Ordinance, 1930, provides for the registration in the Colony of designs which have been registered in the United Kingdom, provided that application for registration is made within three years from the date of registration of the design in the United Kingdom. The rights given in the Colony continue only over the period of those granted in the United Kingdom.

No. 18.—The Registration of United Kingdom Trade Marks Ordinance, 1930, confers similar rights in respect of the registration in the Colony of trade marks registered in the United Kingdom.

No. 21.—The Succession and Registration Duties Amendment Ordinance, 1930, amends the law relating to succession and registration duties. A new scale of duties is enacted which provides for a system of taxation based on the French Law of the 26th August, 1926. New provisions are also made to check disguised " donations *inter vivos*."

No. 28.—The Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Ordinance, 1930, amends the main Ordinance of 1923 in order to permit any person who is a fellow or member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons or who possesses a veterinary qualification recognized by the Governor in Executive Council, to practise veterinary medicine in the Colony.

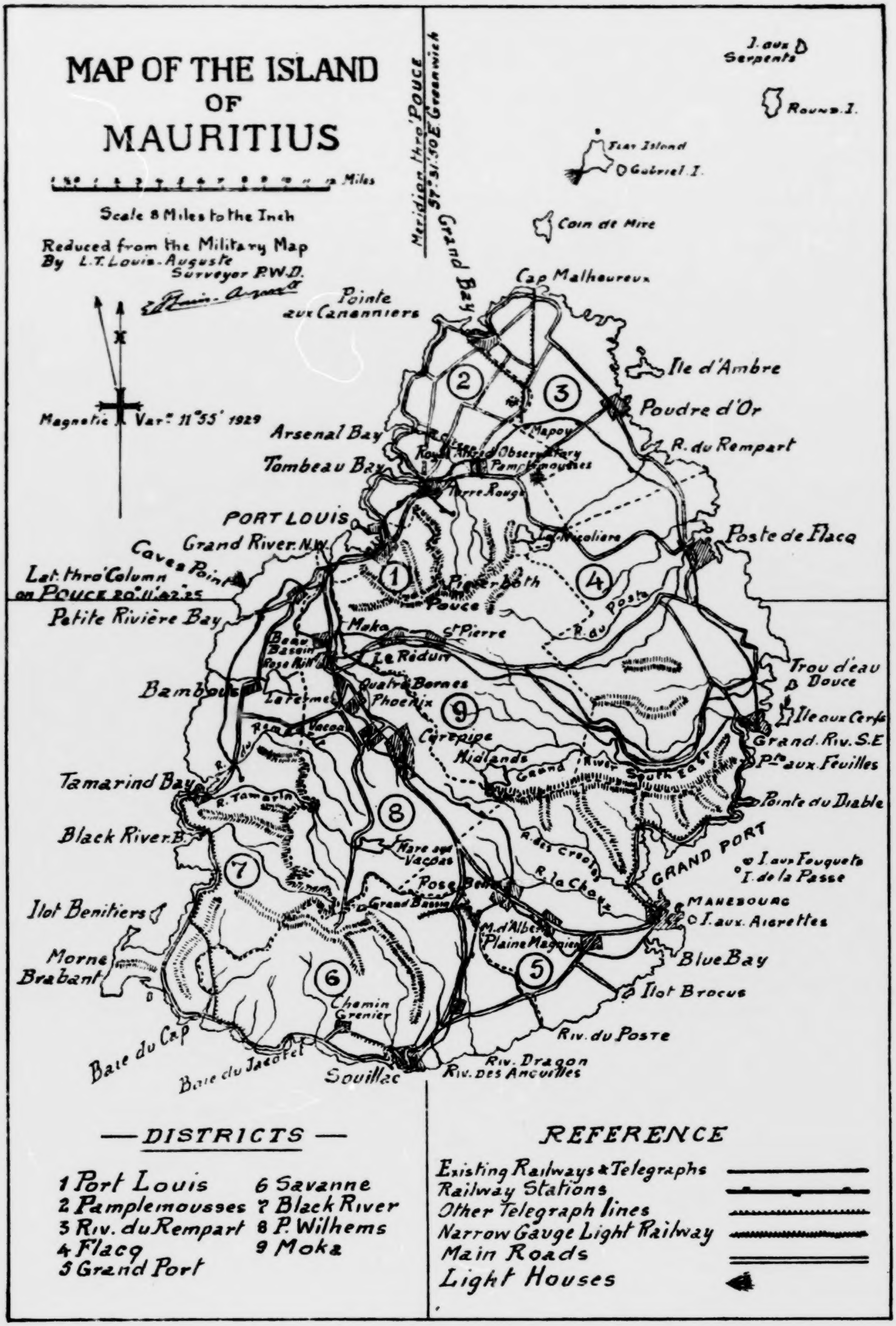
Cost of Living.

The steady fall in the selling price of the more important foodstuffs has been an outstanding feature during the year. Rice, which is the staple food of the Colony, has fallen from 126 to 103 on 1914 as base. Dhall fell from 121 to 67 and other grains such as lentils and beans from 121 to 95. Flour dropped from 183 to 97. Olive and pistachio oil did not show much pronounced drop. They were 92 during the first quarter and 80 during the last. Lard increased from 168 to 220. Milk and meat showed some fluctuations but without a definite tendency towards a drop.

Articles of clothing are reported by the statistician to have increased from 161 during the first quarter to 194 during the last, but in the mean for the year the index for the cost of living was 150·3 or rather less than the figure for 1929 which was 152·4.

W. H. INGRAMS,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

30th June, 1931.



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

Scale 8 Miles to the Inch
Miles
Reduced from the Military Map By L.T. Louis-Auguste Surveyor P.W.D.
Magnetic Var.n 11°55' 1929
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°31'50"E Greenwich
Lat. thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42".25
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Canonniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Mapou
Terre Rouge
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
La Nicolière
Poste de Flacq
Pieter Both
Pouce
R. du Poste
Petite Rivière Bay
Moka
St Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Réduit
Trou d'eau Douce
Bambous
La Ferme
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
Vacoas
Ile aux Cerfs
Curepipe
Grand Riv. S.E.
Midlands
Grand River South East
Pte aux Feuilles
Tamarind Bay
R. Tamarin
Pointe du Diable
Black River B.
Mare aux Vacoas
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
I. aux Fouquets
I. de la Passe
R. la Chaux
Rose Belle
Grand Bassin
MAHEBOURG
I. aux Aigrettes
Ilot Benitiers
M. d'Albert
Plaine Magnien
Blue Bay
Morne Brabant
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Riv. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie du Jacotet
Souillac
Riv. Dragon
Riv. des Anguilles
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
— DISTRICTS —
1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka
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Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
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Main Roads
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MAURITIUS.

REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1931.

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CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. The dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, had a population of 8,202 in April, 1931, whilst that of the lesser islands was 1,457.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used the island as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer, and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar-cane, but were frustrated by rats. Although they denuded the forests of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called Maroons were formed. The combination of the rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin uncontrolled by any tribal or political system proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population, apart from Maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de la Bourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Port Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops, and barracks. La Bourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755 large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and, when in 1825 the duty of ten shillings a hundredweight, levied on Mauritian sugar entering England to protect the West Indian sugar, was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 pounds the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 pounds in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842 Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who to-day own and cultivate more than two-fifths of the whole area under sugar-cane. At the end of 1930 nearly half the investors in the Government Savings Bank were Indians, and out of a total of nearly Rs. 5,500,000 deposited there, over Rs. 2,300,000 belonged to Indians. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits, and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artisan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle *Phytalus Smithii* was discovered in the sugar-canes and at the present about four hundred millions of the insects are destroyed every year.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result, a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water-supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the carrying on of many works undertaken in better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve of his recommendation that a subsidy should be given to sugar beyond the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor, with an Executive Council of four ex-officio members, and a Council of Government.

The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials.

The next year, the Constitution was amended, and a Council, including unofficial members, was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

In October, 1885, the Constitution was given its present form. The Council of Government is now composed of the Governor, eight ex-officio members, nine members nominated by the Governor, and ten members elected by the population: of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members must be persons not holding any public office. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1931, was 10,497. Every male person is entitled to be registered as a voter, who is qualified as follows :—

(1) Has attained the age of 21 years;

(2) Is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights;

(3) Is a British subject by birth or naturalization;

(4) Has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications :—

(*a*) Is the owner of an immovable property of the annual value of Rs. 300;

(*b*) Is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs. 25 a month:

(*c*) Is the owner of movable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs. 3,000;

(*d*) Is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications;

(*e*) Is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs. 600, or of a monthly salary of at least Rs. 50; and

(*f*) Is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs. 200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary. The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis" and was instituted, as were other local Municipalities by the "Assemblée Coloniale." These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the "Assemblée Coloniale," on 21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis" and were denominated the "Conseil des Notables." The "Conseil des Notables" was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the "Conseil des Communes" and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1820, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge "La Triple Esperance" from 21st to 23rd February. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered to take measures within the prescribed limit of the township for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility; for the prevention of fires; and for the proper paving and lighting of the town etc., provided that no such arrangements contravene the existing sanitary rules and regulations made by the sanitary authorities.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These Boards are empowered to pass regulations for the making, maintenance, and improvement of branch roads and footpaths, and for the levying of taxes.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into the general population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans and people of African and mixed origin; the Indian population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants; and the Chinese population, i.e., Chinese immigrants and their descendants. The Indian population is much the largest section.

The estimated total population of the island on 31st December, 1931, was 391,044 distributed as under, which shows a decrease of 2,279 on the figures of the census held on 26th April, 1931, viz.:—

General population	116,502
Indian population	265,796
Chinese population	8,746

The geographical distribution of the population is shown in the following table:—

Districts.	Census Population, 26th April, 1931.					Population on the 31st December, 1931.			
	Area in square miles.	General population.	Indian population.	Chinese population.	Total.	General population.	Indian population.	Chinese population.	Total.
Port Louis...	16	25,556	24,603	4,276	54,435	25,749	24.398	4,143	54,290
Pamplemousses	69	6,432	30,000	415	36,847	6,390	29,482	427	36,299
Riviere du Rempart ...	57½	5,208	25,274	310	30,792	5,240	24,958	320	30,518
Flacq	115	9,844	42,202	594	52,640	9,848	41,536	598	51,982
Grand Port	101	11,868	36,135	616	48,619	11,878	35,498	631	48,007
Savanne	93½	6,279	24,456	366	31,101	6,263	24,080	378	30,721
Plaines Wilhems	78	40,282	53,392	1,669	95,343	40,845	43,490	1,557	95,892
Moka	89	5,077	23,761	445	29,283	5,106	23,704	455	29,265
Black River	101	5,205	8,826	232	14,263	5,183	8,650	237	14,070
Total	720	115,751	268,649	8,923	393,323	116,502	265,796	8,746	391,044

The births during the year numbered 11,941 and the deaths 15,467. The birth-rate in the general population was 37.6, in the Indian population 27.1, and in the Chinese population 21.9 in a thousand. The death-rates per thousand in the three groups of the people for 1931 were 34.9, 41.7, and 18.0 respectively.

The highest death-rate for 1931 is shown in Black River, 47.2, and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems, 25.8, in a thousand.

The death-rate for the whole Colony was 39.1 and that for Port Louis 38.6 in a thousand.

The marriages during the year numbered 1,236 as compared with 1,277 in 1930. The marriage-rate of the population in 1931 was 3.1 in a thousand.

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 2,425 as against 2,527 in 1930; the deaths of infants representing 15.7 per cent. of the total number of deaths for the year. The infantile mortality rate was 203 per 1,000 births.

The arrivals in the Colony amounted to 3,662 in 1931 including discharged seamen, and the departures from the Colony numbered 4,452 including engaged seamen as compared with 3,918 and 3,461 respectively in 1930.

Note.—The birth and death-rates for 1931 cannot be compared with those of 1930 in the 1930 Report, as the rates for that year were calculated on a population over-estimated by about 10,000 with respect to the census population.

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

The medical and sanitary organization of the Colony is embodied in the Medical and Health Department. The Department administers three central hospitals, five district hospitals, a mental hospital, and a hospital for the care of lepers. The Department employs 27 whole-time Government Medical Officers of various grades with the necessary subordinate staff.

Each district of the Colony, with the exception of Black River which is near the large Civil Hospital, Port Louis and the Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes, is provided with a hospital for the care and treatment of the sick poor of the district. The District Medical Officer is a whole-time Government official in charge of the hospital and he is also the Poor Law Officer of the district. Supplementing the hospital, there is in each district a variable number of dispensaries in charge of resident dispensers which are visited at regular times by the Government Medical Officer for the purpose of holding consultations for those of the poorer classes who attend. The Government Medical Officer is also the public vaccinator of the district.

Hookworm disease, which is assuming great importance in the Colony on account of its seriously debilitating effects on agricultural labour, is treated by a special branch which was originally built up by the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation during their three-year period of co-operation with the Government of Mauritius in devising measures for the relief and control of hookworm infection. The Hookworm Branch treats some 30,000 patients annually, by systematic work district by district.

General sanitation is regulated by a code of elaborate sanitary enactments operated through a staff of Medical Officers trained in sanitation assisted by the appropriate subordinate officers.

No material change was made in the organization during the year. The death-rate (39.1 in a thousand) has again increased. This has been partly due to the carry-over from 1930, when conditions were bad, following the extensive flooding which took place. But in addition to this carry-over the cyclone of March was followed by a very unhealthy state of affairs. Owing to the long duration of the storm extensive floods occurred and places which would have escaped serious inundation in a cyclone of short duration were flooded on this occasion. A widespread outbreak of malaria was the result. In addition, malaria, and lung and intestinal diseases increased.

Steps were immediately taken to reinforce the officers in charge of medical relief in the districts. A number of private practitioners were engaged temporarily and provisionally for some months.

It is fortunate that the water-supplies were not damaged by this storm. The Port Louis chlorinators stayed at their posts and carried on the process without interruption.

The only satisfactory feature of the cyclone was the persistence of fine weather after the storm had passed. This enabled wrecked huts and houses to be rebuilt and general repairs effected. Ultimately the fine weather became detrimental as it prevented the damaged cane from making the recovery it might otherwise have made.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories: (*a*) housing on estates, (*b*) housing in rural areas not estates, (*c*) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are adequately housed as a rule. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs of thatch or corrugated galvanized iron. Thatch is the more common. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult.

The lines must be kept clear of weeds, and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least ten feet round them.

Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation, and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes.

As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. This is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

The housing in rural areas not estates is fairly satisfactory. It is in the labouring class of the population that one can very often see racial difference in the choice of building materials. The negro will build an untidy-looking shack of old timber, scrap pieces of wood, petrol cases, and petrol tins hammered out flat, whereas the Indian will construct a very neat hut of wattle and clay or cowdung, on a stone plinth, furnished with a small verandah, and roofed with a compact thatch. The amenities of life are few. There is seldom water laid on to the premises. Unless the occupier has dug a well, he generally has to carry his water from the nearest standpipe which may be some five hundred yards away.

In the towns conditions are, as a rule, unsatisfactory. The chief features about the town housing are overcrowding and overbuilding; overcrowding is caused by poverty and overbuilding arises as a necessary consequence of overcrowding. Many, if not most, families of the labouring classes live in one room. Fortunately, children are seldom confined to the house on account of inclement weather and they can pass most of their time in the open air. Rickets is very uncommon in consequence, as are other consequences of overcrowding in places where the climatic conditions are more severe either on account of excessive cold or excessive light and heat.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

Agricultural Conditions in 1931.

General.—An extraordinarily violent cyclone visited the island on 5th March, and continued, unabated, for three days; the damage to crops and buildings was considerable. The Imperial Government has now guaranteed a loan of £750,000 to the Colony repayable in 40 years. Of this amount a sum of £500,000 has been earmarked to sugar growers and the balance to the Government for public purposes.

Irrespective of the cyclone, the year was, from a meteorological point of view, a favourable one. Rainfall and temperature figures as recorded at the Department of Agriculture, Reduit, are given in the following table :

Month and Year.	*Air Temperature. °C.*	*Departure from normal. °C.*	*Rainfall. m/m.*	*Departure from normal. Per cent.*
1930.				
November	21·5	— 0·1	66·5	+ 26
December	23·3	0·0	162·8	+ 19
1931.				
January	24·4	+ 0·4	450·6	+ 70
February	24·3	+ 0·1	528·4	+ 91
March	24·1	+ 0·5	1,155·0(cyclone)	+250
April	23·3	+ 0·7	148·3	+ 34
May	20·8	+ 0·2	83·8	— 16
June	20·5	+ 1·9	60·1	— 32
July	19·0	+ 1·0	35·2	— 50
August	18·5	+ 0·6	42·0	— 21
September	19·5	+ 0·8	35·0	— 25
October	20·4	+ 0·6	20·8	— 59
November	22·2	+ 0·5	160·5	+ 214
December	23·7	+ 0·4	46·0	— 66

The damage done by the cyclone was heaviest in the central and southern localities of the island, and the average reduction in the sugar crop on this account was estimated at a minimum of 30 per cent. for the whole island.

The Sugar Industry.

Sugar Production.—The actual production of sugar for 1931 was 164,000 metric tons, distributed according to the various districts and compared with previous years as follows :—

Sugar Production in Thousand Metric Tons.

Districts.	*1931.*	*1930.*	*1929.*	*1928.*	*1927.*
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart.	41·81	43·00	54·68	59·55	52·72
Flacq...	27·91	37·81	38·91	41·17	33·21
Moka	20·83	32·10	35·97	34·76	30·88
Plaines Wilhems ...	11·64	14·62	15·66	16·40	15·06
Black River ...	6·29	9·81	9·22	9·72	9·03
Savanne	27·01	37·09	36·41	41·41	35·88
Grand Port ...	28·52	46·53	47·18	50·42	41·22
Total	164·01	220·96	238·03	253·43	218·00

Factory Work.—The extraction of sugar per cent. of weight of cane harvested was, in 1931, 10.61 as compared with 10.92 in 1930.

The proportion of raw sugars was 85 per cent. of the total output ; granulated whites (vesous) were 14 per cent. while low sugars were about 1 per cent.

Area under Cane.—Of the total cane harvested, 47 per cent. belonged to estates with mills, and the balance to estates without mills and to small planters. This balance is made up as follows :—Estates without mills, mostly non-Indian, in the proportion of about 23 per cent., and small planters, mostly Indian, in the proportion of 30 per cent.

At the end of 1931 the total area under sugar-cane approximated to 134,915 acres distributed as follows :—

	Acres.
Estates with mills	55,569
Estates without mills	39,416
Independent planting	39,930
Total ...	134,915

The proportion of cane lands cultivated by Indians entering into the above figures is as follows :—

	Acres.
Estates (with or without mills)	10,000
Small planters	52,826
Total ...	62,826

The majority of sugar estates are staffed by Europeans or persons of European descent. Staff employees on all estates number about a 1,000. Many of the day labourers employed in agriculture are themselves owners of small plots of land cultivated in canes ; the number of these men is about 13,000 and the average holding per head about 1½ acres.

The method whereby cane lands have passed, and are still passing, into the hands of the Indian peasants, is locally termed " morcellement " or parcelling-out system. A large estate subdivides a portion of its domain into a number of small holdings which are occupied by the Indian peasants; they cultivate their plots under the estate's control and often with the estate's financial help ; but they are bound to sell their cane to the estate factory. After a certain term of years the plot of land is paid for and the occupier becomes the legal owner. This method has been extensively practised in Mauritius and has produced a considerable increase in the cultivated area of the Colony.

Disposal of the sugar.—As in previous years, the bulk of Mauritius sugar went to the United Kingdom ; the local consumption amounts to about 8,000 tons annually. The sugar market in 1931 was the lowest on record for the past 50 years, the average net price obtained per 50 kilos of sugar being only Rs. 5.90.

Economic condition of the Industry.—As a result of the strained economic conditions very considerable reduction in expenditure on estates has been effected. In consequence the cost of production has been brought down to a low figure as compared with figures of former years.

Labour.—Expenditure on labour is one of the principal items which has undergone restriction. The total population of Mauritius according to the 1931 census was 393,238. Agricultural labourers number 72,000 of whom 14,730 are females. Of the male workers 53,154 belong to the Indian population, and of the female 14,229. Conditions of employment are reviewed in Chapter VIII.

Sugar machinery.—There were, in 1931, 42 sugar factories in operation. During the year, sugar machinery to the value of Rs. 399,124 was imported and tractor parts and ploughs to the value of Rs. 864. Mechanical cultivation is practised but not extensively owing, mainly, to the nature of the soil. In 1931 there were 90 farm tractors in use on estates.

Sugar-cane Research Station.—The Sugar-cane Research Station of the Department of Agriculture founded in 1930, was actively employed during 1931 in attacking the more pressing problems connected with the genetics and biochemistry of the sugar-cane in Mauritius, the most urgent problem in hand being the search for a new cane variety to replace the Big Tanna which is now failing after a period of 30 years' supremacy in the island.

Pests and diseases of the cane.—The major pest of the sugar-cane continues to be the beetle *Phytalus Smithii Arrow*. This insect now occurs over approximately 58,000 acres. The number of beetles captured during the 1930-31 season approximated to 324½ million or an increase of 59 million over the previous year's record. Expenditure incurred in awards for beetles captured was Rs. 66,252. It is intended to prosecute the campaign against this pest on more extensive lines in the near future, but a change in organization is in contemplation by which the work will be undertaken almost entirely by the planters under general supervision of the Department of Agriculture, the cost being borne by a special cess.

Minor Agricultural Industries.

Mauritius hemp.—This crop, which covers in all about 20,000 acres mostly in a wild state, suffered considerably from the cyclone. Furthermore, the market deteriorated to such a degree that only 455 tons were exported as against 1,464 in 1930, and 2,500 in 1929. During the year a spinning factory, for the manufacture of sugar bags from Mauritius hemp, commenced operations and it is hoped that this new venture will improve markedly the condition of the local fibre industry.

Tobacco.—Owing to the unsettled conditions in this industy, and in part to the cyclone, the area grown under this crop shrank to about 1,800 acres as against 3,600 last year.

A central grading warehouse, to act as intermediary between the grower and the manufacturer, has now been organized. By this means it is hoped to establish confidence in the grower and eventually to build up an export trade in well-graded leaf.

Tea.—The total production was 18,000 kilos as against 19,000 last year. Through the agency of the Empire Marketing Board and with their assistance, the Colony was visited in 1930 by an experienced representative of the tea industry in Ceylon who reported favourably on the suitability of conditions in certain parts of Mauritius for the growing of tea.

Coconuts.—This crop was seriously damaged by the cyclone. Most of the copra and the coconut oil exported from Mauritius is the produce of the " Oil Islands " (dependencies of Mauritius such as Agalega, St. Brandon, Diego Garcia, Peros Banhos, &c.). The total export of copra in 1931 was 2,069 tons, and of coconut oil 3,471 litres, as against 1,734 tons and 14,450 litres respectively in 1930.

Food crops.—The staple food of the Colony is rice, of which about 60,000 tons are imported annually, mostly from India.

Efforts are continually being made to encourage the production of a greater amount of food crops locally. In past years these efforts have been generally nullified by the incentive to cultivate the more remunerative sugar-cane, but with the falling prices for sugar, the Indian peasant has returned, to a certain extent, to food crops.

Hill rice occupies approximately 150 acres, and a rice mill was opened in Port Louis. Maize occupies about 1,300 acres and manioc 1,600 acres; vegetables 3,500 acres; potatoes, sweet potatoes, and ground nuts together cover about 500 acres; orchards, about 1,300 acres; bananas about 600 acres, and various other crops about 800 acres.

Fruit canning and preserving.—The factory of the Mauritius Pineapple Company was at work during the year but was handicapped in its operations by the lack of adequate supplies of raw material. The area under pineapple was estimated at 150 acres.

The " Granravien " canning factory extended its activities during the year producing a number of canned goods and preserves some of which have met with a considerable measure of appreciation abroad.

Alcohol.—Alcohol distilled from molasses amounted in 1930-31 to 618,172 litres as against 908,241 litres in 1929-30. The quantity issued for human consumption amounted to 522,181 litres, while

178,460 litres were issued for industrial purposes. 21,085 litres of rum were exported as against 30,857 in 1930. There were seven distilleries at work during the year.

Live Stock and Animal Produce.—The number of bullocks imported for slaughter, mostly from Madagascar, during the year was 4,574 valued at Rs. 299,651 c.i.f., as against 4,843 valued at Rs. 301,500 c.i.f. in 1930. Cattle on estates number 12,001, sheep 1,073, pigs 2,077, and goats 4,449.

About 20 tons of butter are produced locally each year as well as approximately 10 million litres of milk. Pen manure can be disposed of readily.

Other Manufacturing Industries.

There were in 1931 forty engineering establishments, employing in all about 400 persons. Bakeries numbered 65, employing about 300 persons. There were 34 lime kilns, using coral as raw material and giving employment to about 100 persons, and three salt-making establishments absorbing approximately 100 persons.

There are four docks (landing, &c.) supplying work for about 800 persons, and one match factory occupying 150 persons. Cigarette factories number nine. There are four hydro-electrical plants, for light and power, giving employment to about 400 people.

In addition, a number of less important industries are in existence, e.g., aerated water works, ice making, vinegar making, leather tanning, boot making, cabinet making, &c., but none of them have, as yet, succeeded in finding an export trade for their produce.

Fisheries.

The year 1931 will be remembered as a very bad one for the fisheries of Mauritius. The effects of the cyclone on the coast were disastrous—owing not so much to the millions of young or adult fish that were killed and thrown up on the shore as to the destruction of feeding grounds. Most of the lagoons were swept clean of all trace of certain seaweeds that are known to be the chief food of such fish as licornes, cordonniers, &c. Added to this the torrential rains caused such floods that in certain parts of the coast the lagoons became lakes of fresh water. This resulted in the death of millions of shell fish and crabs. Especially to be deplored is the wholesale destruction of a species of " puina " locally known as " hache d'arme." This shellfish is relished by the finest local fish, the " Gueule pavée," and was much used by basket-trap and line fishermen as bait. In the bay of Mahebourg there used to be vast stretches of sandy bottom closely packed with " hache d'armes " and now those same stretches of sand are still packed, but with dead, empty shells—millions of them.

After the cyclone the Government opened all the reserves to net fishing, but this order was recalled a fortnight later, as the object of the measure, i.e., to provide cheap fish for the stricken population was not obtained, all the profit going to middlemen, fishmongers, &c., and the fish continuing to be sold at a high figure.

Since about the end of September, matters have improved somewhat owing to large shoals of fish visiting our lagoons. But marketing conditions have now changed. Through the general financial depression of the Colony the buying power of the public has decreased to a large extent. The Central Market in Port Louis has been packed with fish for some time, but the prices have been such that the fishermen, middlemen, etc., have profited little.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

The total value of the *foreign trade* (in merchandise) of the Colony in 1931 was Rs. 55,893,958.

Comparative figures for imports and exports for the last five years and 1913 are shown below :—

	Imports. *Rs. (1,000).*	*Exports.* *Rs. (1,000).*	*Total Trade.* *Rs. (1,000).*
1913	**36,607**	**32,292**	**68,899**
1927	**55,185**	**56,613**	**111,798**
1928	**49,438**	**47,371**	**96,809**
1929	**46,428**	**52,450**	**98,878**
1930	**39,806**	**26,601**	**66,407**
1931	**32,064**	**23,830**	**55,894**

Owing to the low price of sugar, the Colony is again faced with a heavy adverse trade balance. This however has not been so great as in 1930 owing to the curtailment in the amount of goods imported and to a reduction in their value.

The above figures for exports include re-exports, which amounted to Rs. 947,723 in 1931, compared with Rs. 941,670 in 1930 and Rs. 1,661,046 in 1929.

Bullion and Specie (not included in the foregoing figures) were imported or exported to the following amounts in the last three years :—

	Imports. *Bullion and Specie.* *Rupees.*	*Exports.* *Bullion and Specie.* *Rupees.*
1929	10,096	**1,388**
1930	1,165	4,500
1931	802	**1,933,546**

Imports of Merchandise.

The total value of the imports in 1931 amounted to Rs. 32,064,074, compared with Rs. 39,806,180 in 1930, and Rs. 46,428,424 in 1929.

	Quantity.			*Value. Rs. (1,000).*		
	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931*
Rice (m. tons)	55,068	51,912	63,419	11,208	8,960	7,772
Other grain and flour (m. tons).	19,854	16,952	19,455	3,935	2,727	2,256
Provisions etc.	—	—	—	618	540	463
Manures and Fertilizers (m. tons).	18,397	16,653	12,836	2,847	2,549	1,667
Coal, Coke and Patent fuel (m. tons).	50,251	54,668	45,883	1,241	1,343	934
Petroleum products(hectol.)	140,808	88,054	98,125	3,566	1,787	1,625
Soap common (m. tons) ...	1,551	1,744	1,665	803	833	673
Cement (m. tons)	6,840	10,132	3,313	312	494	149
Cotton manufacture, piece-goods (1,000 met.).	10,920	7,628	7,639	2,861	2,329	1,853
Woollen manufacture,piece-goods (1,000 met.).	98	100	64	210	263	151
Wines in casks (hectol.) ...	10,921	6,716	4,407	533	324	207
Wines in cases (lit.) ...	100,576	97,766	48,305	165	147	79
Spirits (lit.)	48,695	30,994	19,025	171	128	87
Tobacco—All sorts (m. tons)	66	69	48	317	379	288
Motor cars, complete—(number.)	129	209	115	328	454	234
Motor lorries, complete—(number.)	104	82	59	242	173	116
Boots and shoes (not rubber) (pairs.)	128,181	93,134	124,624	308	246	212
Haberdashery and Millinery.	—	—	—	542	376	268
Iron and Steel	—	—	—	881	1,289	956
Silk goods	—	—	—	257	429	548
Drugs	—	—	—	408	351	420
Wearing apparel (except shoes.)	—	—	—	418	405	385
Rubber goods (including tyres.)	—	—	—	392	413	363
Machinery	—	—	—	1,090	1,116	905

The financial position of the Colony is reflected in the above figures. Imports of rice and flour have not decreased in quantity, but this can be attributed to the marked fall in prices that occurred during the year.

On the other hand, the importation of manures and fertilizers fell by 33 per cent. and petroleum products by a similar amount. Luxury imports such as wines and spirits decreased by over 50 per cent. The only increase among non-essential imports occurred in the case of silk manufactures, and this was due to importations from Japan and China of extraordinarily cheap goods.

Exports of Merchandise.

The total value of the exports in 1931 amounted to Rs. 23,829,884 compared with Rs. 26,600,964 in 1930, and Rs. 52,449,676 in 1929.

The following table shows the sugar exports for the last three years and in 1913 :—

	Metric tons.	*Value in Rupees.*
1913	187,772	30,700,697
1929	277,836	49,407,725
1930	185,539	24,846,253
1931	178,808	22,229,991

The principal other exports, for the last three years, were as follows :—

	Quantity.			*Value (Rupees 1,000).*		
	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
Aloe fibre (m. Tons) (Mauritius Hemp).	2,459	1,469	455	828	348	92
Copra or Poonac (m. Tons).	1,391	1,734	2,559	281	280	395

Distribution of Trade.

The percentage of trade distribution for the last three years and in 1913 was as follows :—

Imports.

	1913.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
United Kingdom	33·2	23·8	25·1	23·5
Other parts of the British Empire ...	42·6	46·3	44·5	46·9
Foreign Countries	24·2	29·9	30·4	29·6
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Exports.

	1913.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
United Kingdom	18·5	87·6	71·5	77·6
Other parts of the British Empire ...	77·0	8·8	24·7	18·8
Foreign Countries	4·5	3·6	3·8	3·6
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Total Trade.

	1913.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
United Kingdom	26·3	57·6	43·9	47·6
Other parts of the British Empire ...	58·7	26·4	36·6	34·3
Foreign Countries	15·0	16·0	19·5	18·1
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

The principal countries from or to which the commodities come or go are indicated below :—

Imports.

Value in Rupees (1,000).

	1913.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
United Kingdom	12,149	11,091	10,450	7,504
India	13,422	17,576	13,938	11,576
Australia	608	1,867	1,120	1,330
Union of South Africa	1,163	1,104	1,372	1,030
China	145	645	1,018	1,219
France	3,444	3,825	3,069	2,213
United States of America	863	3,319	1,819	1,369

Exports.

Value in Rupees (1,000).

	1913.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
United Kingdom	5,955	45,965	19,023	20,002
Canada	—	3,921	6,109	2,724
India	21,032	83	46	19

Course of Prices.

Mean prices (c.i.f. or f.o.b.) of the principal articles imported or exported are shown below, for the last two years :—

Imports (c.i.f.).

	1930.	1931.
	c.	*c.*
Rice, per kilo	17	12
Dhall per kilo	18	13
Flour per kilo	16	11½
	Rs.	*Rs.*
Bullocks per head (for food)	63	66
	c.	*c.*
Fertilizers (chemical) per kilo	17	13
Petrol spirits—per litre	21	16
Cotton piece-goods (ordinary) per metre	31	24
Soap, common, per kilo	47	40

Exports (f.o.b.).

	1930.	1931.
	c.	*c.*
Sugar, per kilo	13¼	12½
Aloe fibre, per kilo	24	20

Changes in the Direction of Trade.

Imports.—Japan is displacing the United Kingdom as the principal exporter of "cottons" to Mauritius. Generally, trade with the Far East gained ground throughout the year.

Exports.—The great bulk of the sugar exports which, in pre-war years went to India, now goes to the United Kingdom.

Development of Empire Trade.

From time to time the Preferential Tariff of the Colony in favour of United Kingdom and Canadian goods is extended. Much larger quantities of tyres and tubes, silk, indigo, and motor cars are now imported from the Empire as a consequence of preference.

CHAPTER VIII.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages and salaries have been reduced in 1931 owing to the difficulties created in all local industries by the low selling price of sugar. Male agricultural labourers under monthly contract receive, on the average, Rs. 10 per month in cash together with rations, free lodging, and medical attendance, equivalent in all, at the rates current in 1931, to Rs. 22 per month. Male day labourers receive Rs. 0.70 to Rs. 0.75 per day, but during harvest time they can make double that amount. Female labourers, whether working by month or by day, receive about half the wages of male workers.

The remuneration for piece-work in agriculture paid in 1931 was as follows:—

	Per acre. *Rs.*
Cleaning land	40-50
Digging cane holes	8-18
Manuring	15-16
Weeding	5- 7
Cutting cane (20 tons per acre)	10-12

Industrial day workers, artisans, etc., are paid on the average Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.00 per day. Those employed by the month (fitters, mechanics, carpenters, joiners, masons, smiths, etc.), receive Rs. 40 to Rs. 80 according to circumstances.

The number of persons employed in agriculture, whether by month or by day, was 72,027 (1931 census figures), in various manufacturing industries 15,085 and in building 2,438.

As regards domestic service, wages vary from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 per month for a butler or a cook. Chauffeurs get Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 per month, maids and "chokras" Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per month. The number of persons engaged in domestic service was 14,913 (1931 census).

The number of hours worked without overtime is, for labourers in Government employment, generally 48 hours per week; for agricultural labourers 40 to 48 according to tasks; for industrial workers generally 48.

Salaries paid in 1931 for senior officers are given in the following table :—

	Rs. Per annum.
Managers of sugar estates	10,000 to 15,000
Senior Government officials	
Government, banks, and commercial clerks (higher grade)	5,000 to 9,000
Clerks and employees on sugar estates	2,000 to 4,000
Junior clerks and employees	1,000 to 2,000

During the year, the cost of living continued on the downward trend until August, after which a rise was in evidence.

Rice, the staple food of the population, decreased to index 77 (the index for 1914 was 100) in the third quarter of the year but ascended to 86 in the last. Dhall was at 86 in the third quarter and at 92 in the last. Lentils and beans decreased from 95 and 90 respectively in the first quarter to 82 and 80 in the last. Flour, which had dropped to 61 in the third quarter, rose to 72 in the last. Oils rose from 72 in the first quarter to 110 in the last; lard decreased from 148 in the first quarter to 66 in the last. Tea and coffee, upon the whole, decreased, while salt beef and salt pork remained, on the average, about the same level.

Articles of clothing which, during the first three quarters had been stationary at about 154, rose to 174 during the last quarter.

The total cost of living for 1931 was indexed as follows :—

1st quarter	134.7
2nd quarter	127.0
3rd quarter	127.0
4th quarter	131.0

The mean for the year was 130.0 as compared with 150.3 in 1930.

The above figures refer especially to the labouring classes. The index numbers for the cost of living for the upper classes have not fallen to the same extent.

The purchasing power of labourers' wages, expressed in terms of rice (the staple food of the people), is set out in the following table, which portrays also this particular state of affairs since 1927 :—

Year.	*Average daily wage of a male labourer.*	*Average price of the cheaper rice. per lb.*	*Purchasing power of the wages expressed in lb. of rice.*
	Rs.	Rs.	lb.
1927 ...	1·25	0·13	9½
1928 ...	1·25	0·10	12½
1929 ...	1·00	0·10	10
1930 ...	0·80	0·09	9
1931 ...	0·75	0·08	9

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Primary.—Primary education is not compulsory, but it is given free through Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony. There are 128 primary schools altogether with a staff of 975 teachers, and the number of pupils on roll in 1931 was 36,691. State-aided schools are under the control of Managers, and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Children of not less than 5 years of age are admitted in a preparatory class and undergo a training before being promoted to the lowest form.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French and arithmetic. In the higher classes elementary history and geography are taught and girls study needlework. Regular instruction is also given in physical drill, nature study, hygiene, and elementary principles of agriculture. Examinations, conducted by a staff of Inspectors, are held annually.

Fourteen apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicrafts. Twenty-six Scholarships and Exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools managed by Government are awarded every year through competitive examinations to the best pupils attending primary schools.

Technical instruction was provided in three principal centres which have recently been closed on grounds of economy, and on the recommendation of the Financial Commission referred to in Chapter XVI. It is still provided on a moderate scale in a few aided primary schools.

There are now thirty gardens attached to the primary schools, and cultivated by the pupils themselves. These are regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation.

Secondary.—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz. : (i) secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (ii) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by Government.

(i) Aided secondary schools.—Government grants to secondary aided schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as in the case of primary aided schools, with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

These schools provide not only for elementary education such as is given in primary schools but also for higher education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate and the London Matriculation.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history, and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale.

These schools are visited periodically by the Chief Inspector of Schools, who examines the lower forms. The middle and higher forms are examined partly by local examiners and partly through examinations conducted by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools extend, as a general rule, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., no provision being made for evening classes.

(ii) The Royal College.—The Royal College, Curepipe, is a Government school for the higher education of boys up to the age of 20; affiliated to it is the Royal College School at Port Louis, where boys under the age of 18 are educated on the same lines. The staff of the Royal College consists of Rector, Senior Master, eleven Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, and eleven Assistant Masters locally appointed; and at the Royal College School, of Headmaster, two Masters, and eight Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. Examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped chemical and physical laboratories; but almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies.

Admission to the College is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning either one of the twenty Annual Primary Schools Scholarships and Exhibitions, or a Secondary Schools Scholarship or Exhibition (one of each is awarded annually). The boys are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from ten to twenty years.

About ten College Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded annually to College pupils and also a Classical and a Modern Scholarship of the present value of £1,300 (with first-class passage to and from England) tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom.

Besides the winners of these scholarships, a few boys whose parents can afford it go to England or France to study a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practice. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects; specialization begins at the entrance class; and the division into modern and classical sides becomes complete in the Senior Cambridge Class.

In addition to the standard secondary education there are additional classes in drawing, shorthand, and book-keeping and extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public science examinations are helped in their studies.

The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1931, was 356, and of the School, 167. The average attendance at the College was 305 and at the School, 150.

Encouragement is given to athletics, rugby and association football, hockey, boxing, and physical training and gymnastics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high.

Welfare Institutions.

There are five Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy, also an orphanage for boys and one for girls under the control and management of the Church of England, and one " home " for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland. These institutions receive from the Government a maintenance fee for each pauper maintained therein.

Outdoor assistance to paupers is granted by the Poor Law Department.

Several private religious societies for the distribution of assistance in food and medical care are also in existence. The " Société Française d'Assistance " assist chiefly destitute French people.

The Child Welfare Committee and the " Oeuvre de la Goutte de lait," two philanthropic institutions, deal especially with expectant or nursing mothers and their babies.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance provides for the grant of a compensation by the employer to workmen who may be injured in the course of their work.

Recreation, Music, Art, and Drama.

Association football is the most popular form of sport, and there is a stadium at Curepipe, a second at Cassis, on the outskirts of Port Louis, and a third at Rose Hill. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey, and Rugby football are played mostly by the better classes. The Mauritius Turf Club and the Mauritius Jockey Club hold race meetings from June to September at Champ de Mars, Port Louis, and Mangalkhan; and regattas are held by the yacht clubs at Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay. " La Chasse," or the shooting of driven deer can be said to be the national sport of Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies; the latter are known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy Scouts have not been so successful as the Girl Guides, but efforts are being made to encourage the movement.

There is not much encouragement for any of the arts. Music is fostered by the Parish Churches, whose amateur singers will frequently give concerts. Besides Church organists the Christian Brothers are almost alone in providing musical training.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent. The Institute has a collection of pictures presented by Mr. Rochecouste, but there is no other art gallery.

As for drama, there are occasional performances given by amateurs, but no permanent society has been formed. In better times the Municipality of Port Louis subsidizes a theatrical company from France which plays in the theatre at Port Louis. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town to which companies come from China when conditions are more prosperous.

There exists a " Royal Society of Arts and Sciences " which was founded in 1829 under the title of " Société d'Histoire Naturelle " and was granted a Royal Charter in 1846. It interests itself in most branches of science and arts especially those relating to questions of agriculture and the national history of the Colony. The Society was incorporated with the Mauritius Institute in 1906 and its library is being transferred to the Institute library.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads.

The Colony is well served with 494 miles of first-class roads called " main roads " and 188 miles of second-class roads, called " branch roads " which are maintained by the Public Works Department. This gives on the average about one mile of road per square mile of area. All roads are metalled and the surface of 137 miles of main roads has been coated with bitumen.

Heavy motor vehicles, with axle loads of not more than eight tons, are allowed on practically all the main roads. The freight cost of road motor transport in 1931 was Rs. 0.44 per ton mile for short distances not exceeding five miles. The passenger rate for motor omnibuses is about Rs. 0.02 per mile with a minimum charge of Rs. 0.05.

There were in use on the road in 1931 :—

1,578 private motor cars,
384 lorries,
289 motor taxis,
142 motor cycles,
141 motor omnibuses.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways, which are of the British standard 4′8½″ gauge, are 116.65 miles long (see map at the end of this Report). The North Line is 31 miles long, the Midland Line 35.30 miles long, the Moka-Flacq Line 23.20 miles long, the Black River Line 12.75 miles long, the Savanne Branch 10.90 miles long, and the Montagne Longue Line 3.50 miles long. The subsidiary Bois Cheri 2′6″ gauge Light Railway is 15 miles long and acts as a feeder to the Savanne Branch in the transport of canes.

The whole of the Black River Line and a part of the Moka-Flacq Line, 8 miles in length, were closed to passenger traffic in 1929. In order to accommodate the public and test the experiment of feeding the Railway, passengers, in the areas served by these lines, were temporarily provided with a Road Bus Service, by contract with a local road transport company. This service was not a financial success and was terminated on 15th December, 1931. The revenues for the years 1929-30 and 1930-31 were as follows :—

	Revenue 1929–30. Rs.	*Revenue 1930–31.* Rs.	*Difference.* Rs.
Passengers	781,749	606,668	— 175,081
Parcels	98,084	73,393	— 24,691
General Goods ...	1,313,577	1,143,729	— 169,848
Miscellaneous... ...	70,389	60.987	— 9,402
Net Revenue ...	80,600	119,354	+ 38,754
Total	2,344,399	2,004,131	— 340,268
Goods Tonnage ...	409,830	354,611	— 55,219

Road competition continues to depreciate the passenger traffic, and any reduction in the sugar crop inevitably reduces the traffic receipts. Further, the general financial depression prevailing throughout the Colony has adversely affected the Railway revenue. Passenger fares were reduced in January 1930, in the hope of arresting the then very rapid fall of passenger receipts; some initial success attended this measure but an increase in the bus traffic and reduction of the road fares charged were beyond the resources of the Railway. Heavy cuts in Railway expenditure are in progress and a Bill for the regulation of all transport in the Colony is under consideration.

Comparative figures of working expenditure for the years 1929-30 and 1930-31 are given below :—

	1929–30. Rs.	*1930–31.* Rs.	*Difference.* Rs.
Working expenditure	2,666,799	2,442,547	— 224.252
Net revenue expenditure	148,366	344,700	+ 196,334
Total	2,815,165	2,787,247	— 27,918

The excess of expenditure over revenue was Rs. 783,116.

Omnibuses.

The excellent system of roads connecting the various parts of the Colony has greatly facilitated the development of travelling by motorbuses, which now bring the remotest places of the island within easy and speedy access of Port Louis, and afford a cheap means of travelling. Rs. 0.15 is charged for the journey from Port Louis to Rose Hill (about 7 miles) and Rs. 0.25 from Port Louis to Curepipe (about 14 miles). At the end of 1931, there were in existence 141 motorbuses, and those on the road to and out of Port Louis carried an average of 3,500 persons a day.

Tramways.

Since the surra outbreak in 1901 which decimated the cattle of the island, a system of mechanical transport by tramways has been established on most sugar estates for the transport of canes from fields to factories and of sugar from factories to Railway stations, in addition to motor lorries. There are some 900 miles of tram line on estates and 7,150 wagons driven by 215 locomotives.

Posts and Telegraphs.

Mails from Europe are received by the Messageries Maritimes Company via Marseilles and the Suez Canal, and also by the Royal Mail Steamers to Cape Town and Durban and there transhipped to any steamer sailing for Mauritius. Mails can also be sent by air-route as far as Kisumu to catch the steamer at Mombasa.

The Messageries Maritimes Steamers call regularly every fortnight. Twenty-six of these vessels brought mails from Europe in 1931, and the average time taken was 39.6 days. Mails from India and the Far East for Mauritius are also transhipped on the Messageries Maritimes at Aden and Mombasa.

Twenty-eight ships carried European mails via Union of South Africa; the average time taken was 42.5 days.

Altogether the tale of the ships carrying mails to Mauritius was 209, and that of the ships carrying them away was 192.

The Dependencies of Mauritius consisting of Rodrigues and three groups of islands, viz. : (1) Diego Garcia and Peros Banhos, (2) Agalega, and (3) the six islands, also have a regular mail service from Mauritius. A steamer with mails leaves every two months for Rodrigues. Sailing vessels leave regularly every three months for the three groups of Oil Islands.

The total number of articles, other than parcels, which passed through the Post Office in 1931 was 3,339,882.

The number of parcels received from abroad was 22,155 of a value of Rs. 931,949. There came from the United Kingdom 4,456 ordinary parcels worth Rs. 164,511, and 1,942 cash-on-delivery parcels worth Rs. 84,135; from India 729 parcels worth Rs. 18,219, from France 10,391 parcels worth Rs. 478,319, and from other countries 4,637 parcels worth Rs. 186,765.

The number of parcels despatched abroad amounted to 3,132 for a value of Rs. 55,252.

Money Orders for £3,380 were issued on the United Kingdom and Europe, and Orders for Rs. 94,847 on India.

The length of telegraph lines open for traffic is 381 miles and the number of messages dealt with during the year was 89,345.

Telegraphic communication with the world outside is kept up by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, but there is also the Rose Belle Wireless Station which maintains a twenty-four hour service, and works mainly with ships at sea and with Reunion Island.

The station was built in 1915 by the British Admiralty for communicating with ships at sea, and also for communicating with the various Naval Wireless Stations in the Indian Ocean, but since June, 1923, it has been under the control of the Mauritius Government.

During the cyclone season, from November to April, a daily weather report is broadcasted to all ships and stations in the vicinity.

The normal transmitting range of the station is 500 miles by day and 1,000 miles by night; these ranges are, however, considerably exceeded during the non-cyclonic season.

The receiving range of the station is world wide, and is limited only by atmospheric storms which are at their worst during the cyclonic season.

Messages are accepted at any Post Office in the Colony for transmission to any ship within transmission range of the station.

The public telephone system belongs to the Oriental Telephone Company. There were 700 subscribers at the end of the year, two less than the year before.

The Government owns a Departmental telephone system, the total length of which is 150 miles. It is joined up with the Company's system.

Shipping.

The following statement shows the arrivals and tonnage of ships at Port Louis, apart from the coasting vessels, during the past three years:

	Number.	*Tonnage.*
1929	194	542,314
1930	179	496,245
1931	187	537,760

There were 18 arrivals of sailing vessels from the Dependencies.

The only regular lines of passenger steamers that call at Mauritius are the Messageries Maritimes Line (to and from Marseilles) and the Royal Packet Navigation Company of Batavia which inaugurated a monthly service between Java and South Africa via Mauritius during the year. Vessels of the Clan Line call about once a month and there are occasional arrivals of Union-Castle Line and British India Line cargo boats.

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are in the Colony three private banks, viz. :—

(*a*) The Mauritius Commercial Bank,
(*b*) The Mercantile Bank of India, and
(*c*) The Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838. The paid up capital of the Bank is Rs. 2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs. 200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1931, was Rs. 6,979,337.

The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1931, amounted to Rs. 2,642,490.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) has a paid up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local Bank on 31st December, 1931, amounted to Rs. 2,630,804. This Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank, Limited, was founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836), and the National Bank of South Africa, Limited. A branch of the last named Bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned. This Bank conducts a Savings Bank department and also pays interest on fixed deposits as well as conducting a short-term deposit business.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts with a Head Office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1931, was 37,419 as against 37,168 in the preceding year with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,264,304.04 as against Rs. 5,393,790.70. The Saving Bank is largely made use of by the Indians, of whom on 30th June, 1931, there were 15,787 depositors with Rs. 2,022,042.60 to their credit as against 16,601 depositors with Rs. 2,313,378.71 to their credit on 30th June, 1930. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

There are no agricultural and co-operative banks in the Colony but 28 Co-operative Credit Societies were in operation in the island on 31st December, 1931, with a total membership of 2,307, the total share capital originally contributed being Rs. 77,483.

Currency.

The currency of the island is based on the Indian Rupee. Apart from Indian silver coins the principal currency in circulation is provided by a Government issue of notes. The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 7,489,290 as compared with an average of Rs. 14,747,250 for the previous year. Against these notes the Commissioners of Currency held silver coins to the average value of Rs. 3,267,900, as compared with Rs. 4,862,000 in 1929-30:

Their investments on 1st July, 1929, amounted to Rs. 9,879,250 (which does not include Depreciation Fund). The figure remained unchanged during the year under review. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 1,700,189 to Rs. 1,791,334.64. From their investments the Currency Commissioners received interest which, after allowing for the increase in the Depreciation Fund, enabled Rs. 427,470.88 to be credited to the general revenue of the Colony.

The statement of assets and liabilities of the Commissioners of Currency shows a balance in their favour of Rs. 1,791,334.64 but if the investments are valued at the market rate of 30th June, 1931, the surplus will be decreased to Rs. 1,686,642.05.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use, but there are a number of English, French, and local measures also used, and as some of them will appear in this Report, it may be of use as well as of interest to mention them here.

Of French measures of length the *ligne française* is equal to 2.2558 millimetres or 0.0888 of an English inch. The French inch contains 12 *lignes* and the French foot twelve French inches. The French foot is equal to 1.0657653 English feet and is used by masons, carpenters, surveyors, and others.

The *lieue* is nearly equivalent to two and a-half English miles.

The *gaulette* is a measure of length equal to ten French feet. It is used on the estates as a measure of the work performed in the fields; a labourer is given a number of *gaulettes* as his task.

Forty thousand square French feet make one *arpent* which is equal to 1.0430263 acres; almost all land in Mauritius is measured by the *arpent*.

Other local measures of length and area are the *toise*, equal to two yards four inches or six French feet, and the *toise caree* (square *toise*) which is equal to thirty-six square French feet. This measure is used in masonry and similar jobs.

The *aune* is a measure of length used in most shops and is equal to about one yard and eleven inches.

English measures of length are generally used by Government, and road distances are measured in English miles. Places often derive their names from their distance from Port Louis or other important centres; thus there are places called "*Dixhuitieme Mille*," "*Seizieme Mille*" and so on. The kilometre is rarely used.

Of the local measures of capacity there is the *barrique* (equal to fifty gallons) which is used in sugar mills for measuring the amount of juice drawn from the cane.

The *tierçon* is a measure of capacity for molasses which varies from one hundred and ninety to one hundred and ninety-two litres.

The *velte* is a measure for oil, especially coconut oil, and is equal to 7.4505 litres.

The *bouteille* of eight hundred cubic centimetres is used in selling milk, vinegar, rum, and other like liquids. The half-bouteille is called *chopine*.

The weekly ration of rice of the labourer given on estates is called *gamelle*: it is equivalent to 5.250 kilogrammes.

The *livre* is equal to five hundred grammes or 1.10 English pounds.

The *corde* is employed for measuring stacks of firewood. The wood is stacked in lengths of two and a-half feet and laid crosswise until the stack measures four French feet high and eight French feet long and contains eighty cubic French feet or 96.82 English cubic feet.

Besides local and French measures of capacity, English measures are also in use and, when speaking of agricultural and other products, it may be well to say that four bales of aloe fibre go to the metric ton, that a bag of sugar, unless otherwise specified, weighs 80 kilograms and that a "pocket" of sugar is generally 39½ kilos

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Administration.—The Public Works Department is under the control of the Director of Public Works and Surveys with two executive officers—the Deputy Director, and the Assistant Director.

The Department is composed of the following branches: building, drainage, roads and bridges, survey, water-supply, and irrigation.

The Mare aux Vacoas reservoir from which water is supplied to the district of Plaines Wilhems, part of Moka, Black River, and

Port Louis, is under the control of the Public Works Department. The water-supply of the remainder of the island is under the charge of District Boards.

Each branch has a staff of Inspectors, Overseers, &c., under the control of the Head of the branch.

Buildings.—The only construction work of any importance carried out during the year has been an Out-patient Department for the Civil Hospital, Port Louis, a building measuring 100 feet by 40 feet.

Much damage to the Government buildings was caused by the cyclone of March, 1931, and this necessitated a good deal of repair work.

Sewerage Works of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922 the scheme was revised by Messrs. Mansergh and Sons and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connexions, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

Bridges.—As a result of the cyclone of March, 1931, and floods which accompanied it, several bridges were carried away. Two of these of 75 feet span were reconstructed during the year, the bridges having been ordered from the Crown Agents for the Colonies in accordance with their standard designs.

Old timber bridges are being gradually replaced by ferro-concrete structures, and one more bridge (three spans of 20 feet) has been added to the list of reconstructions during the year.

Water Works.—The water-supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from the Grand River North West at a distance of about four miles from the town and at a level of 250 feet. This supply was under the charge of the Municipality of the town until 1922 when it was handed over to the Public Works and Surveys Department.

The dam in the river was burst by the flood of December, 1929, and much of the pipe line leading from it was also swept away. Water was pumped from Grand River North West to give Port Louis its normal supply during the dry season, while during the wet season the supply was obtained by gravitation from Moka River through the Pailles Canal.

The works of restoration of the dam and pipe line were begun in September, 1931, and will reach completion by the end of February, 1932.

The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated.

The capacity of the mains leading to the filters is 5,000,000 gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of 2,000,000 gallons.

The water-supply of the towns of Plaines Wilhems and of parts of Moka and Black River districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare aux Vacoas at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons.

The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands.

The whole of this water-supply is filtered through sand filters at "La Marie," about two miles below the reservoir whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being 5,500,000 gallons.

The population served by this supply is approximately 90,000 and the average daily consumption 3,500,000 gallons.

The Mare aux Vacoas water-supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. At present it is confined mostly to Government establishments, ships in harbour, and certain selected establishments, but the increase of the supply will be limited to 900,000 gallons per day. In this connexion a covered service reservoir at Petite Riviere of 750,000 gallons was completed during the year and put into operation.

The water-supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from twenty-seven different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest. The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000 and belongs mostly to the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains.

Irrigation Works.—Government storage irrigation works were begun in 1914 according to plans made by Mr. C. M. Harriott, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Central Provinces, India, and Consulting Engineer for Irrigation Works to the Government of Mauritius.

The La Ferme scheme for the irrigation of the south-west of the island, between Grand River North West and River Dragon, has been finished, and the Nicolière scheme, to irrigate land in the north, has been started. These two schemes cover a great deal of the fertile lands of the Colony which are below the level which enjoys 60 inches of rain and cannot be cultivated to the best advantage without irrigation water.

The La Ferme scheme is dependent on a low-level reservoir of 2,500 million gallons which was completed in 1918 and now irrigates 3,700 acres of land under sugar-cane plantation.

The plans for the Nicolière scheme include a high-level storage reservoir at 1,300 feet altitude at Midlands of 4,400 million gallons capacity meant to fill a low-level reservoir at Nicolière of a capacity of about 250 million gallons.

The Nicolière reservoir has been finished but although some land under cane cultivation is being irrigated from it, the full scheme will only be working when the Midlands reservoir is completed. Owing to financial conditions the plans were first curtailed and the works afterwards suspended as a result of the visit of the Financial Commission, but the feeder channel which measures 16¾ miles from Midlands to Nicolière was completed by the end of the year.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

Justice.

Justice is administered in Mauritius by the Supreme Court which sits in the capital (Port Louis). It is presided over by the Chief Judge and there are two Puisne Judges. It has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters and also as a Court of Admiralty : it also decides Appeals from the Supreme Court of Seychelles and the inferior Courts of Mauritius.

In the nine districts, there are Magistrates' Courts which have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction; the total number of Courts being eleven, two each for Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems, and one for each of the other districts.

In 1931, the Supreme Court dealt with 317 civil matters out of 401 which were brought before it, as against 334 out of 483 in the year before. Nineteen persons were brought before this Court on criminal charges and seventeen were convicted.

10,986 persons were tried in the Magistrates' Courts and by Benches of Magistrates. 841 were acquitted or discharged by the District Magistrates, 9,919 were convicted, and 23 committed to the Assizes. 30 were acquitted or discharged by the Stipendiary Magistrates and 173 were convicted. The number of persons fined was 7,628, and 869 were admitted to prison for non-payment of fines.

The Magistrates also held 222 Judicial Enquiries under the provisions of Ordinance 23 of 1888 as amended by Ordinance 25 of 1926.

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force is mainly a civil force but all ranks are instructed to bear arms on enlistment and special detachments are given periodical training in platoon and Lewis Gun formations.

The officers of the Force are provided by appointment, transfer from other Police Forces, or by promotion from the ranks, and the rank and file are recruited locally and include natives of Mauritius, Rodrigues, India, and Seychelles.

Distribution.—The Force is divided into Headquarters Staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Motor Traffic Branch, Training Depot, Harbour Police, District Police, Railway Police, Rodrigues Police, and Band.

The District Police are distributed throughout the nine Magisterial districts in fifty-five units or stations, varying as regards numbers of personnel, from one to thirty-five.

The Rodrigues and Railway Police are drawn from trained members of the general Police Force and are under the control of the Magistrate of Rodrigues and the General Manager of Railways respectively.

The Band is now maintained as a separate unit under Police control, with an establishment corresponding to the usual Military Band formation, and, with the exception of a European Bandmaster and some army-trained musicians from India, is made up of locally trained men and boys.

Crime.—The number of offences of every description reported to the Police during the year 1931, was 18,194, which shows a decrease on the figure for 1930—which was 18,932—and a decrease on the average figure for the past five years—which is 18,868.

A comparison with the figures for 1930 shows:—

(*a*) An increase in offences against the person—7,452 in 1931 and 7,267 in 1930;

(*b*) A decrease in offences against property—3,021 in 1931 and 3,716 in 1930.

In the above cases 8,016 persons were prosecuted; 7,197 convicted; 430 otherwise disposed of; and 389 were pending trial at the end of the year.

Corresponding figures for the previous year were:—persons prosecuted 8,428; persons convicted 7,557; otherwise disposed of 525; pending trial 346.

All the above figures are the lowest on record and are very remarkable in view of the financial crisis through which the Colony is passing and the consequent unemployment, poverty, and unrest.

The efficiency of the Police Force has been fully maintained as regards the detection of crime, the percentage of undetected serious offences being much below the average, while the proportion of offences to population is also the lowest on record.

Prisons.

Organization.—The Prison Department consists of a Superintendent of Prisons (who is also Inspector-General of Police) with a staff of four European Chief Warders and Assistant Chief Warders, and 108 locally recruited subordinate officers.

Establishments.—There are two prisons in the Colony, Port Louis Central Prison and Beau Bassin Convict Prison, and an Industrial School for male juvenile offenders.

Port Louis Prison contains the offices of the Department, quarters for two Chief Warders, the female prison with accommodation for forty prisoners and two Wardresses, and the male prison with separate cells for 154 prisoners. All prisoners are received here for classification and disposal.

Beau Bassin Prison contains separate cells for 756 male prisoners, and quarters for the Superintendent and two Chief Warders are in the surrounding grounds.

Barkly Industrial School provides accommodation for 200 boys and there are quarters for the officer in charge and six subordinate officers in the grounds of the institution. Male juvenile offenders are sent here direct by the Police without passing through the Central Prison.

Classification.—Prisoners are classified as (*a*) penal servitude, (*b*) hard labour, (*c*) first-class misdemeanants, (*d*) second-class misdemeanants, and (*e*) juveniles and first offenders, and, so far as accommodation permits, the various classes are kept separate.

Classes (*a*) and (*b*) serve their sentences at Beau Bassin and the remainder at Port Louis.

Labour.—At Port Louis Prison the principal forms of labour for male prisoners are carpentry, stone-breaking, wood-cutting, carting prison supplies and stores, and cleaning Government buildings and grounds.

Women prisoners are employed on laundry work, and making and repairing uniforms and bedding.

Beau Bassin Prison contains the main workshops where long-sentence prisoners are trained as tailors, boot and mattress makers, mat, blind and brushmakers, carpenters and cabinet makers, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, and stonemasons.

There is also a bakery where bread is made for all Government hospitals, etc., and large gardens where all kinds of vegetables, etc., are cultivated and prisoners are taught the rudiments of agricultural methods.

Population.—The number of prisoners of all categories (i.e., sentenced and waiting trial) admitted during the year was 3,775, and the daily average population was 623.70.

The number of sentenced prisoners received from the Courts was 2,337 (2,223 men and 114 women) of whom 1,334 had received sentences of one month or less.

On 31st December, 1931, there were 677 persons in custody, of whom 654 were convicted, 640 being males and 14 females.

The above figures, which do not include the inmates of the Industrial School, are much in excess of the average figures for the past nine years, and corresponding figures for 1930 were as follows:—

Total committals	3,582
Total sentenced	2,105
In custody on 31st December, 1930	529

This increase is undoubtedly due to the difficult economic conditions now existing and a resulting inability to pay fines; as already stated 869 persons were admitted to prison for non-payment of fines.

Health.—Each establishment is visited daily by a Government Medical Officer and all sick prisoners are accommodated in well-organized prison hospitals.

Owing to an outbreak of dysentery at Beau Bassin Prison, which was responsible for 14 deaths, the number of prisoners who died in 1931 was 33 as compared with 22 for 1930. Apart from this epidemic the health of the prisoners was good.

Juvenile Offenders.—Any boy below the age of 16 years who is sentenced to imprisonment serves his sentence at Barkly Industrial School where the minimum period of detention is 12 months, or any boy may be detained until he attains the age of 18 years.

The school's principal aim is to teach the inmates agriculture or a useful trade, and for this purpose a staff of instructors is employed who teach gardening, carpentry, or tinsmith work according to the boys' history and capacity.

Teachers from the Schools Department give all boys the normal primary school education, and religious instruction is attended to by visiting Priests.

The discipline is strict as regards drill, punctuality, cleanliness, etc., but there is very little suggestion of penal methods in the rules of the institution as parents visit the boys frequently and week-end leave is often earned and granted.

The health of the boys has, as usual, been excellent, and their general conduct is remarkably good.

For the past few years the number of inmates has decreased steadily and at the end of 1931 the school population was 56, compared with 96 in 1925, when the original Reformatory and Industrial School were amalgamated. This reduction in numbers appears to be due principally to there being less juvenile vagrants in the streets than formerly, and no admissions of paupers, orphans, or " rescue " cases, as was formerly the practice.

The question of after-care presents some difficulty as it is not easy to obtain employment for the boys on discharge, but in the absence of unofficial voluntary workers to this end, the responsibility is accepted by the officers of the school with satisfactory results.

The percentage of reconvictions is slowly decreasing each year and compares favourably with similar figures for institutions of the Borstal type elsewhere.

Female juvenile offenders are usually accommodated in a Convent at Port Louis but there were no such fresh cases during the year.

Payment of fines by instalments.—Ordinance No. 29 of 1892 gives the power to any Court to direct that a fine or other pecuniary penalty or costs be paid by instalments, and execution of the judgment is accordingly stayed.

Ordinance No. 28 of 1896 limits the power given to Courts by Ordinance No. 29 of 1892 and lays down that the time to be fixed for payment by instalments shall in no case exceed six months (for sums above Rs.50) and shall be less than six months, according to the scale given in the Ordinance, for sums up to Rs. 50.

Ordinance 29 of 1892 enacts that the Court may, when granting time for payment of fine, etc., request that security be furnished.

If default be made in the payment of any instalment, execution may issue for the recovery of the instalments remaining due as if no order had been made for payment by instalments, and if security has been furnished the recognizance is estreated as laid down in article 136 of Ordinance No. 23 of 1888.

It might be added that Ordinance No. 72 of 1898 enacts that instead of forthwith issuing a warrant for the imprisonment of a person who fails to pay the fine imposed on or the costs decreed against him, a Magistrate may issue a warrant of execution against the goods and chattels of such person. If the execution against the goods and chattels proves fruitless the Magistrate can then issue a warrant for imprisonment in default of payment of fines and costs.

The Probation of Offenders Ordinance, No. 38 of 1898, as extended by Ordinance No. 39 of 1902, provides for the conditional or unconditional release of a first offender at the discretion of the Court before which he appears, when the trifling nature of the offence or the good character or the youth of the offender make leniency advisable.

In the course of 1931, 131 offenders were so released.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

A list of the Ordinances passed and the subsidiary legislation issued during the year under review, as well as an indication of the changes introduced, are given in Appendices I, II, and III, to this Report. Of the Ordinances passed in 1931, the following which are important and of interest not purely local may be mentioned specifically :—

> *Employment of Children.*—No. 2 prohibits absolutely the employment in factories of children under the age of thirteen, and provides for the punishment by fine not only of a person so employing a child, but also of a parent or guardian directly or by neglect responsible for allowing a child to be so employed.
>
> *Hurricane Loan.*—Nos. 10 and 16 provide for the raising of a loan of £750,000 guaranteed by the British Treasury and for the distribution in the Colony to meet the wants and necessities created by the hurricane of March, 1931, and No. 34 permits Treasury Bills to be issued in anticipation of the issue of the loan.

Workmen's Compensation.—No. 13 introduces in the Colony the principle of employers' liability for accidents in the course of workmen's employment. The Ordinance is based on English and South African statutes. The Mauritius Ordinance received the unreserved approval of the Secretary of State, and was circulated to other Colonies as a draft model.

Customs Tariff.—No. 23 raises the import duty on tobacco by Rs. 2.00 per kilo, on motor spirit by Rs. 2.00 per hectolitre, and on all other dutiable goods imported into the Colony by 10 per cent. The increase, however, does not apply to such articles as form the staple food of the population of the Colony.

Pensions.—No. 24 does away with the abatement of pensions on re-employment of pensioners in Government service, and provides also for the payment in full of all pensions under abatement at the date of coming into force of the Ordinance.

Arbitration Clauses.—No. 26 gives effect in this Colony to the protocol on Arbitration Clauses signed at Geneva on 24th September, 1923, and No. 27 to the Convention on the Execution of Foreign Awards on Arbitration as contemplated in the Convention signed at Geneva on 26th September, 1927.

Factory legislation and compensation for accidents are provided by Ordinances Nos. 2 and 13 of 1931 referred to above, while Poor Law Ordinance No. 17 of 1902 as amended by Ordinance No. 39 of 1913 provides for the relief of indigents or destitutes.

CHAPTER XV.

FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1931, amounted to Rs. 11,552,210.08, being Rs. 3,291,586.92 below the Estimates of 1930-31 and Rs. 2,931,257.81 below the revenue of the previous year.

The expenditure for the same period amounted to Rs. 16,092,073.89, being Rs. 862,613.89 above the Estimates for 1930-31 and Rs. 517,072.72 above the expenditure of the previous year. The expenditure included a sum of Rs. 971,630.20 for writing off depreciation on securities, an item for which allowance had not been made in previous years' accounts. Apart from this sum, the current expenditure of the year was Rs. 454,557.48 *below* that of 1929-30.

The expenditure incurred during the financial year exceeded the revenue by Rs. 4,539,863.81, which amount represents the deficit on the financial transactions of the Colony for 1930-31.

Of the expenditure for 1930-31 Rs. 5,032,366.84 were spent on "Personal Emoluments", and Rs. 11,059,707.05 on "Other Charges". The corresponding figures for 1929-30 were

Rs. 5,056,573.79 for "Personal Emoluments" and Rs. 10,518,427.38 for "Other Charges".

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	*Revenue.* *Rs.*	*Expenditure.* *Rs.*
1926-27	14,682,806	16,461,061
1927-28	15,308,918	16,725,513
1928-29	13,322,248	16,930,182
1929-30	14,483,467	15,575,001
1930-31	11,552,210	16,092,073

The Colonial Government pays a military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its revenue (total revenue exclusive of land sales, irrigation, Mare aux Vacoas and other waterworks, revenue, contribution towards loan 1922 charges, and special export duty on sugar) as a contribution to the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. The amount of the contribution for the year ended 30th June, 1931, was Rs. 723,305.78.

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony, which on 30th June, 1930, stood at £2,796,994 7s. 7d., remained at that same figure on 30th June, 1931.

Against this liability of £2,796,994 7s. 7d. there was an accumulated sinking fund of £1,258,662 19s. 9d., as compared with £1,144,934 3s. 8d. on 30th June, 1930.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets and liabilities at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 26,070,381.37 and Rs. 23,972,114.58 respectively, showing a net surplus of Rs. 2,098,266.79 on 30th June, 1931.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1931.

	Rs.		Rs.
Deposits	21,800,154.52	**Cash ... ...**	1,348,509.95
Colonial Military Lands Fund	50,384.95	**Investments ... ...**	11,238,150.21
Government of India ...	203,371.62	**Advances ... ...**	9,548,652.64
Family remittances ...	5,431.32	**Advances pending raising of loans ... ...**	1,343,249.28
Loan Funds unexpended ...	1,912,772.17	**Unallocated stores ...**	459,365.53
Surplus of assets over liabilities	2,098,266.79	**Balance due by the Railway Department in respect of stores unallocated taken over on 1st July, 1926 ... ...**	2,020,001.00
		Value of land and buildings given up by the War Department ...	50,384.95
		Government of Seychelles	8,270.34
		Remittances	53,797.47
	26,070,381.37		26,070,381.37

The main heads of taxation, with their yield, for the current year, as compared with the preceding year, are the following :—

		Year 1930-31. *Rs.*	*Year* 1929-30. *Rs.*
Customs	Import duties ...	3,822,385.11	4,112,684.81
	Export duties ...	54,503.71*	1,551,221.14
Excise duty on rum issued for home consumption ...		1,445,812.94	2,020,212.27
Licence duty		1,097,327.57	1,180,281.65
Tobacco Excise		429,959.86	369,297.53
Taxes on vehicles and animals		365,969.55	405,584.32
House tax		193,675.56	495,604.12

* Special export duty on sugar remitted.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION AND THE YIELD OF EACH.

Customs.

Import duty.

1913.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
Rs. 3,506,622	Rs. 4,088,436	Rs. 4,136,008	Rs. 3,762,014

Export duty.

1913.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
Rs. 570,948	Rs. 895,551	Rs. 220,584	Rs.41,802

Customs Tariff (summarized).

The following shows the rates of duty of the principal imports and exports, as on 31st December, 1931.

Imports.

*Rice	63c per 100 kilos.	Wines in casks up to 14°.	Rs. 20·00 per hectol.
*Dholl ...	Rs. 1·14 " " "	Wines in cases (still) up to 14°.	30c per litre.
*Flour	94c " " "	Spirits (proof) ...	Rs. 6·25 per litre.
Fertilizers ...	10c " " "	*Tobacco, manufactured.	Rs. 11·50 kilo.
Coal	7c " " "	* " cigarettes	Rs. 13·00 "
Petroleum oil	Rs. 4·80 per hectol.	Iron and steel (galvanized).	Rs. 1·50 per 100 kilos.
*Petroleum spirits	Rs. 14·00 " "	Iron and steel (not galvanized)	Rs. 1·00 per 100 kilos.
Soap, common	Rs. 1·75 per 100 kilos.	Most manufactured articles.	12 per cent. a.v. (on an average).

* *Note.*—The above rates are increased by 10 per cent. except on articles marked.

Exports.

Sugar ...	2c per 100 kilos.	Aloe fibre. ...	R. 1·00 per 1,000 kilos.

Principal preferential rates on imports.

	Preferential.	*General.*
Motor Cars, Buses and Tubes ...	5 per cent. a.v.	33⅓ per cent. a.v.
Silk	12 ,, ,, ,,	20 ,, ,, ,,
Indigo	Rs. 1 per kilo.	Rs. 2.50 kilo.
Cement	20c per 100 kilos.	Rs. 0·60 per 100 kilos.
Cinema Films	Free	2½c per metre.
Machinery, industrial	Rs.1.32 per 1,000 kilo.	5 per cent. a.v.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

The duty on rum for home consumption is Rs. 2.75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

The duty on rum to be denatured for heating or lighting purposes is four cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of four cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier.

The duty on rum to be denatured for industrial purposes is four cents per litre or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier.

The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures or drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of "Alcoolats" in accordance with the formulae of the *British Pharmacopoeia* or the *French Codex* or of any other tincture or drug to be notified in Gazette is Rs. 2.50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier, with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre of every degree above 23 degrees.

The duty on vinegar is Rs. 1.70 per hectolitre on vinegar not exceeding 8 degrees of strength and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8 degrees.

According to the excise figures the number of litres of alcohol distilled in 1930-31 (July to June) was 618,172, as compared with an average of 761,626 litres for the past five years.

Three Government notifications affecting the revenue of the Colony were passed during the financial year 1930-31, viz. :—

No. 144 of 13th September, 1930, which provides for a yearly licence of R. 1—for hawkers or sellers of matches locally manufactured :

No. 149 of 27th September, 1930, which provides for a half-yearly licence of Rs. 5—for sellers of leather locally prepared : and

No. 179 of 25th October, 1930, which provides for a half-yearly licence of Rs. 200—for manufacturers of tobacco.

The Stamp Laws were amended and consolidated by the passing on 23rd November, 1926, of Ordinance 22 of 1926. This Ordinance was put into force on 23rd July, 1927, by Proclamation No. 32 of 1927.

Stamp duties are of three kinds :—

A duty in proportion to the size of the paper used ;
A fixed duty ; and
An *ad valorem* duty.

House Tax.

Rates.—(1) A flat-rate of one rupee per annum on every habitable room of any building assessed at Rs. 500, or less; the rate not to exceed Rs. 3; and

(2) 1 per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs. 500.

Yield.—The house tax is estimated to yield Rs. 365,488.85 for the year 1931.

Method of Assessment.—Any building liable to the house tax is assessed according to its full and fair value.

In assessing the full and fair value, the valuer takes into consideration the actual or possible rent a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for such building. This applies only to buildings whose basic value is above Rs. 500 and on which the annual tax is 1 per cent. on the value.

Method of collection.—For the purpose of collecting the house tax when the assessment arrived at is final for the year, notices for payment are served upon owners of buildings and the tax is paid to the Cashier of the district in which it is levied.

CHAPTER XVI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The general elections of Members of the Legislative Council took place early in 1931. Five of the ten previous Members were returned. The Nominated Unofficial Members were renominated for a further term with the exception of the junior Member whose seat was vacated to allow of the appointment of a representative of the Hindu community, no Hindu having obtained a seat in the elections.

Before the new Council had met, however, the island was visited by one of the worst cyclones since the hurricane of 1892, and one of the Members' first duties was to vote funds for the relief of sufferers.

The cyclone of 5th-8th March is by far the most important event of the year under review; the casualties were happily small, but the damage to property and plantations was considerable; in some places the effects were devastating and the reduction in the output of sugar amounted to over 75,000 tons, i.e., more than one-third of the crop anticipated before the hurricane; the damage done was estimated at over Rs. 9,000,000.

For the immediate relief of the sufferers a sum of Rs. 20,000 was placed at the disposal of a "Relief Committee" by the Government; this was soon increased by £5,000 granted by the Imperial Government, 250,000 francs from the neighbouring French Colony of Madagascar, and about Rs. 25,000 raised by private subscriptions.

The cyclone destroyed many hopes of those interested in the sugar industry: prices were already very low and such a reduction in the output was disastrous.

The aloe fibre industry also suffered heavily: the aloe leaves were so damaged by the bad weather that the factories had to close for the major part of the year.

The Home Government consented to guarantee the issue of a loan of £750,000 to be raised in England, £500,000 of which was to be allocated for loans to planters and house owners secured by first mortgage on their property; the amount advanced in each case to be only in respect of damage caused by the hurricane. The balance of the loan was to be allocated for the repair of Government property and for public works. The loan was guaranteed on condition that an investigation should be made by a Financial Commission to be appointed by the Home Government with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget at the earliest possible date. The legislation required both in England and locally was passed during the year, and the first payments were effected before the beginning of 1932.

The Financial Commissioners appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies were Sir Ivo Elliott, Bart., late of the Indian Civil Service, and Mr. N. G. Loughnane, C.B., of the Home Civil Service. The Commissioners left England on 9th July and landed in Mauritius on 23rd August. After a two months' stay during which they visited all the Government Departments, and the more important public institutions, and some private enterprises, the Commissioners left Mauritius on the 26th October reaching London on the 30th November. Their report had not been published at the close of 1931.

Early in the year His Excellency Sir W. Jackson inaugurated the new pineapple canning factory. This new enterprise will, it is hoped, prove to be a success and help to establish another subsidiary industry in Mauritius. The funds were partly supplied from the Improvement and Development Fund.

Another interesting event of the year was the visit of the German cruiser *Emden*. This cruiser, which was touring round the world, spent a week (18th-25th August) in Port Louis Harbour, and is the first German man-of-war to come to Mauritius since the war.

The island was also visited by H.M.S. *Effingham* and by the French sloop *Antares*. The latter called at Mauritius on her way to Madagascar from the Kerguelen Islands.

The *Effingham* flying the flag of Admiral Sir G. Fullerton stayed at Mauritius from 18th to 26th July when she left for Rodrigues with the Governor, the Officer Commanding the Troops, the Director, Medical and Health Department, and the Acting Director of Agriculture, returning on 3rd August.

W. H. INGRAMS,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

30th June, 1932.

APPENDIX 1.

A TABLE OF THE TITLES OF THE ORDINANCES PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS DURING THE YEAR 1931.

No.	*Titles.*
1.	To provide for the publication of a supplementary volume to the revised edition of the legislative enactments of the Colony.
2.	To prohibit the employment of children in factories.
3.	To amend the Military Contribution Ordinance, 1897.
4.	To amend the Merchant Shipping (Extension) Ordinance, 1910.
5.	To alter the titles of Forest Officers and to make consequential amendments to the laws and regulations affected thereby.
6.	To amend the Laws relating to Distilleries.
7.	To amend the Licences (Consolidating) Ordinance, 1915.
8.	To amend the Succession Duties (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914.
9.	For applying a further sum not exceeding Rs. 702,804.45 to the service of the year 1929-30.
10.	To make provisions for loans not exceeding a total of £500,000 to planters and others to meet the wants and necessities created by the hurricane of the 5th to 8th March, 1931.
11.	To amend the Harbour Dues Ordinance, 1921.
12.	To authorize the Receiver of Registration Dues to refund to the Board of Commissioners for the town of Curepipe portions of the registration dues and all transcription duties levied on certain deeds of transfer already registered and transcribed.
13.	To provide for the payment of compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment.
14.	To make provision for the public service for the financial year 1931-32.
15.	To amend the Cinematograph Ordinance, 1912.
16.	To provide for the raising of a loan for certain purposes.
17.	To amend the Customs Tariff (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1929.
18.	To amend the Mauritius Hurricane (Loan Appropriation) Ordinance, 1931.
19.	To validate a resolution passed by the Council of Government increasing the excise duty on tobacco.
20.	To make better provisions for the management of markets and slaughter houses in the town of Beau Bassin and Rose Hill.
21.	To make better provisions for the management of markets and slaughter houses in the town of Quatre Bornes.
22.	To amend the Curepipe (Markets and Slaughter Houses) Ordinance, 1913.
23.	To validate a resolution passed by the Council of Government increasing the Customs import duties on certain goods and to amend the Customs Tariff (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1929.
24.	To amend the Pension Laws.
25.	To remove doubts as to the validity and the date of the publication of certain Ordinances.
26.	To give effect to a Protocol on Arbitration Clauses signed on behalf of His Majesty at a meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations held on the twenty-fourth day of September, nineteen hundred and twenty-three.
27.	To give effect to a certain Convention on the execution of Arbitral Awards.
28.	To amend the Licences (Consolidating) Ordinance, 1915.
29.	To amend the Fisheries Ordinance, 1918.
30.	To make special provision in regard to the pension of Mrs. E. Berthelot, Nurse, Medical and Health Department.
31.	To make provision for the Mauritius Government Railways for the financial year 1931-2.

No. *Titles.*

32. To amend the Mauritius Jockey Club Incorporation Ordinance, 1930.
33. To amend the Mauritius Hurricane (Appropriation) Ordinance, 1931, as amended by the Mauritius Hurricane Loan (Appropriation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.
34. To provide for the issue of Treasury Bills for certain purposes.
35. To empower the Board of Commissioners for the town of Curepipe to raise a loan of Rs. 100,000.
36. To provide for the protection of beneficial insects and to regulate their capture, removal, possession, sale, and distribution.
37. To amend the Municipality Ordinance, 1903.
38. To provide for the dissolution of the Society "Œuvre de Nazareth de l'Ile Maurice" and for the transfer of all property, rights, and liabilities of the said Society to the "Société de Saint Vincent de Paul."
39. To amend Ordinance No. 31 of 1890 (Church of Scotland Ordinance).
40. To make better provision for the recovery of rent at Bell Village and for the eviction of tenants for non-payment thereof.
41. To amend Ordinances No. 23 of 1887 and 32 of 1909 (Bankruptcy).
42. To regulate the issue of accepted accounts.
43. To amend the Mare-aux-Vacoas Works (Amendment) Ordinance, 1930.
44. To constitute the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Mauritius and its Dependencies into a body corporate and to make provision for the ownership, vesting and management of any property it may now possess or may hereafter acquire in Mauritius and its Dependencies.
45. To amend the Interest Ordinance, 1882.
46. To amend the Tobacco Production and Marketing Ordinance, 1930.
47. To amend the law regarding the Paper Currency.
48. To amend the Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926.

APPENDIX II.

ORDINANCES ETC. PASSED IN PRECEDING YEARS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER) REPEALED OR AMENDED BY THE ORDINANCES OF 1931.

Ordinances, etc. affected.	*Subject matter or Short Title.*	*How affected.*	*Ordinances 1931.*
Code of Commerce. Art. 11	Trade-books	Repealed as useless, being replaced in Ordinance 41 of 1931.	41, Art. 15
	Woods and Forests ...	The Woods and Forests Department constituted *de novo* as the Forest Department and all changes in titles and powers effected.	5 „ 2
18 of 1874 ...	Woods and Forests ...	Re-adjustments necessary under the new constitution:	
„ ...	„ „ ...	Arts. 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 repealed.	5 „ 21
„ ...	„ „ ...	Art. 42 amended	5 „ 9
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 43 „	5 „ 10
13 of 1875 ...	Woods and Forests ...	Art. 7 amended	5 „ 11
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 23 „	5 „ 12
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 32 „	5 „ 13
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 33 „	5 „ 14
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 36 „	5 „ 15
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 41 „	5 „ 16
28 of 1876 ...	Paper currency ...	Art. 9 amended	47 „ 2
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 10 repealed	47 „ 3
10 of 1881 ...	Woods and Forests ...	Re-adjustments under the new Constitution:	
„ ...	„ „ ...	Art. 36 amended	5 „ 17
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 50 „	5 „ 18
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 56 repealed	5 „ 21
35 of 1882 ...	Interest Ordinance ...	Legal rate under Article 3 lowered from 9 per cent. to 6 per cent.	45 „ 2
23 of 1887 ...	Bankruptcy	Art. 32 amended	41 „ 5
„ ...	„	„ 71 „	41 „ 6
„ ...	„	„ 118 „	41 „ 7
„ ...	„	„ 135 „	41 „ 8
„ ...	„	„ 136 „	41 „ 4
„ ...	„	„ „ „	41 „ 8
32 of 1888 ...	Boiler explosions (Accidents resulting).	Art. 16 repealed	13 „ 41
31 of 1890 ...	Church of Scotland ...	Art. 2 amended	38 „ 2
31 of 1895 ...	Beau Bassin and Rose Hill (Markets and Slaughter Houses).	Art. 7 amended	20 „ 9
„ ...	„ „ „ ...	„ 8 „	20 „ 7
32 of 1895 ...	Quatre Bornes (Markets and Slaughter Houses).	„ 7 „	21 „ 9
„ ...	„ „ „ ...	„ 8 „	21 „ 7

Ordinances, etc. affected.	*Subject matter or Short Title.*	*How affected.*	*Ordinances 1931.*
8 of 1898 ...	Interpretation and Common Form.	Section E (Departmental Definitions) of Article 29 amended.	5, Art. 19
23 of 1903 ...	Control over Port Louis markets.	Powers of Municipal Corporation under Articles 72 (i) and (ii) enlarged.	37 „ 21
36 of 1904 ...	Distilleries	Art. 16 amended	6 „ 8
„ ...	„	„ 24 „	6 „ 13
32 of 1909 ...	Bankruptcy	Art. 5 amended	41 „ 4
„ ...	„	„ „ „	41 „ 8
„ ...	„	Power of Magistrate under Article 13 to be exercisable by an Inspector of Police.	41 „ 13
20 of 1910 ...	Merchant Shipping ...	Art. 2 extended to ships calling in for oil fuel, water, or store.	4 „ 2
17 of 1912 .	Cinematograph ...	Power of control of Governor in Executive Council under Article 6 extended.	15 „ 20
44 of 1913 ...	Curepipe (Markets and Slaughter Houses).	Power of Board to make Regulations under Article 1 enlarged.	22 „ 2
„ ...	„ „ „	Art. 3 amended	22 „ 3
„ ...	„ „ „	„ 4 „	22 „ 4
47 of 1914 ...	Succession duties ...	Art. 5 amended	8 „ 2
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 6 extended to donations *inter vivos.*	8 „ 3
29 of 1915 ...	Beau Bassin and Rose Hill (Markets and Slaughter Houses).	Art. 5 repealed	20 „ 9
„ ...	„ „ „	„ 6 „	20 „ 9
„ ...	„ „ „	„ 7 „	20 „ 9
30 of 1915 ...	Quatre Bornes (Markets and Slaughter Houses.)	Art. 5 repealed	21 „ 9
„ ...	„ „ „	„ 6 „	21 „ 9
„ ...	„ „ „	„ 7 „	21 „ 9
32 of 1915 ...	Licences (of manufacturers of gold and silver wares.)	Powers of Police Inspectors under Article 86 extended to all Police Officers not below Sub-Inspectors.	7 „ 21
9 of 1918 ...	Fisheries	Weight of bait to be taken under Article 15 increased.	29 „ 2
„ ...	„	Schedule B amended ...	29 „ 3
35 of 1921 ...	Harbour dues	Exemption under Article 1 extended.	11 „ 2
16 of 1922 ...	Liquor licences ...	Art. 16 repealed	28 „ 7
18 of 1922 ...	Distilleries	Art. 11 repealed	6 „ 18
31 of 1925 ...	Pensions	Art. 3 repealed	24 „ 2
22 of 1926 ...	Stamp duties	Duty on Policies of Insurance under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance to be levied under Article 14.	48 „ 2

Ordinances, etc. affected.	*Subject matter or Short Title.*	*How affected.*	*Ordinances 1931.*
31 of 1927 ...	Distilleries	Art. 3 amended	6, Art. 14
37 of 1927 ...	Aloe Fibre Factories (accidents in).	Art. 8 repealed	13 „ 41
46 of 1927 ...	Excise Duty on tobacco	Duty under Article 3 raised	19 „ 3
24 of 1929 ...	Customs Tariff ...	Schedule amended ...	17 „ 2
„ ...	„ „ ...	Schedule amended to raise import duties on oils and tobacco.	23 „ 3
„ ...	„ „ ...	All import duties raised by 10 per cent. except on certain articles.	23 „ 4
21 of 1930 ...	Registration duties ...	Art. 3 amended	8 „ 4
30 of 1930 ...	Mare - aux - Vacoas water-rates.	Art. 3 amended	43 „ 2
34 of 1930 ...	Customs Tariff ...	Art. 3 amended	17 „ 3
37 of 1930 ...	Mauritius Jockey Club	Art. 3 amended	32 „ 22
„ ...	„ „ „	„ 2 „	46 „ 19
38 of 1930 ...	Tobacco production and marketing.	Art. 3 amended	46 „ 3
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 7 „	46 „ 4
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 10 „	46 „ 5
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 11 „	46 „ 6
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 15 „	46 „ 7
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 16 „	46 „ 8
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 20 „	46 „ 9
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 26 „	46 „ 10
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 28 „	46 „ 11
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 30 „	46 „ 12
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 31	46 „ 13
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 32 „	46 „ 14
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 36 „	46 „ 15
„ ...	„ „ ...	„ 38 „	46 „ 16

APPENDIX III.

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION PASSED IN 1931.

A.—Proclamations, 1931.

No.

1. To grant a Charter of Incorporation to the "Soonee Muslim Jamaate" Society.
2. To grant a Charter of Incorporation to the "L'Aide Fraternelle" Society.
3. To fix the rate of exchange for the purpose of levying *ad valorem* Customs duty on imported goods.
4. To remit stamp duties and registration fees chargeable on instruments executed by or on behalf of "The Pont Praslin Co-operative Credit Society."
5. To grant a Charter of Incorporation to the "Shivopasak Sabha" Society.
6. To grant a Charter of Incorporation to the "Tamil Shanda Couna Nanda Shabay" Society.
7. To proclaim certain areas in the Colony to be infected or suspected to be infected with a plant disease.
8. To appoint a date for taking the census of 1931.
9. To authorize the General Electric Supply Company of Mauritius, Limited, to supply electricity within a certain area.
10. To authorize Mr. V. E. Desvaux to continue to supply electricity within the area defined in Proclamation No. 1 of 1910.
11. To declare all lands planted with tobacco to be infected or suspected of being infected with a plant disease (black shank disease).
12. To open the Council of Government.
13. To fix the rate of exchange for purposes of Customs duty.
14. To proclaim Monday 25th May, 1931, to be a Bank and Office Holiday.
15. To repeal article 2 (*c*) of Proclamation No. 11 of 1931.
16. To put into force The Distilleries (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.
17. To authorize the "Marathies Prem Wardhak Mandali" Society to accept a donation.
18. To put into force the Mauritius Loan (Appropriation) Ordinance, 1931.
19. To proclaim the rate of the special export duty on the sugars of the 1931-32 crop.
20. To authorize the Brothers of Christian Schools Society to accept a donation.
21. To proclaim Latour Branch Road.
22. To authorize the Electric Generating Power (Mauritius) Company, Limited, to supply electricity within certain areas.
23. To put into force the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1931.
24. To fix the rate of exchange for the purpose of levying Customs duty.
25. To put into force the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.
26. To authorize Mr. Pierre Mauvis to supply electricity within a certain area (Pamplemousses), and part of Port Louis.

B.—Government Notifications, 1931.

Advertisements;—exhibition of, outside the limits of the Municipality and of the Townships in the rural districts.

Advertisements;—within the limits of the town of Curepipe.

Advertisements;—within the limits of Beau Bassin and Rose Hill.

Agricultural Chemists;—Registration and syllabus of examination.

Ball valve bottles as containers of aerated waters;—Extension of the time limit within which the use thereof is authorized.

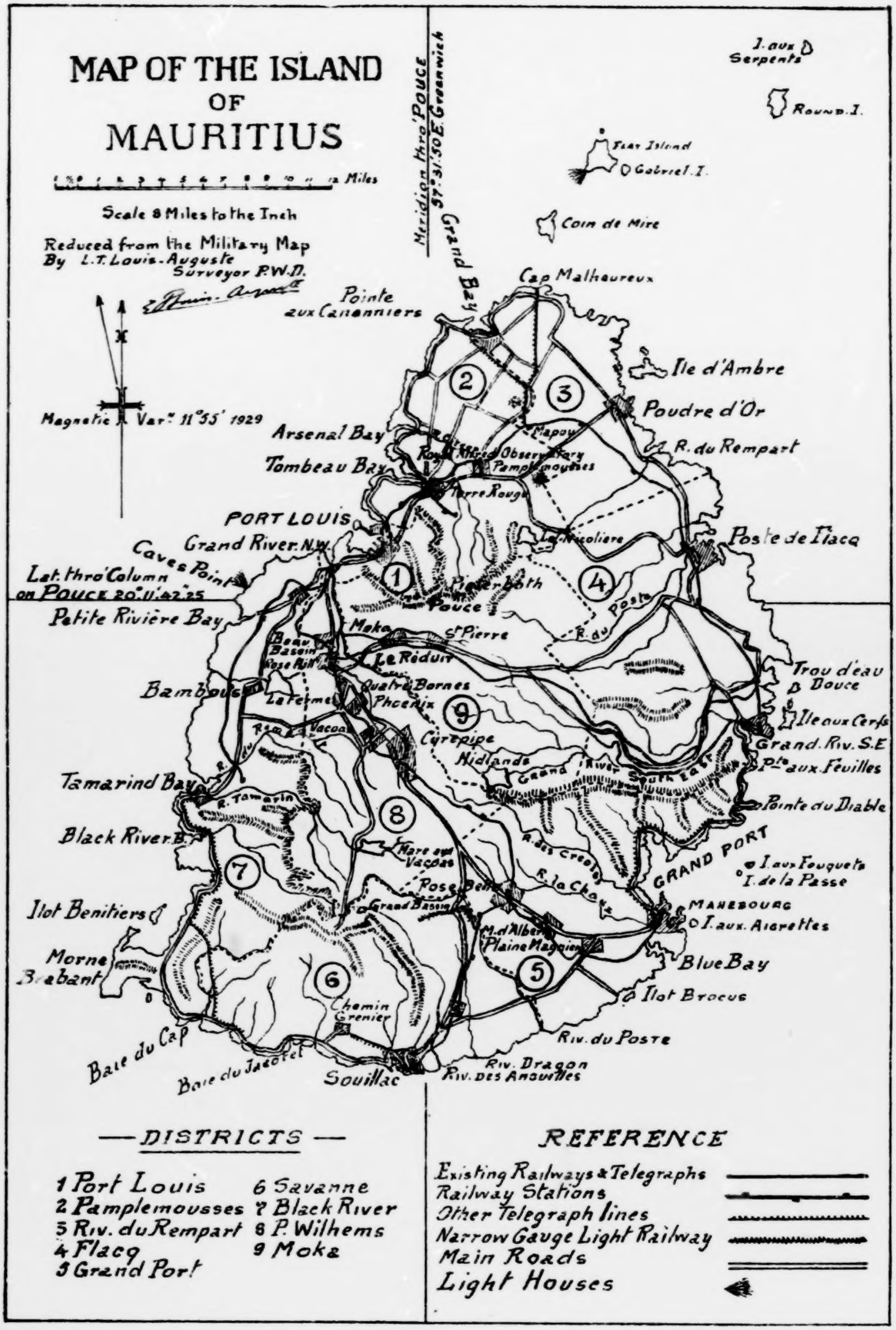
Dangerous substances;—Storage of.

Distilleries Ordinance, 1904, as subsequently amended;—Regulations made thereunder.

Education Code, 1917.—*Regulations made Thereunder.*
  History of Mauritius added to the syllabus of studies for Teachers' Examinations.
  Royal College;—Award of scholarship and exhibitions.
  Staffing of primary schools.
Electric Lighting and Power Ordinance, 1902, as subsequently amended;—Regulations made thereunder.
Fisheries Ordinance, 1918;—Regulations made thereunder.
Hurricane Loan (Appropriation) Ordinance, 1931;—Regulations made thereunder.
Levying of fees for the posting up in streets of bills, advertisements, etc., in the Township of Curepipe, Quatre Bornes, Beau Bassin, and Rose Hill.
Licence to butcher (Rodrigues).
Licence to manufacturer of salt (Rodrigues).
Licence to seller and hawker of firewood (Rodrigues).
Liquor Ordinance, 1922, Regulations made thereunder.
Markets and Slaughter Houses fees, Curepipe.
Mental hospital;—Diet scale.
Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1921;—Regulations made thereunder.
Pension Law No. 31 of 1881 as subsequently amended;—Addition of certain Colonies to Schedule D thereof.

Postal Regulations.
  Air mail service.
  Cash on delivery Parcel Post Service between France and Mauritius.
  Insured boxes;—charges on.
  Money Orders on Ceylon;—commission on.
  Money Orders on India;—commission on.
  Money Orders;—exchange of, with Hong Kong.
  Parcels to France and French Colonies, etc., in transit through France;—rate of postage.
  Parcels to the United Kingdom;—postage, registration, and insurance fees.
  Postage fees on letters, post cards, etc.
  Postage fees on parcels to Madagascar.
  Postage fees on parcels to Mozambique.
  Postage fees on parcels to Reunion.
  Postage fees on parcels to the Union of South Africa, to Bechuanaland Protectorate, to Southern Rhodesia, and Northern Rhodesia through the Union of South Africa.
  Radio telegrams to Reunion Island.
  Radio telegrams to ships at sea;—Charges for the transmission of.
Rodrigues cattle, Shipping Regulations.
Rodrigues licences (Consolidating) Regulation, 1921, amended.
Slaughtering of cattle when allowed.

Supreme Court Rules.
  Persons admitted to practise as Attorneys.
Tobacco Ordinance, 1927;—Proviso added to Regulations No. 150 of 30th September, 1930.
Wireless Operators;—Rules for the issue of certificates of proficiency to.
Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1931;—Regulations made thereunder.



MAP OF THE ISLAND
OF
MAURITIUS

Scale 8 Miles to the Inch

Reduced from the Military Map
By L.T. Louis-Auguste
Surveyor P.W.D.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Miles
Magnetic Varⁿ 11°55' 1929
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°31'50E. Greenwich
Lat. thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42.25
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Canonniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Mapou
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
PORT LOUIS
Grand River. N.W.
Caves Point
La Nicolière
Poste de Flacq
Pieter Both
Pouce
R. du Poste
Petite Rivière Bay
Moka
St Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Réduit
Bambous
La Ferme
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
Vacoa
Curepipe
Midlands
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand. Riv. S.E.
Pte aux Feuilles
Grand River South East
Tamarind Bay
R. Tamarin
Pointe du Diable
Black River B.
Mare aux Vacoas
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
I. aux Fouquets
I. de la Passe
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Ilot Benitiers
Grand Bassin
M. d'Albert
Plaine Magnien
MAHEBOURG
I. aux Aigrettes
Morne Brabant
Blue Bay
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Baie du Cap
Riv. du Poste
Baie du Jacotet
Souillac
Riv. Dragon
Riv. des Anguilles
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
— DISTRICTS —
1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka
REFERENCE
Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

(16725—28) Wt. 14375—833 625 11/32 P. St. G. 7/8

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1932. Cmd. 4121.	9*d*. (10*d*.).
Fruit Supplies in 1930. (E.M.B. 38.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).
Changes in the Demand for Butter. (E.M.B. 39.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).
Report on Development of Agriculture in the Bahamas. (E.M.B. 40.)	1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).
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MAURITIUS, 1932

(For Reports for 1930 and 1931 see Nos. 1549 and 1597
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MAURITIUS

REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1932

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CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. It is situated in the South Indian Ocean at about 1,400 miles from the east coast of Africa and lies between 19° 50′ and 20° 35′ S. latitude and between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ E. longitude. The greatest length from north to south is nearly 39 miles and the widest breadth from east to west is 29 miles. The area of the island is about 716 square miles exclusive of that of several small islets round the coast which measure about 4 square miles.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius had a population estimated at 8,691 on 31st December, 1932. The estimated population of the lesser Dependencies on that date was 1,246.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used Mauritius as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer, and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar cane, but were frustrated by rats. Athough they denuded the forests of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called Maroons were formed. The combination of the rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin uncontrolled by any tribal or political system proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population, apart from Maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de la Bourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Port Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops, and barracks. La Bourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755 large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and, when in 1825 the duty of ten shillings a hundredweight, levied on Mauritian sugar entering England (in order to protect the West Indian sugar), was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 pounds the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 pounds in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842 Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who to-day own and cultivate more than two-fifths of the whole area under sugar cane. Nearly half the investors in the Government Savings Bank are Indians, and out of a total of over Rs. 5,100,000 deposited there on the 30th June, 1932, more than Rs. 2,100,000 belonged to Indians. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits, and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artisan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle *Phytalus Smithii* was discovered in the sugar canes and about four hundred millions of these insects are now destroyed every year.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water-supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the maintenance of many works undertaken in better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve his recommendations that a subsidy should be given to sugar to supplement the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

The situation became worse in 1931 owing to a cyclone which caused considerable damage to property and reduced the year's output of sugar by about 33 per cent. The Imperial Government guaranteed a loan of £750,000 for planters, house-owners, and repairs to Government property, on condition that a Financial Commission should visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget. The Commission's report* was published at the beginning of 1932 and immediate steps were taken to carry out measures of retrenchment and economy. As a result a balanced budget for the year 1932-33 was prepared.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor, with an Executive Council of four *ex officio* members, and a Council of Government.

The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials.

The next year the Constitution was amended and a Council, including unofficial members, was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

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* Cmd. 4034.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, is composed of the Governor, eight *ex officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the population: of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members must be persons not holding any public office. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1932, was 10,485. Every male person who is qualified as follows is entitled to be registered as a voter:

(1) has attained the age of 21 years;

(2) is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights;

(3) is a British subject by birth or naturalization;

(4) has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications:—

(*a*) is the owner of an immoveable property of the annual value of Rs.300.

(*b*) is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs.25 a month;

(*c*) is the owner of moveable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs.3,000;

(*d*) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow possessing any one of the above qualifications;

(*e*) is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs.600 or of a monthly salary of at least Rs.50; and

(*f*) is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs.200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary. The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis" and was instituted, as were other local Municipalities by the "Assemblée Coloniale". These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the "Assemblée Coloniale", on 21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis" and were denominated the "Conseil des Notables". The "Conseil des Notables " was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the " Conseil des Communes " and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1850, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge " La Triple Esperance " from 21st to 23rd February in that year. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered to take measures within the prescribed limit of the township for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility, for the prevention of fires, and for the proper paving and lighting of the town, etc., provided that no such arrangements contravene the existing sanitary rules and regulations made by the sanitary authorities.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These Boards are empowered to pass regulations for the making, maintenance, and improvement of branch roads and footpaths, and for the levying of taxes.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into (1) the general population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans and people of African, Chinese, and mixed origin; and (2) the Indian population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants. The Indian population forms much the largest section.

The estimated total population of the island on 31st December, 1932, was 388,400 distributed as under :—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
General population ...	61,799	64,193	125,972
Indian population ...	135,718	126,710	262,428

There was a slight increase of 724 among the general population and a decrease of 3,368 among the Indian population giving a net decrease of 2,644 compared with the figures of 1931.

The geographical distribution of the population is shown in the following table :—

DISTRICTS.	AREA IN SQUARE MILES.	CENSUS POPULATION, 26TH APRIL, 1931.			POPULATION ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1932.		
		General population.	*Indian population.*	*Total.*	*General population.*	*Indian population.*	*Total.*
Port Louis...	16	29,832	24,603	54,435	30,095	24,048	54,143
Pamplemousses	69	6,847	30,000	36,847	6,719	28,866	35,585
Riviere du Rempart ...	57½	5,518	25,274	30,792	5,595	24,763	30,358
Flacq	115	10,438	42,202	52,640	10,469	40,861	51,330
Grand Port	101	12,484	36,135	48,619	12,482	34,915	47,397
Savanne	93½	6,645	24,456	31,101	6,622	23,548	30,170
Plaines Wilhems	78	41,951	53,392	95,343	43,055	53,598	96,653
Moka	89	5,522	23,761	29,283	5,605	23,547	29,152
Black River	101	5,437	8,826	14,263	5,330	8,282	13,612
TOTAL	720	124,674	268,649	393,323	125,972	262,428	388,400

The births during the year numbered 10,266 and the deaths 12,848, against 11,941 and 15,467 in 1931.

The birth-rate in the general population was 32.1 per 1,000 against 36.9 in 1931 and in the Indian population 23.5 against 27.1 in 1931.

The death-rates per thousand in the two populations were 29.0 and 34.6 respectively in 1932 against 33.3 and 41.8 in 1931.

The highest death-rate for 1932 is shown in Black River, 51.0, and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems, 24.7, in a thousand.

The death-rate for the whole Colony was 32.8 and for Port Louis 33.6 in a thousand compared with 39.1 and 38.6 in 1931.

The marriages during the year numbered 1,271 as compared with 1,236 in 1931. The marriage-rate of the population was 3.3 in 1932 against 3.1 in 1931.

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 1,632 as against 2,425 in 1931; the deaths of infants represent 12.6 per cent. of the total number of deaths for the year. The infantile mortality-rate was 159 per thousand births against 203 per thousand in 1931.

The arrivals in the Colony amounted to 3,186 including discharged seamen, and the departures from the Colony numbered 3,248 including engaged seamen as compared with 3,662 and 4,452 respectively in 1931.

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

The present constitution of the Medical and Health Department dates back to 1895 when under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894-95 the powers vested in the General Board of Health were transferred to the Director, Medical and Health Department.

Under the general control of a Director and Deputy-Director the medical and sanitary administration of the eight rural districts is entrusted to Government Medical Officers who supervise the work of the subordinate staff. In Port Louis a Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the sanitation of the town and is also Port Health Officer.

Each district of the Colony, with the exception of Black River, is provided with a hospital and also with a variable number of dispensaries in charge of resident dispensers.

These dispensaries are visited at least twice a week by the Government Medical Officer who is also Poor Law Officer and Public Vaccinator.

The hospitals of the Colony are divided into two groups:—

(i) General hospitals; namely, Civil, Victoria, and Moka, totalling 684 beds, which are fully equipped for X-ray and major operative work; and

(ii) District hospitals where only medical and midwifery cases are admitted and where minor surgery is carried out to a certain extent.

Patients who apply to the latter hospitals and require special treatment, surgical or otherwise, are conveyed to the nearest general hospital by motor ambulances.

There are also a Mental Hospital and a Leper Hospital administered by the Department.

From the sanitary point of view, the two chief problems are hookworm disease and malaria.

Hookworm disease was no doubt introduced into the Colony by Indian immigrants.

It is difficult to assign a date to its first appearance, but it was microscopically diagnosed in 1895.

More insidious than malaria in its general manifestations, ankylostomiasis did not, at first, attract public attention, and it is feared that even now the leading classes do not quite realise its social and economical importance—yet, reviewing the disease in *Health Problems of the Empire*, the late Sir Andrew Balfour writes :—

> " Ankylostomiasis is perhaps the Imperial disease *par excellence*, for even Malaria does not, day in and day out, produce such heavy economic loss."

The fight against the disease is entrusted to a special branch of the Medical and Health Department, and progress realized during recent years is most encouraging.

The history of malaria dates back to 1865—prior to that year it is almost certain that, despite the numerous imported cases, the Anopheles did not exist in the Colony and there was no endemic malaria.

Early in 1865 a few cases were recorded near Port Louis in the marshy locality lying at the mouth of Grand River North West. At the end of the same year an epidemic broke out in Black River on Wolmar Estate and all the coastal districts were very rapidly swept by the disease.

Efforts to control malaria have not, so far, been very successful, and this is attributable chiefly to unsystematic work. The time will come, it is hoped, when the population will realize that the financial resources of the Colony do not permit of a simultaneous attack on all the anopheline strongholds. Some districts must continue to suffer while others are being attended to and the fight must be carried out from the hinterland to the sea.

An attempt of this nature was made a few years ago, but owing to financial stringency very little progress has been achieved since 1930.

During the year under review no material change was made in the organization of the Department and, on the whole, conditions have been more favourable than in 1931. As an indication the death-rate dropped from 41.8 to 33.3 per thousand inhabitants.

In October, sporadic cases of bacillary dysentery occurred in every district. The water supply was not at fault and the spread of the disease is probably due to contamination of foodstuff by flies.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories: (*a*) housing on estates, (*b*) housing in rural areas not estates, and (*c*) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are, for the most part, adequately housed. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs more commonly of thatch, but frequently of corrugated iron. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult.

The lines must be kept clear of weeds, and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least ten feet round them.

Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes.

As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. This is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

The housing in rural areas not estates is fairly satisfactory. It is in the labouring class of the population that one can very often see racial difference in the choice of building materials. The negro will build an untidy-looking shack of old timber, scrap pieces of wood, petrol cases, and petrol tins hammered out flat, whereas the Indian will construct a very neat hut of wattle and clay or cow-dung, on a stone plinth, furnished with a small verandah, and roofed with a compact thatch. The amenities of life are few. There is seldom water laid on to the premises. Unless the occupier has dug a well, he generally has to carry his water from the nearest standpipe which may be some five hundred yards away.

In the towns conditions are, as a rule, unsatisfactory. The chief features about the town housing are overcrowding and overbuilding; overcrowding is caused by poverty and overbuilding arises as a necessary consequence of overcrowding. Many, if not most, families of the labouring classes live in one room. Fortunately, children are seldom confined to the house on account of inclement weather, and they can pass most of their time in the open air. Rickets is very uncommon in consequence, as are other consequences of overcrowding in places where the climatic conditions are more severe either on account of excessive cold or excessive light and heat.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

Meteorological Conditions and Sugar Production.

Except for the occurrence of a cyclone of moderate violence on 10th April, weather conditions were highly favourable from an agricultural point of view. Temperature was generally above average, whilst the amount and distribution of rainfall was exceptionally good.

The cyclone which occurred on Sunday, 10th April, was fortunately of short duration, but wind velocities exceeding 50 miles per hour were experienced at the Central Experimental Station. The centre of the disturbance passed over the island and the consequent shift of the wind through 180° intensified the effects on the already tall canes. Fortunately this cyclone, unlike the 1931 visitation, was followed by showers which were well distributed all over the island.

The sugar production, calculated on the moisture and temperature conditions which obtained during the growing season, irrespective of the cyclones, approximated to 262 thousand metric tons. The final compilation of production for 1932 gave a total of 247.22 thousand metric tons, so that the reduction due to the cyclone approximates to 15 thousand metric tons, or about 6 per cent.

The following table gives the summarized results of the meteorological observations taken at the Central Experimental Station :—

Month and Year.	*Air Temperature. °C.*	*Departure from normal. °C.*	*Rainfall. m/m.*	*Departure from normal. Per cent.*
1931.				
November	22·2	+ 0·5	160·5	+ 214
December	23·7	+ 0·4	46·0	— 66
1932.				
January	24·3	+ 0·2	210·7	— 20
February	23·9	— 0·4	396·6	+ 44
March	24·3	+ 0·6	339·4	+ 9
April	22·5	— 0·1	265·5	+ 140
May	19·9	— 0·6	110·3	+ 11
June	18·6	0·0	167·6	+ 90
July	18·1	+ 0·1	43·3	— 39
August	18·4	+ 0·4	41·2	— 22
September	18·7	0·0	50·3	+ 8
October	19·7	— 0·1	43·4	— 14
November	21·9	+ 0·2	27·1	— 50
December	22·8	— 0·5	31·3	— 62

The Sugar Industry.

The sugar production, in 1932, in the various districts of the islands, compared with the preceding six years, is shown in the following table.

Unit=One thousand metric tons.

Districts.	*1932.*	*1931.*	*1930.*	*1929.*	*1928.*	*1927.*	*1926*
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart.	62·73	41·81	43·00	54·68	59·55	52·72	44·15
Flacq...	35·97	27·91	37·81	38·91	41·17	33·21	26·02
Moka	34·12	20·83	32·10	35·97	34·76	30·88	31·27
Plaines Wilhems and Black River ...	26·11	17·93	24·43	24·88	26·12	24·09	24·32
Savanne	41·63	27·01	37·09	36·41	41·41	35·88	35·13
Grand Port ...	46·66	28·52	46·53	47·18	50·42	41·22	31·70
Total	247·22	164·01	220·96	238·03	253·43	218·00	192.59

The extraction of sugar per cent. of cane approximated to 11.09. Figures for the last decade are as follows:—

Year.	*Extraction of sugar per cent. of cane.*	*Year.*	*Extraction of sugar per cent. of cane.*
1923 ...	... 10·51	1928 ...	... 10·76
1924 ...	... 10·28	1929 ...	... 10·54
1925 ...	... 10·56	1930 ...	... 10·92
1926 ...	... 9·94	1931 ...	... 10·61
1927 ...	... 10·53	1932 ...	... 11·09

Grades of sugar.—The proportion of raws (98½° polarization) is markedly higher than last year, being 87.5 per cent. as against 83 per cent. in 1931. The change which has taken place in this respect during the past ten years is illustrated in the following table.

Years	*Percentage of:—*		
	Vesous.	*Raws.*	*Lows.*
1923	97·61	...	2·80
1924	98·34	...	1·66
1925	98·21	...	1·79
1926	98·10	...	1·90
1927	98·63	...	1·37
1928	71·80	27·30	0·90
1929	23·90	75·20	0·90
1930	16·80	82·50	0·70
1931	16·20	83·10	0·70
1932	12·10	87·50	0·40

Area under sugar cane.—At the beginning of 1932, the area under cane cultivation was estimated at 134,915 acres. Estates with mill cultivated 50,735 acres and estates without mill 34,540 acres. The total estate cultivation was then 63 per cent. of the total area under cane. The balance was made up of lands cultivated by small planters, mostly Indian. It is expected that the total area under cane has been somewhat increased during the year, but no reliable figures are available as yet.

Disposal of the 1931 *sugar crop.*—As in preceding years, the bulk of the Mauritius sugar production went to the United Kingdom. The total exported at the end of the export year 1931-32 was 153,259 tons, distributed as follows :—

	Tons (metric).
United Kingdom	137,533
Dominion of Canada	15,495
Other places	231
Total	153,259

The exportation of the 1932-33 production was as follows at the end of December, 1932 :—

	Tons (metric).
United Kingdom	127,556
Other places	125
Total	127,681

Sugar Market.—The deterioration of the sugar market continued during the earlier months of the year and, had it not been for the assistance of Imperial Preference, plus a slight improvement in market prices, the sugar industry of Mauritius would have been in very serious straits.

The local Sugar Syndicate continued its operations in 1932 on much the same lines as heretofore, controlling more than 80 per cent. of the entire sugar production of the island.

It is anticipated that the net price for the 1932 crop to planters, from the Syndicate, will be between Rs. 6.15 and Rs. 6.20 per 50 kilos. This figure does not include commission and/or brokerage. However, the average cost of production will be well below the price received and the consequent favourable money balance will improve to some extent the precarious position in which the industry has, for the last few years, been placed. On a number of estates curtailment of expenses had passed the economic limit; some improvement in factories and field may now, with confidence, be expected.

Fertilizers.—During the year 12,726,702 kilos were imported at a value of Rs. 1,325,439 as against 11,876,472 kilos in 1931 at a value of Rs. 1,515,208.

Labour conditions.—A reduction of wages took place in 1932 which corresponded with a general decrease in the cost of living as foodstuffs, rice in particular, experienced a marked drop in price.

The concentration of population (one-fourth of total) in the central and healthier district of Plaines Wilhems, renders often precarious the labour supply on estates unfavourably situated in the low-lying districts of the island.

Sugar machinery.—Machinery to the value of Rs.277,656 was imported during the year as compared with Rs.399,124 in the preceding year. No tractors or ploughs were imported. Tramway material for use on sugar estates, to the value of Rs.110,289, was imported as compared with Rs.79,234 in 1931.

Sugar Cane Research Station.—This organization received its full complement of officers by the appointment and arrival of Dr. Evans, Physiological Botanist. Material progress has been accomplished.

Insect pests.—The beetle known as Phytalus (*Phytalus Smithii, Arrow*) continues to predominate. The collecting season of 1931-32 yielded a return of 356,376,727 beetles, which was 32 millions more than the preceding season. The season 1932-33 had, at the end of 1932, produced a total of 191,585,765 beetles, showing a diminution on the previous season's results at the same date of some 65 millions insects. Weather conditions during the collecting season, however, had up till the end of the year been unusually dry, a factor which has in other years had an arresting effect on the emergence of adults. It is not wise, therefore, to raise at present any false hopes that this season may result in a total capture lower than that of 1931-32.

The cessation of the campaign of larvae destruction during 1931 caused an abnormal corresponding increase of adults during the 1931-32 season of emergence. An intimate study of the further possibilities of the biological control of this beetle is about to be made. A fresh parasite has already been introduced from Madagascar which gives promise. Last, but by no means least, there is the work of the Sugar Cane Research Station which, in part, is being directed towards the production of a cane which, in addition to its other desirable properties, will possess a rooting system too deeply and strongly developed for serious damage by Phytalus larvae.

Minor Agricultural Industries.

Tobacco.—With the opening of the Government Tobacco Warehouse in February this industry was placed on an entirely different footing. Growers can now be assured of obtaining a regular price for their products and manufacturers will in future be sure of their immediate supplies. It is only natural, perhaps, that the small planters were a little apprehensive at first of the activities of the warehouse but confidence is now fully restored. The production of good quality leaf is rapidly progressing.

There can be no doubt that this local minor industry exhibits promise of a successful future.

Livestock and animal produce.—Less cattle were imported for beef during 1932 than 1931. This is due to reduced purchasing powers and to the development of the local cattle industry.

Cattle on estates numbered 13,260 in 1932 as against 12,004 in 1931. Sheep were 1,584 as against 1,073 in 1931. Pigs and goats numbered 1,713 and 4,493 respectively as compared with 2,077 and 4,449 in 1931.

Rum, industrial alcohol, and Cernite.—During the year 578,209 litres of alcohol were distilled for human consumption as against 618,172 in 1931. The export of rum amounted to 5,308 litres valued at Rs.1,489 as against 21,086 litres valued at Rs.6,623 during 1931.

In 1918 a patent was granted to Messrs. Edouard Langlois and Philippe d'Oisy Fayd'herbe to protect a fuel mixture composed of ether 30 per cent., alcohol 60 per cent., and kerosene 10 per cent. The mixture was manufactured by the "Cernite and Alcohol Company, Limited," and was sold under the trade mark of Cernite, for internal combustion engines. After a short while, the manufacture was given up, owing to the high proportion of impurities in the alcohol and ether produced in the company's distillery, but since then, considerable progress has been made in the manufacture of both alcohol and ether through the erection of modern plants in St. Antoine distillery. For the six months ending December, 1932, the production of Cernite reached 162,200 litres and that of industrial alcohol 124,340.

Rice industry.—Owing to the extremely low price of rice the cultivation of this food plant has decreased and only 125 arpents were under rice cultivation during the year. The small planter finds that he can obtain more remunerative results from growing other food crops.

Pineapple industry.—After a period of hesitation there are now positive signs that the public is really taking an active interest in this industry. A Pineapple Committee, composed of representative planters with the Director of Agriculture as Chairman, has been appointed in order to co-ordinate interested effort. Many orders for plants of Smooth Cayenne have been received by the Department and arrangements have been made for the rapid propagation and distribution of this variety. There are now twenty-five acres under Smooth Cayenne and it is intended to plant forty acres in the early months of 1933. The increase in the acreage of this desirable type of pine for canning represents a very real progress.

A regular supply of fruits was delivered at the Canning Factory, Port Louis, during the fruiting season from December to January. The output was on an average about 200 cases daily of a net weight of 4,000 kilos.

It has now been decided to adopt only one trade mark "The Dodo". The latest reports, on canned Mauritius pineapples, received from London were encouraging; the prices paid compared favourably with those of the best Hawaiian products. The question of grading and upkeep of quality is receiving close attention.

Vanilla.—No progress has been made during the year. It is estimated that there are ten acres under cultivation in different parts of the island besides many abandoned plantations, which have now reverted to forests but where the vanilla vines are growing vigorously.

At the request of planters, the import duty on vanillin has been raised from Rs. 40 to Rs. 110 per kilo; on unprepared vanilla from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 and for prepared vanilla from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25.

Honey industry.—It is interesting to notice the rapid progress made with bee-keeping within the past few years. The honey obtained by the " Rucher du Nord " and its suppliers for the past three years is as follows :—

	lb.
1929-30	1,260
1930-31	2,250
1931-32	7,700

It is estimated that about 6,000 lb. will cover local consumption but there is no doubt that this quantity could easily be increased by advertising and propaganda. Favourable reports have been received on samples of Mauritius honey sent to the British Industries Fair.

The duty on foreign honey, which was formerly 12 per cent. *ad valorem*, has now been altered to 44 cents per kilo (General Tariff) and 22 cents per kilo (Preferential Tariff).

In order to encourage bee-keepers, the Agricultural Department has distributed free seeds of the best nectar-producing plants.

Aloe fibre industry.—This industry remained in a stagnant condition during the year on account of the low prices of aloe fibre. Grade prime was sold between Rs. 200 and Rs. 210 per ton, and the other grades at about Rs. 15 less per ton according to quality, leaving only a very small margin of profit to fibre factory owners. The small number of offers from buyers and the low prices accounted for the output remaining at practically the same level as last year.

Mauritius aloe fibres were permitted free entry into England, foreign fibre having to pay a 10 per cent. duty *ad valorem*, but unfortunately up to now British firms are not utilizing to any increased extent the local fibre. It is hoped that a favourable report will soon be received from the Admiralty and the Imperial Institute concerning trials made with aloe fibre. Samples were also sent to the British Industries Fair.

The inauguration of the factory belonging to the Mauritius Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited, took place on the 19th of March; the results obtained up to now are encouraging, and it is hoped that this new industry will make considerable progress in the near future.

The factory turns out excellent bags woven from the aloe fibre which are utilized for the exportation of sugar and favourable reports have been received concerning their utilization in this respect. It is probable that they will be found to give useful service in other respects.

A rough but strong cloth is also turned out; twine of a good quality is produced.

The production of fibre during the year was as follows :—

380 tons delivered to the Fibre Syndicate;

282 tons delivered to the Spinning and Weaving Factory.

Tea industry.—Considerable improvements have been made in the cultivation and propagation of tea in this island as the results of the visit and recommendations made by Commander Goolden in 1930. The plantations are now properly cultivated and improved methods of tea manufacture have also been effected.

In order to assist the local tea industry, the import duty on foreign tea was raised during the year from 40 to 60 cents per kilo. This help has been appreciated by tea planters and has encouraged them to extend their plantations. Plants of a superior quality have been raised by the Agricultural Department and sold to Bois Cheri and Curepipe Tea Estates.

Tea seeds have been received from the Ceylon Department of Agriculture. The germination was good and the seedlings are now growing well.

Forty acres of new plantations were made at Bois Cheri Estate during the year.

The total outputs from the three factories are as follows :—

	Kilos.
Bois Cheri Estate	6,000
Curepipe (Corson) Estate	10,000
Nouvelle France Estate	200

Coconut industry.—The majority of coconut palms in different parts of the island have now recovered from the effects of the 1931 cyclone and are bearing a good crop of nuts. The damage done by the coconut scale insect (*Aspidiotus destructor*) is not so bad as in former years, as it is in many places controlled by its parasites.

Small plantations of Pemba coconuts have been established at Barkly and Pamplemousses Experimental Stations. The trial plantation of this variety at " Cannoniers Point " was not a success. Another consignment of nuts has been ordered from Zanzibar. These will be raised in the Nurseries, and afterwards the plants will be sold to the public.

The export of copra during the year was 1,746 tons of a value of Rs. 287,516. In 1931, 2,559 tons worth Rs. 395,445 were exported. The export of coconut oil during 1932 amounted to 5,480 kilos of a value of Rs. 2,176. In 1931 it amounted to 3,707 kilos valued at Rs. 1,723.

Other Manufacturing Industries.

Owing to the depressed condition of the sugar market and the consequent reduction in the monetary value of the exported sugar, efforts have been made to render the Colony more self-supporting as regards a number of minor products which were as a rule imported. This has resulted in somewhat more activity in the domain of secondary manufacturing industries. The number of small engineering establishments had reached 50 during the year, employing about 500 people. Bakeries numbered 73 as against 65 last year; lime kilns 37 as compared with 34 last year.

There are, further, three salt-making establishments giving employment to about 100 persons, four docks, four hydro-electrical plants (for light and power), and one match factory. Altogether, about 1,000 persons are employed in the above. The manufacture of cigarettes is also progressing. In addition, a number of smaller industries are fairly prosperous:—cabinet makers, aerated water works, ice making, vinegar making and boot making.

None of these export their produce but help to diminish the amount of imports and contribute, in a small way, towards improving the trade balance of the Colony.

Fisheries.

In accordance with the general scheme of economy the Fishery Branch of the Receiver-General's Department was abolished on 1st March, 1932, and the whole of the duties in connexion with the control of fishing devolved upon the police.

Fishery control stations have been established at Port Louis, Black River, Mahebourg, Trou d'Eau Douce, and Poudre D'Or, and a staff of ten boatmen under the supervision of five sub-officers are employed entirely on the control of fishing. An officer at Headquarters, who has considerable practical experience, visits the Control Stations at frequent intervals to assist and advise the personnel in the performance of their duties and discuss the question of adequate control with local residents. This officer is also dealing with the question of the compilation of fishery statistics as advised by Mr. Hornell in his 1926 report.

The Advisory Committee, formed in 1927, has met on frequent occasions during the year and has been principally concerned with questions of the control of net fishing, extension of reserves, and improved supervision. Recommendations have been submitted to Government in connexion with these matters and action is being taken to give effect to the various proposals.

Some progress has been made in the direction of the establishment of a shark products industry in the Colony and it is hoped that developments will take place in the near future.

Fish of excellent quality has been plentiful and cheap at all the fish landing stations and markets throughout the year and systematic efforts are being made to supervise the industry in such a manner as to (1) improve the lot of the professional fishermen, (2) restrict unnecessary net-fishing, (3) encourage line-fishing, and (4) ensure regular supplies of good and cheap fish in all the markets, etc.

Amateur fishermen of the Colony are now represented by the "Mauritius Anglers and Big Game Fishing Association" and the views of the Society as to control, legislation, etc., have been submitted to the Fisheries Advisory Committee and are receiving consideration.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

The total value of the *foreign trade* (in merchandise) of the Colony in 1932 was Rs. 54,676,976.

Comparative figures for imports and exports for the last five years and 1913 are shown below :—

	Imports. *Rs. (1,000).*	*Exports.* *Rs. (1,000).*	*Total Trade.* *Rs. (1,000).*
1913	36,607	32,292	68,899
1928	49,438	47,371	96,809
1929	46,428	52,450	98,878
1930	39,806	26,601	66,407
1931	32,064	23,830	55,894
1932	27,014	27,663	54,677

Owing to severe restrictions in imports and to the increased preference granted on sugar exported to the United Kingdom, the Colony is not, this year, faced with an adverse trade balance.

It will be seen, however, that the total trade both as regards imports and exports is much below the pre-war level.

The above figures for exports include re-exports, which amounted to Rs. 652,982 in 1932, compared with Rs. 947,723 in 1931 and Rs. 941,670 in 1930.

Bullion and Specie (not included in the foregoing figures) were imported or exported to the following amounts in the last three years :—

	Imports. *Bullion and Specie.* Rs.	*Exports.* *Bullion and Specie.* Rs.
1930	1,165	4,500
1931	802	1,933,546
1932	—	1,042,352

Imports of Merchandise.

The total value of the imports of merchandise in 1932 amounted to Rs. 27,014,125, compared with Rs. 32,064,074 in 1931 and Rs. 39,806,180 in 1930.

Principal Imports.	*Quantity.*			*Value.* *Rs. (1,000).*		
	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Rice (m. tons)	51,912	63,419	57,100	8,960	7,772	6,700
Other grain and flour (m. tons).	16,952	19,455	16,702	2,727	2,256	1,941
Provisions and Spices ...	—	—	—	540	463	414
Manures and Fertilizers (m. tons).	16,653	12,836	14,381	2,549	1,667	1,385
Coal, coke, and manufactured fuel (m. tons).	54,668	45,883	27,236	1,343	934	594
Petroleum products (refined) (hectol.).	88,054	98,125	83,916	1,787	1,625	1,614
Soap, common (m. tons) ...	1,744	1,665	1,348	833	673	598
Cement (m. tons)	10,132	3,313	5,162	494	149	208
Cotton manufactures, piece-goods (1,000 met.).	7,628	8,339	8,689	2,329	1,853	1,743
Woollen manufactures, piece-goods (1,000 met.).	100	64	91	263	151	194
Wines in casks (hectol.) ...	6,716	4,407	3,547	324	207	163
Wines in cases (lit.) ...	97,766	48,305	30,474	147	79	75
Spirits (lit.)	30,994	19,025	18,488	128	87	73
Tobacco, all sorts (m. tons)	69	48	43	379	288	199
Motor cars, complete—(number).	209	115	90	454	234	228
Motor lorries, complete—(number).	82	59	21	173	116	50
Boots and shoes (not rubber) (pairs).	93,134	124,624	83,446	246	212	128
Haberdashery and Millinery.	—	—	—	376	268	101
Iron and Steel	—	—	—	1,289	956	517
Silk goods	—	—	—	429	548	503
Drugs	—	—	—	351	420	291
Wearing apparel (except shoes).	—	—	—	405	385	339
Rubber goods (including tyres).	—	—	—	413	363	276
Machinery	—	—	—	1,116	905	554

The above figures reflect the economic situation of the Colony. There have been decreases in the principal imports generally both in quantity and value.

Exports of Merchandise.

The total value of the exports of merchandise amounted to Rs. 27,662,851 compared with Rs. 23,829,884 in 1931 and Rs. 26,600,964 in 1930.

The following table shows the sugar exports for the last three years and in 1913 :—

	Metric tons.	*Value in Rupees.*
1913	187,772	30,700,697
1930	185,539	24,846,253
1931	178,808	22,229,991
1932	197,885	26,385,536

The sugar industry has for many years been the sole resource of the Colony and the phenomenally low prices obtained of late are the cause of the present economic situation. But for the preference granted by the United Kingdom, the position would be desperate.

Efforts have been made with some success to develop secondary industries. Imported tobacco is rapidly yielding place to a local grown variety and a match industry is making some progress. Bags for sugar are being made from local hemp with considerable success and a pineapple canning industry appears likely to assume importance in the course of time.

The principal exports apart from sugar for the last three years were as follows :—

	Quantity.			*Value Rupees (1,000).*		
	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Aloe fibre (m. tons)	1,469	455	417	348	92	81
Copra or Poonac (m. tons).	1,734	2,559	1,747	280	395	288

Distribution of Trade.

The percentage of trade distribution for the last three years and in 1913 was as follows :—

Imports.

	1913.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
United Kingdom	33·2	25·1	23·5	24·1
Other parts of the British Empire ...	42·6	44·5	46·9	46·8
Foreign Countries	24·2	30·4	29·6	29·1
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Exports.

United Kingdom	18·5	71·5	77·6	97·1
Other parts of the British Empire ...	77·0	24·7	18·8	·4
Foreign Countries	4·5	3·8	3·6	2·5
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Total Trade.

	1913.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
United Kingdom	26·3	43·9	47·6	61·0
Other parts of the British Empire ...	58·7	36·6	34·3	23·4
Foreign Countries	15·0	19·5	18·1	15·6
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

The principal countries from or to which the commodities come or go are indicated below :—

Imports.

Value in Rupees (1,000).

	1913.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
United Kingdom	12,149	10,450	7,504	6,457
India	13,422	13,938	11,576	9,971
France	3,444	3,069	2,213	1,504
Madagascar	1,739	632	586	454
Union of South Africa	1,163	1,372	1,030	584
United States of America ...	863	1,818	1,369	1,707
Australia	608	1,120	1,330	1,266
China	145	1,018	1,219	675
Japan	3	416	1,124	1,459

Exports.

Value in Rupees (1,000).

United Kingdom...	5,955	19,023	20,002	26,857
Canada	—	6,109	2,724	—
India	21,032	46	19	12

Course of Prices.

Mean prices (c.i.f. or f.o.b.) of the principal articles imported or exported are shown below for the last three years :—

Imports (c.i.f.).

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*
	cents.	cents.	cents.
Rice, per kilo	17	12	12
Dholl, per kilo	18	13	13
Flour, per kilo...	16	11½	11½
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bullocks, per head (for food)...	63	66	60
	cents.	cents.	cents.
Fertilizers, (Chemical) per kilo	17	13	10
Petrol spirits, per litre	21	16	20
Cotton piece-goods, ordinary, per metre ...	31	22	20
Soap, common, per kilo	47	40	44

Exports (f.o.b.).

Sugar, per kilo	13¼	12⅓	13⅓
Aloe fibre, per kilo	24	20	19⅓

Changes in the Direction of Trade.

Imports.—In spite of a preference ranging from 13 per cent. upwards in favour of goods from the United Kingdom, Japan has maintained the place which it acquired in 1931 as the largest exporter to this Colony of cotton piece-goods. In the case of silk and artificial silk, where the margin of preference is now 38·5 per cent., the imports from Japan have still further increased at the expense of the United Kingdom. Mass production with a depreciated currency have so lowered the price of Japanese goods that the preference granted to British goods is largely ineffectual.

Exports.—In pre-war years the great bulk of the sugar exports went to India. Now the United Kingdom is the sole buyer except for an occasional purchase by Canada.

Development of Empire Trade.

Much has been done this year to extend preference to the United Kingdom.

A Preferential Tariff on United Kingdom goods was introduced in the Colony on 30th September, 1924, and was subsequently extended to Canada.

To-day preferential margins ranging in many cases to 50 per cent. and in a few cases to 70, 85, and 100 per cent. of the duty is allowed on United Kingdom and Canadian goods. The law provides that the concession may also be extended to such other parts of the Empire as may grant preference to products of Mauritius.

A feature of the Colony's new tariff is the grant of protective duties to various local products.

CHAPTER VIII.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Owing to the pronounced fall in price of foodstuffs during the year, it was possible still further to reduce wages to meet the necessity created by the falling prices of sugar.

The salary of labourers under monthly contract remained at Rs. 10, with rations, free lodging, etc., but, owing to the reduction in the price of foodstuffs, the monetary equivalent of rations, etc., is now about Rs. 8 as compared with Rs. 12 last year.

Male day-labourers received on the average Rs. 0.45 per day, but during crop time a larger amount was paid. Female labourers generally received half the wages of male workers.

As a result of the reduced scale of wages the number of females employed in agriculture is markedly increasing. Thus in 1921 the number of female agricultural workers was 9,678; in 1931 it was 15,105 (Census figures) and, to all appearances, the number has been still further increased in 1932.

Remuneration for piece-work in agriculture was, on the average, as follows :—

	Per acre. *Rs.*
Cleaning land	30
Digging cane holes	18
Manuring	10
Weeding	7
Cutting canes (20 tons per acre)	13

As regards industrial workers, artisans, etc., a pronounced fall in wages has also taken place. Day workers get Rs. 1.00 to Rs. 1.50, while those employed by the month (especially workers in metal) receive only Rs. 35 to Rs. 70 according to circumstances.

The wages of domestic servants have been reduced in a degree commensurate with the employers' reduction in revenue. Butlers or cooks get Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 on the average; chauffeurs Rs. 30 to Rs. 40; maids or boys Rs. 10 to Rs. 15.

Owing to the concentration of population (one-fourth of the total) in the healthier central districts of the island, labour is there more abundant and tends to be attracted towards domestic service, which is generally lighter than agricultural duties. Loss of efficiency owing to the prevalence of malaria and ankylostomiasis is now an exceedingly serious matter.

Salaries paid in 1932 have all been reduced, either permanently or temporarily. The following scale indicates, in a general way, the present ruling rates :—

	Per annum *Rs.*
Managers on sugar estates and Senior Government officials	8,000 to 13,000
Government, Bank and Commercial clerks (higher grade)...	4,000 to 7,000
Clerks and employees on sugar estates	1,500 to 3,000
Junior clerks and employees	720 to 1,500

The index numbers of the cost of living remained practically stationary during the first two quarters of 1932. During the third quarter a sharp drop occurred followed by a rise in the last, without, however, reaching the level of the first quarter.

Rice, the staple food of the population, reached its lowest value, 71 (as compared with 100 in 1914), during the last quarter; other grains followed generally the same trend. Flour oscillated between 67 and 75 during the first three quarters and rose to 84 during the last. Tea and coffee remained practically stationary at about 85, while oils and fats exhibited a general downward tendency. Articles of clothing remained stationary at 165 until the third quarter of the year, when a pronounced fall was in evidence.

The index for the total cost of living in 1932 was as follows (100 being the index for 1914) :—

1st quarter	126.9
2nd quarter	126.7
3rd quarter	110.6
4th quarter	123.0

The mean for the year was 121.8 as compared with 130.0 in 1931.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Primary.—Primary education is not compulsory, but it is given free through Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony. The following table shows the number of primary schools, the number of pupils on roll, and the staff of teachers during the year 1932 :—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Government	50	345	13,577	9,252
Aided	77	614	22,859	15,328
Total	127	959	36,436	24,580

State-aided schools are under the control of a Manager, and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Pupils must be at least 5 years old and must have been successfully vaccinated in order to be allowed admission to a primary school; when they are under five they undergo a preliminary training before being promoted to the lowest form.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, and arithmetic. In the higher classes elementary history and geography are taught and girls study needlework. Regular instruction is also given in physical drill, nature study, hygiene, and elementary principles of agriculture.

There are six primary school standards or classes, viz. :—

Standard I with pupils from 5 to 6 years of age.
Standard II with pupils from 6 to 7 years of age.
Standard III with pupils from 7 to 8 years of age.
Standard IV with pupils from 8 to 10 years of age.
Standard V with pupils from 9 to 11 years of age.
Standard VI with pupils from 10 to 12 years of age.

Examinations which were formerly held for all the classes are now limited to Standards V and VI. The new system allows educational officers to devote more time to inspection work proper with the result that teaching methods are gradually improving.

Fourteen apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicrafts. Twenty-six scholarships and exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools are awarded every year, through competitive examinations, to the best pupils attending primary schools.

There are 30 gardens attached to the primary schools and they are cultivated by the pupils of Standards II to VI. These gardens are regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation.

Secondary.—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz :—(1) Secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (2) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by Government.

(1) *Aided Secondary Schools.*—Government grants to secondary aided schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as in the case of primary aided schools, with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

The following table shows the number of institutions, the number of pupils on roll and in average attendance, and the staff of teachers during the year 1932 :—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Aided	9	117	1,588	1,335

These schools provide not only for elementary education such as is given in primary schools, but also for higher education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate and the London Matriculation.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history, and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale.

These schools are visited periodically by the Superintendent of Schools, who examines the lower forms. The middle and higher forms are examined partly by local examiners and partly through examinations conducted by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools, extend, as a general rule, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., no provision being made for evening classes.

(2) *Royal College.*—The Royal College, Curepipe, is a Government school for the higher education of boys up to the age of 20. Affiliated to it is the Royal College School at Port Louis, where boys under the age of 18 are educated on the same lines. The staff of the Royal College consists of the Rector, 12 Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, and 11 Assistant Masters locally appointed ; and at the Royal College School of the

Headmaster, 2 Masters, and 8 Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. Examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped chemical and physical laboratories; almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies.

Admission to the College is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning either one of the twenty Annual Primary Schools Scholarships and Exhibitions or one of the two Secondary Schools Scholarships awarded annually. The boys are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from ten to twenty years.

About ten College Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded annually to College pupils and also a Classical and a Modern Scholarship of the present value of £1,300 (with 1st class passage to and from England), tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom.

Besides the winners of these scholarships, a few boys, whose parents can afford it, go to England or France to study a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practise. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects. Specialization begins at the entrance class and the division into modern and classical side becomes complete in the upper middle class.

In addition to the standard secondary education there are extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public science examinations are helped in their studies.

The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1932, was 325, and of the School 92. The average attendance at the College was 255 and at the School 85.

Encouragement is given to athletics, rugby and association football, hockey, boxing and physical training, and gymnastics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high. As the pupils are all day-boys it is difficult to obtain much support for other social activities, but a school magazine is published termly, and a musical society is being formed.

Welfare Institutions.

There are five Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women, and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy; also an orphanage for boys and one for girls under the control and management of the Church of England, and one "home" for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland. These institutions receive from the Government a maintenance fee for each pauper maintained therein.

Under Ordinance 44 of 1932, which came into force on the 24th December, 1932, a " Home " styled " The Austin Wilson's Home " is established at Quatre Bornes for the aged, destitute, and infirm. The funds for the formation of this " Home " are being generously contributed by Mr. A. J. Wilson in memory of his son, the late Austin Wilson.

A Mahommedan Orphanage was also started in Port Louis this year for the maintenance and education of orphans of the Mahommedan creed.

Funds for running the institution are obtained from voluntary subscriptions among the Mahommedans.

Outdoor assistance to paupers is granted by the Poor Law Department partly in cash and partly in food provisions.

Several private religious societies for the distribution of assistance in food and medical care are also in existence. The Société Française d'Assistance assist chiefly destitute French people.

The Child Welfare Committee and the Oeuvre Pasteur de la Goutte de lait, two philanthropic institutions, deal especially with expectant and nursing mothers and their babies.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance provides for the grant of a compensation by the employer to workmen who are injured in the course of their work.

Recreation, Music, Art and Drama.

Association football is the most popular form of sport, and there is a stadium at Curepipe, a second at Cassis, on the outskirts of Port Louis, and a third at Rose Hill. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey, and rugby football are played, mostly by the wealthier classes. The Mauritius Turf Club and the Mauritius Jockey Club hold race meetings from June to September at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis, and at Mangalkhan, in the district of Plaines Wilhems; and regattas are held by the yacht clubs of Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay. " La Chasse " or the shooting of driven deer can be said to be the national sport of Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies; the latter are known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy Scouts have not been so successful as the Girl Guides, but efforts are being made to encourage the movement.

There is not much encouragement for any of the arts. Music is fostered by the parish churches, whose amateur singers frequently give concerts. Apart from church organists the Christian Brothers are almost alone in providing musical training.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent. The Institute has a collection of pictures presented by Mr. Rochecouste, but there is no other art gallery.

Occasional dramatic performances are given by amateurs, but no permanent society has been formed. In better times the Municipality of Port Louis subsidizes a theatrical company from France, which plays in the theatre at Port Louis. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town, to which companies come from China when conditions are more prosperous.

There exists a Royal Society of Arts and Sciences which was founded in 1829 under the title of Société d'Histoire Naturelle and was granted a Royal Charter in 1846. It interests itself in most branches of science and arts especially those relating to questions of agriculture and the national history of the Colony. The Society was incorporated with the Mauritius Institute in 1906 and its library is being transferred to the Institute library.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads and Road Transport.

During the past ten years Mauritius, in common with other outlying Colonies, has seen a gradual development of road transport on modern lines, with a marked tendency for passengers and light merchandize to leave the railways for the excellent local roads.

Comparative figures of motor vehicles on the road are as follows :—

	1922.	*1932.*	
Private motor cars	1,685*	1,462	1,716
Motor cabs	—	254	
Motor lorries	141	358	
Motor cycles	202	143	
Motor omnibuses...	—	125	
Total	2,028	2,342	

Towards the end of 1932 a Transport Control Board was constituted and was given extensive powers to co-ordinate road and rail transport, to make regulations, and to control generally all public conveyances.

The Board is composed of the Colonial Secretary (Chairman), the Inspector-General of Police (Deputy Chairman), the Director of Public Works Department, and four Unofficial Members.

The Colony is well served with 494 miles of first-class roads called " main roads " and 188 miles of second-class roads, called " branch roads " which are maintained by the Public Works Department. This gives on the average about one mile of road per square mile of area. All roads are metalled and the surface of 137 miles of main roads has been coated with bitumen.

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* Estimated figure.

Heavy motor vehicles averaging from three to six tons in maximum gross weight are allowed on practically all the main roads. At the end of 1932 these vehicles carried out of Port Louis a daily average of 269 tons and into that city an average of 137 tons.

The freight cost of this form of transport varies in accordance with the distance covered, from R.0.15 to R.0.44 per ton-mile.

An excellent bus service has gradually been built up and now, under the control of the Transport Control Board, is working on fixed routes throughout the Colony.

At the end of 1932 there were 125 buses on the roads, and these vehicles carried in and out of Port Louis a daily average of 4,407 persons.

The fares are very reasonable, being approximately R.0.02 per mile, with a minimum charge of R.0.05.

All classes of motor vehicles are subject to a tax or Rs.5 per horse-power except motor cycles which pay at the rate of Rs.4 per horse-power, while lorries pay an additional tax of Rs.40 per ton on maximum gross weight.

All vehicles plying for hire pay a yearly licence fee varying from Rs.50 in the case of a " five-seater " taxi-cab to Rs.500 in the case of an omnibus carrying over 22 passengers.

The total contribution to Government by way of licence fee and tax from the various classes of public conveyances can be seen from the following:

	Per annum. *Rs.*
Taxi-cab of 20 h.p. at Rs.5 per h.p.	100
Licence for 5 seats	50
Total	150
Public lorry of 25 h.p. at Rs.5	125
4 tons maximum gross weight at Rs.40 per ton	160
Licence	200
Total	485
Omnibuses of 25 h.p. at Rs.5	125
Licence for 22 passengers	400
Total	525

The Traffic Control Board Ordinance of 1932 provided for the compulsory insurance of all public conveyances against passenger and third-party risks.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways, not including 18 miles of 75 cm, gauge track, known as the Bois Cheri Light Railway, are of the British standard 4 feet 8½ inch gauge and comprise 108 miles of main line, 30 miles of station lay-outs and Government sidings, as well as 17 miles of other sidings maintained by the Railway Department for planters and sugar estates. The Railway is exceptional on account of its comparatively short length and very heavy gradients, much of it being 1 in 26.

The most important section, the Midland Line, 36 miles long, rises half-way along its length to 1,800 feet above the terminals at Port Louis, the capital, on the north-west and Mahebourg, the old port, on the south-east coasts of the island. A branch from Rose Belle on the Midland Line, 870 feet above sea-level, to the little creek and town of Souillac is 11 miles long. The North Line from Port Louis to Grand River South East, 31 miles long, is fairly level. The Moka Branch, from Rose Hill, on the Midland Line, 950 feet above sea-level, to Montagne Blanche, is 15 miles long and rises on this length to 1,500 feet. The Black River Branch, from Richelieu on the Midland Line to Tamarin, is 12½ miles long, and the Montagne Longue Branch, from Terre Rouge and the North Line to Montagne Longue, is 3½ miles long. There are no heavy gradients on either of these lines.

During 1932 drastic cuts in personnel and expenditure generally were made in an endeavour to make the expenditure and revenue balance. The successful results of the economies referred to will not be available till the publication of the figures for 1932-33. But the necessity for these measures is plainly seen from the following table.

The excess of expenditure over revenue for 1931-32 was Rs.1,748,468, as shown below :—

	Revenue 1929–30.	*Revenue 1930–31.*	*Revenue 1931–32.*	*Increase or Decrease of 1931–32 over 1930–31.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers	**781,749**	**606,668**	**434,325**	**— 172,343**
Parcels	**98,084**	**73,393**	**63,466**	**— 9,927**
General Goods ...	**1,313,577**	**1,143,729**	**817,077**	**— 326,652**
Miscellaneous... ...	**70,389**	**60,987**	**70,875**	**+ 9,888**
Net Revenue	**80,600**	**119,354**	**187,938**	**+ 68,584**
Total	**2,344,399**	**2,004,131**	**1,573,681**	**— 430,450**
Goods Tonnage ...	**409,830**	**354,611**	**254,139**	**— 100,472**

	1929–30. Expenditure.	*1930–31. Expenditure.*	*1931–32. Expenditure.*	*Increase or Decrease of 1931–32 over 1930–31.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Working expenditure ...	2,666,799	2,442,547	2,111,677	− 330,870
Net revenue expenditure	148,366	344,700	1,210,472*	+ 865,772
Total	2,815,165	2,787,247	3,322,149	+ 534,902

* Due to capital adjustments, to writing-off value of obsolete stores and to gratuities and allowances under recent dismissals of personel.

	Rs.	Rs.
Working expenditure		1,851,677
Renewals contribution		260,000
Net revenue expenditure ...	642,785	
Capital adjustments	567,687	1,210,472
		3,322,149
Less revenue		1,573,681
Deficit		Rs.1,748,468

At one time it was feared that owing to the road bus services passenger traffic on the Railway would have to be closed down altogether, but large reductions in fares have stemmed the tide and indeed secured an increase of passenger revenue. By still further fare concessions, it is hoped that an appreciable improvement will be effected in 1933. A readjustment of goods rates has given good results in spite of adverse trade conditions, and the excellent sugar crop of 1932 has greatly helped to improve the position.

Tramways.

Little change has taken place in the network of tramway lines which, since 1901, has been established on most sugar estates.

In 1932, there were on estates about 1,700 kilometres of rail, 214 locomotives, and 6,900 trucks. Farm tractors, which in certain cases are utilized for hauling, numbered 93 in 1932.

Posts and Telegraphs.

Mauritius is provided with a good service, there being 52 post and telegraph offices, 4 offices doing only postal work, 1 parcels office, which is also a parcels exchange office, and the General Post Office, also a postal exchange office.

Outlying offices and localities far from railway stations are served by postmen on bicycles. Mails to and from the Black River district are conveyed by a motor car contractor.

Mails from Europe and America are received by the Messageries Maritimes steamers via Marseilles and the Suez Canal, which also take mails at Aden from India and the Far East, and East African mails at Mombasa. Air mails from England via Nairobi are also taken on at Mombasa.

European and American mails are also sent by Royal Mail steamers to Cape Town and transhipped to any steamer sailing to Mauritius. Air mails are also sent from Europe via Johannesburg.

Twenty-five vessels of the Messageries Maritimes brought mails from Europe in 1932, the average time taken being 37.9 days.

Forty-five steamers conveyed European mails via the Union of South Africa, the average time taken being 36.5 days. The longest time was 51 days and the shortest 26 days.

Outgoing mails take less time to Europe, as they are sent by the Messageries Maritimes mail steamers or by any ship leaving for the Union of South Africa, where they are transhipped to the Royal Mail packets.

Air mails are sent either via Mombasa or Johannesburg.

Vessels of the Dutch K.P.M. Line call at Port Louis regularly twice every month, and an arrangement has been entered into with the Company to call at Rodrigues Island once every two months. These steamers are very regular and they take mails to Mombasa and Durban. The service has given great satisfaction.

The total number of articles, other than parcels, which passed through the Post Office in 1932 was 3,206,399.

The number of parcels received from abroad was 17,163 for a value of Rs. 816,065. These included :—from the United Kingdom, 3,946 ordinary parcels value Rs. 165,378 and 1,815 cash-on-delivery parcels worth Rs. 76,572; from India, 740 parcels worth Rs. 18,940; from France, 7,028 parcels worth Rs. 361,542 and 161 cash-on-delivery parcels worth Rs. 7,826; and from other countries, 3,473 parcels worth Rs. 185,807.

The number of parcels for abroad was 3,583 for a value of Rs. 184,588.

Money orders for £3,718 were issued, of which £3,340 were drawn on England. Orders for Rs. 112,241 were drawn on rupee-currency countries, of which Rs. 101,962 were on India.

Telegraphic communication with the world outside is maintained by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, and there is also the Rose Belle Wireless Station which maintains a twenty-four hour service, and works mainly with ships at sea and with Reunion Island.

The wireless station was built by the Admiralty in 1915 for communicating with ships at sea and with the various wireless bases in the Indian Ocean. The station was taken over by the Mauritius Government in June, 1923.

During the cyclone season from 1st November to 15th May, a detailed weather report including observations made at Seychelles, Rodrigues, and Reunion is transmitted to all ships and stations within range at 0830 Greenwich Mean Time daily.

When a cyclone is in the vicinity, the Government tug *Maurice* stationed in the harbour at Port Louis is manned, and the island weather reports are transmitted by wireless telegraphy from the tug to all vessels in port, for the guidance of their masters. The *Maurice* also acts as a stand by in the event of accident to the main wireless station.

The normal transmitting range of the station is 500 miles by day and 1,000 by night, on main power. For economic reasons a small continuous wave transmitter has been constructed and put into use. It has a day range of 300 miles and a night range of 650 miles, and is used chiefly for ships leaving or entering the port and for transmitting messages to Reunion. Ships bound for Mauritius and within range are also communicated with by this low-power set.

The receiving range of the station is world-wide on all frequencies in general use and the range is only limited by atmospherical conditions.

Messages are accepted at any post office in the Colony for transmission to any ship within transmission range of the station.

The public telephone system belongs to the Oriental Telephone Company. The Government owns a departmental telephone system, the total lengh of which is 150 miles. It is joined up with the Company's system.

Harbour.

Port Louis, the capital of the Colony, possesses the only navigable harbour for ocean-going ships, which is picturesquely situated on the north-west coast. A wide break in the ring of coral reefs surrounding the island, caused by the meeting of several rivers and streams, the Latanier, La Paix, Le Pouce, and Creole, gives access to the harbour, which has been dredged so as to provide deep-water accommodation for ten ships lying at berths in the channel and drawing from 24 to 31 feet of water. The harbour is flanked on the north by Fort George, a military post, and on the south by Fort William, which is abandoned. The mountains of the range behind Port Louis, including the Pouce, 2,661 feet, and Pieter Both, 2,690 feet, are guiding beacons to ships by day. The lighthouses on Flat Island, the Colony's quarantine station six miles north of Mauritius and Caves Point, five miles south of Port Louis on the cliff's edge, and the gas buoy to the north of the outer harbour entrance, direct ships approaching Port Louis by night. A tide gauge has been in operation for three years. The maximum rise of tide at ordinary springs is three feet, which diminishes to two or three inches at ordinary neaps. Dredging of the berths and channel by the Government plant is continuously in progress.

The Government of Mauritius is the Harbour Authority. The Government has from time to time sold or let to two lighterage companies various areas of land bordering the harbour. These two companies, the New Mauritius Dock Company and the Albion Dock Company, each own about 45 lighters with the necessary tugs, and undertake all the storage and lightering of sugar. The British India Steam Navigation Company also own 30 lighters and two tugs. This company mainly handles grain from the East, the rest of the general cargo being shared fairly evenly between the British India Company and the other two lighterage companies.

The Government, three years ago, built a deep-water quay, 500 feet long, with 32 feet of water alongside, and, though able to deal with 100,000 tons of cargo per annum, actually only discharges 40,000 to 50,000 tons, chiefly petroleum products, Government coal, and other details.

A Government granary, capable of storing 300,000 bags of rice, was completed two years ago, as a protection against the spread of plague in the Colony, but, for various reasons, it has not yet been put into full commission. An Ordinance to provide for the working of the granary is now before the Council of Government.

Shipping.

There are two regular lines of passenger steamers connecting Mauritius with the United Kingdom.

There is a fortnightly service between Marseilles and Mauritius maintained by the Messageries Maritimes Company; the average journey takes about six weeks and involves a stay of five or six days at Reunion either on the outward or inward journey.

Vessels of the K.P.M. (Dutch) Line leave Mauritius once a month for Durban and Cape Ports and once a month for Mombasa via Beira. A vessel also leaves Durban once a month direct for Mauritius. The K.P.M. Line has a working arrangement with the Union-Castle Line of steamers, and the voyage to England via the K.P.M. and Union-Castle Lines averages about 32 days.

Occasional vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company take passengers to Colombo and the journey to England by this means takes from 28 to 35 days.

Cheap passages to the United Kingdom can occasionally be secured during the sugar shipping season, October to March, on cargo steamers. The voyage averages about 40 days.

It is interesting, but regrettable, to note that passenger facilities between Mauritius and the United Kingdom were far better twenty years ago than they are to-day. The vessels of the Messageries Maritimes Company used to perform the voyage in 31 to 35 days, and the Union-Castle Company and the British India Company used to make regular monthly calls. Passenger fares have also increased, in so far as voyages via South Africa are concerned, by over 100 per cent.

The number of vessels and total tonnage entering and leaving the port during the past three years were as follows :—

Inwards.

		1930.		*1931.*		*1932.*	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	171	491,767	184	535,747	175	547,874
	Sailing Ships	8	4,478	3	2,013	9	5,473
		179	496,245	187	537,760	184	553,347
Coasting	Steamers ...	5	2,259	8	3,812	6	2,961
	Sailing Ships	14	3,985	10	3,328	12	2,657
		19	6,244	18	7,140	18	5,618

Outwards.

		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Foreign	Steamers ...	170	496,120	178	522,693	173	546,307
	Sailing Ships	10	4,824	3	2,013	8	5,473
		180	500,944	181	524,706	181	551,780
Coasting	Steamers ...	6	2,783	8	3,812	6	2,961
	Sailing Ships	11	2,996	11	3,686	7	2,111
		17	5,779	19	7,498	13	5,072

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are in the Colony three private banks, viz. :—

(*a*) The Mauritius Commercial Bank;
(*b*) The Mercantile Bank of India; and
(*c*) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838. The paid-up capital of the Bank is Rs. 2,000,000, made up of 10,000 shares of Rs. 200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1932, was Rs. 7,800,805.92.

The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid-up capital is £1.050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1932, amounted to Rs. 2,642,000.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) has a paid-up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local Bank on 31st December, 1932, amounted to Rs. 2,636,081. This Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank, Limited, was founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836), and the National Bank of South Africa, Limited. A branch of the last-named Bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays

Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned. This Bank conducts a savings bank department and also pays interest on fixed deposits as well as conducting a short-term deposit business.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts with a Head Office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1932, was 37,645 as against 37,419 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,114,747.68 as against Rs. 5,264,304.04. The Savings Bank is largely made use of by the Indians, of whom, on 30th June, 1932, there were 15,923 depositors with Rs. 2,104,180.09 to their credit, as against 15,787 depositors with Rs. 2,022,042.60 to their credit on 30th June, 1931. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. The formation of a Post Office Savings Bank is under consideration.

Currency.

The currency of the island is based on the Indian rupee. Apart from Indian silver coins the principal currency in circulation is provided by a Government issue of notes. The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 7,287,300 as compared with an average of Rs. 7,489,290 for the previous year. Against these notes the Commissioners of Currency held silver coins to the average value of Rs. 2,974,922 as compared with Rs. 3,267,900 in 1931-32.

Their investments on 1st July, 1931, amounted to Rs. 9,879,218.09 (which does not include Depreciation Fund). The investments remained unchanged during the year under review. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 1,791,334.64 to Rs. 1,902,148.75. From their investments the Currency Commissioners received interest which, after allowing for the increase in the Depreciation Fund, enabled Rs. 407,889.96 to be credited to the general revenue of the Colony.

The assets of the Commissioners of Currency, which include Depreciation Fund, exceed their liabilities by Rs. 1,797,456.17, calculating the value of investments at mean market rate on 30th June, 1932.

The liabilities include a sum estimated at Rs. 1,000,000 in respect of notes destroyed in circulation by fire, floods, etc.; therefore it is considered that the surplus of the Commissioners of Currency may be estimated to be increased by this amount.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use, but there are a number of English, French, and local measures also used, and as some of them will appear in this Report, it may be of use as well as of interest to mention them here.

Of French measures of length the *ligne française* is equal to 2·2558 millimetres or 0·0888 of an English inch. The French inch contains 12 *lignes* and the French foot twelve French inches. The French foot is equal to 1·0657653 English feet and is used by masons, carpenters, surveyors, and others.

The *lieue* is nearly equivalent to two and a-half English miles.

The *gaulette* is a measure of length equal to ten French feet. It is used on the estates as a measure of the work performed in the fields; a labourer is given a number of *gaulettes* as his task.

Forty thousand square French feet make one *arpent* which is equal to 1·0430263 acres; almost all land in Mauritius is measured by the *arpent*.

Other local measures of length and area are the *toise*, equal to two yards four inches or six French feet, and the *toise caree* (square *toise*) which is equal to thirty-six square French feet. This measure is used in masonry and similar work.

The *aune* is a measure of length used in most shops and is equal to about one yard and eleven inches.

English measures of length are generally used by Government, and road distances are measured in English miles. Places often derive their names from their distance from Port Louis or other important centres; thus there are places called "*Dixhuitième Mille*", "*Seizième Mille*" and so on. The kilometre is rarely used.

Of the local measures of capacity there is the *barrique* (equal to fifty gallons) which is used in sugar mills for measuring the amount of juice drawn from the cane.

The *tierçon* is a measure of capacity for molasses which varies from one hundred and ninety to one hundred and ninety-two litres.

The *velte* is a measure for oil, especially coconut oil, and is equal to 7·4505 litres.

The *bouteille* of eight hundred cubic centimetres is used in selling milk, vinegar, rum, and other like liquids. The half-bouteille is called *chopine*.

The weekly ration of rice of the labourer given on estates is called *gamelle*; it is equivalent to 5·250 kilogrammes.

The *livre* is equal to five hundred grammes or 1·10 English pounds.

The *corde* is employed for measuring stacks of firewood. The wood is stacked in lengths of two and a-half feet and laid crosswise until the stack measures four French feet high and eight French feet long and contains eighty cubic French feet or 96·82 English cubic feet.

Besides local and French measures of capacity, English measures are also in use and, when speaking of agricultural and other products, it may be well to say that four bales of aloe fibre go to the metric ton, that a bag of sugar, unless otherwise specified, weighs 80 kilograms, and that a "pocket" of sugar is generally 39½ kilos.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Government buildings, the sewerage of Port Louis, roads and bridges, the survey of Crown Land, water-supplies, and state irrigation.

Buildings.—Some of these, such as a time-ball tower in the Port Office, are of historical interest, dating from the time of the French Governor Mahè de Labourdonnais in 1740.

Government House in Port Louis was then in project and was built between 1740 and 1767. Apart from the addition of a second storey, it now stands exactly as it was originally constructed. It contains the Governor's offices, in which are to be found the table on which the capitulation of the island was signed in 1810, a throne room, a council room, the council offices, a library, and quarters for the Governor and officials.

The former and present Residences of the Governors at " Mon Plaisir ", Pamplemousses, and " Le Reduit ", Moka, also date back to the French occupation.

The value of the Government buildings is approximately 15 million rupees.

There are in the island one mental and nine general hospitals, the oldest being the Grand River North West Hospital, built in 1769 for the seamen. It is now used as a quarantine station for plague.

Severe cyclones, which happily are not frequent, are responsible for a good deal of damage to water-works, roads, and buildings.

Sewerage Works of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922 the scheme was revised by Messrs. Mansergh and Sons and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connexions, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

Bridges.—There exist 335 bridges on main and branch roads, the longest span being of 150 feet.

The old timber bridges are being gradually replaced by ferro-concrete structures, and there are 69 to be replaced.

Water-Works.—The water-supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from the Grand River North West at a distance of about four miles from the town and at a level of 250 feet. This supply was under the charge of the Municipality of the town until 1922, when it was handed over to the Public Works and Surveys Department.

The dam in the river was burst by the flood of December, 1929, and much of the pipe-line leading from it was also swept away. Water was pumped from Grand River North West to give Port Louis its normal supply during the dry season, while during the wet season the supply was obtained by gravitation from Moka River through the Pailles Canal.

The works of restoration of the dam and pipe-line were begun in September, 1931, and were completed by the end of February, 1932.

The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated.

The capacity of the mains leading to the filters is 5,000,000 gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of 2,000,000 gallons.

The water-supply of the towns of Plaines Wilhems and of parts of Moka and Black River districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare aux Vacoas, at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons.

The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands.

The whole of this water-supply is filtered through sand filters at " La Marie ", about two miles below the reservoir, whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being 5,500,000 gallons.

The population served by this supply is approximately 90,000 and the average daily consumption 3,500,000 gallons.

The Mare aux Vacaos water-supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. At present it is confined mostly to Government establishments, ships in harbour, and certain selected establishments, but the increase of the supply will be limited to 900,000 gallons per day. In this connexion a covered service reservoir at Petite Revière of 750,000 gallons was completed and put into operation in 1931.

The water-supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from twenty-seven different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered, but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest.

The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000, and belongs mostly to the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains.

Irrigation Works.—Government storage irrigation works were begun in 1914 according to plans made by Mr. C. M. Harriott, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Central Provinces, India, and Consulting Engineer for Irrigation Works to the Government of Mauritius.

The La Ferme scheme for the irrigation of the south-west of the island, between Grand River North West and River Dragon, has been finished, and the Nicolière scheme to irrigate land in the north, has been started. These two schemes cover a great deal of the fertile lands of the Colony which are below the level which enjoys 60 inches of rain and cannot be cultivated to the best advantage without irrigation water.

The La Ferme scheme is dependent on a low-level reservoir of 2,500 million gallons, which was completed in 1918 and now irrigates 3,700 acres of land under sugar cane plantation.

The plans for the Nicolière scheme include a high-level storage reservoir at 1,300 feet altitude at Midlands, of 4,400 million gallons capacity, intended to fill a low-level reservoir at Nicolière of a capacity of about 250 million gallons.

The Nicolière reservoir has been finished, but, although some land under cane cultivation is being irrigated from it, the full scheme will only be working when the Midlands reservoir is completed. Owing to financial conditions the plans were first curtailed and the works afterwards suspended as a result of the visit of the Financial Commission, but the feeder channel, which measures 16¾ miles from Midlands to Nicolière was completed by the end of 1931, with a reduced section.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The Supreme Court sits in the capital (Port Louis), and is presided over by one Chief Judge and two Puisne Judges. It has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters and also as a Court of Admiralty; it also decides appeals from the Supreme Court of Seychelles and the inferior Courts of Mauritius.

There is a Bankruptcy Division presided over by one of the Judges or by the Master and Registrar sitting as Judge in Bankruptcy.

In 1932, the Supreme Court dealt with 282 civil matters out of 335 which were brought before it, as against 317 out of 401 in the year before.

In 1932, sixteen persons were brought before this Court and tried on criminal charges, and of these eleven were convicted.

Criminal cases are tried by a Judge and a jury. Divorce causes, bankruptcy matters and civil actions in which the sum involved is less than Rs. 3,000 are heard by one Judge. Civil actions in respect of claims over Rs. 3,000 are heard by two Judges. Where, however, the magnitude of the interests at stake or the importance of the questions of fact or law involved make it desirable, a case is heard by three Judges.

Magistracies.—There is a Magistrate's Court in each of the nine districts, the Courts in Port Louis and in Plaines Wilhems sitting each in two divisions. A Magistrate has jurisdiction in nearly all civil matters involving not more than Rs. 1,000, and in all criminal matters, with power to inflict not more than one year's imprisonment and Rs. 1,000 fine.

A Bench of three Magistrates may be instituted by law for the trial of certain offences, and also at the request of the Procureur-General for nearly all offences, with jurisdiction extending to three years' penal servitude or imprisonment and fine, possibly of Rs. 3,000.

An appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court within the limits stated above, both in fact and law, the several modes of reviewing the decisions being the same as in English law.

There is no system similar to the French Assistance Judiciaire, but facilities are given to very poor litigants, both before the Supreme Court and the inferior Courts, to obtain leave to sue *in forma pauperis*. In Supreme Court cases, Counsel are always ready to accept a pauper brief at the request of the Chief Judge, while in Assize cases, Counsel are always appointed without fee, for undefended prisoners.

The dependencies are visited periodically by one of two Magistrates supernumerary to the District Magistrates, whose services are also available in Mauritius.

The Rodrigues is administered by a Magistrate who has the same jurisdiction in Rodrigues as a District Magistrate in Mauritius, and whose duties are to a considerable extent administrative.

During the year 1932 the Magistrates tried 7,211 civil cases and held 142 coroners' inquests, 26 preliminary inquiries into crime and serious misdemeanours, and 12,486 ordinary criminal cases and petty offences.

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force is organized and trained on the usual lines adopted in Civil, as distinct from Military, Police Forces, but all recruits are instructed in squad drill with arms whilst in the Training Depot and special units of the Force undergo periodical training in platoon and Lewis Gun formations, anti-riot drill, and ceremonial.

The purely military side of the training is supervised by officers and other ranks who have served in the Army, there being six Gazetted officers and 46 other ranks still in the Force who were on active service during the War of 1914-18.

The majority of the Gazetted and Warrant Officers are provided by promotion from the ranks, but vacancies are also filled when necessary by Colonial Office appointment or transfer from other Police Forces. The rank and file are recruited locally, the great majority being natives of Mauritius with a few representatives of India, Rodrigues, and Seychelles.

Distribution.—The establishment of 20 officers and 598 other ranks is divided into Headquarters Staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Motor Traffic Branch, Training Depot, Harbour Police, District Police, Railway Police, Rodrigues Police, and Band.

The Headquarters of the Force, with the special Branches and Depot, are established in the historic line barracks at Port Louis which have been gradually improved and adapted to meet modern requirements.

The District Police are distributed in the towns and principal villages in fifty-five units varying in strength from one to thirty-eight, and the Harbour Police control an area of Port Louis including the Customs House, Post Office, Docks, Wharves, and Harbour.

The Rodrigues and Railway Police are under the control of the Resident Magistrate of Rodrigues and the General-Manager of Railways, respectively, and are staffed by the transfer of trained members of the general force.

The Band has the establishment of the normal military band and the personnel comprises a European bandmaster with bandsmen from India and Mauritius.

Crime.—The number of offences of every description reported to the Police during the year 1932 was 20,245, which shows an increase on the figure for 1931, which was 18,194, and an increase on the average figure for the previous six years, which is 18,900. This increase is entirely due to the Police Department having taken over the duties of the former Inland Revenue Branch of the Receiver-General's Department during the first half of the year, and is made up of 2,982 cases of contravention of the Revenue, Fishery, and Weights and Measures Laws.

The normal figure for crimes, misdemeanours and minor offences was therefore 17,263, which is the lowest figure on record.

As regards the more serious offences a comparison with the figures for 1931 shows :—

(*a*) An increase in offences against the person—7,748 in 1932 and 7,452 in 1931.

(*b*) An increase in offences against property—3,441 in 1932 and 3,228 in 1931.

The number of persons prosecuted in all cases was 9,376, of whom 8,663 were convicted, 545 otherwise disposed of, and 168 were pending trial at the end of the year.

Corresponding figures for the previous year were :—persons prosecuted, 8,016 ; persons convicted, 7,197 ; otherwise disposed of, 430 ; pending trial, 389.

Prisons.

Organization.—The Prison Department has a European staff of five senior officers and 108 locally-recruited warders.

Establishments.—The penal institutions are Port Louis Central Prison, Beau Bassin Convict Prison, and Barkly Industrial School for male juvenile offenders.

Port Louis Prison provides separate cell accommodation for 154 male prisoners and association cells for 40 women. It also contains the offices of the Department and quarters for two senior Officers and two Wardresses. All prisoners waiting trial are housed here in convenient proximity to the Supreme and Magistrates Courts, and special arrangements are in force, under the supervision of the Medical Director, for treating convicted prisoners on admission for prevalent diseases before transfer to the Convict Prison at Beau Bassin. This prison also serves as the centre for classification of convicted prisoners and for treatment of special and difficult cases.

Beau Bassin Prison is a modern type convict prison containing single cell accommodation for 756 male prisoners. Detached bungalow-type quarters for the Superintendent and two Chief Warders are located in the surrounding Prison grounds.

Barkly Industrial School consists of a large range of buildings and quarters formerly used as a hospital and now providing accommodation for 200 boys and seven School officers. Boys falling into the hands of the Police are sent to the School direct without being detained in Police cells or the Central Prison and remain there while waiting disposal by a Magistrate.

Classification.—Convicted prisoners are at present classified as (*a*) penal servitude, (*b*) hard labour, (*c*) misdemeanants, and (*d*) juveniles and first offenders and, so far as the existing accommodation permits, the various classes are separated and wear distinctive clothing. The creation of a " star " or " special " class is now in the second year of the experimental stage and will be reported upon at the end of 1933.

Classes (*a*) and (*b*) serve their sentences at Beau Bassin Prison, while (*c*) and (*d*) with old, infirm, and special type prisoners are kept at Port Louis.

Labour.—The normal labour for male prisoners at Port Louis is carpentry, stone-breaking, cutting firewood, carting stores, and cleaning Government buildings and grounds.

Women prisoners are employed on laundry work and sewing clothing and bedding.

At Beau Bassin Prison prisoners with long sentences are taught a trade, while those serving shorter sentences are principally employed on agricultural work in the Prison gardens.

The trades taught in the Prison workshops comprise tailoring, boot, sail, and mattress making; carpentry and cabinet making; blind, mat, and basket making; tinsmith work and blacksmithing. Instruction in baking is given in the Prison bakery which produces about 1,400 pounds a bread daily and numerous prisoners are trained as stonemasons in the quarries and neighbouring grounds.

Population.—The total admissions during the year numbered 3,653, and the daily average population was 662.10.

The number of convicted prisoners received from the Courts was 2,282 (2,138 men and 144 women), of whom 1,455 had been awarded sentences of one month or less, and 959 were admitted for non-payment of fines.

On 31st December, 1932, there were 503 persons in custody, of whom 488 were convicted, 475 being males and 13 females.

The corresponding figures for 1931 were :—

Total committals	3,775
Total sentenced	2,337
In custody on 31st December, 1931	677
Admissions for non-payment of fines	869

Health.—The reports of the Medical Officers attached to the Prisons show that apart from recurring cases of a serious type of dysentery the health of the prisoners was good. There were 22 deaths during the year compared with 33 in 1931.

Juvenile Offenders.—The number of boys in the Barkly Industrial School on 31st December, 1932, was 47, compared with 56 in 1931, 62 in 1930, 68 in 1929, and 83 in 1928. This persistent decrease is principally due to the disinclination of Magistrates to send offenders to the School except in serious cases and partially to the increased demand for juvenile labour.

The number of boys brought to the School during the year was 51, of whom 10 had been sentenced to detention before admission. Of the remaining 41 only 22 were subsequently sent to the School for detention, the remainder being whipped or cautioned and discharged.

There were thus 32 boys admitted for various periods of detention, of whom 23 had been convicted for breaches of the Penal Code, and 9 for juvenile vagrancy.

In addition to the above 51 boys no less than 135 others appeared before the Magistrates on various charges, the total juvenile delinquents and their disposal being as follows :

Sentenced to detention at Industrial School ...	32
Sentenced to whipping	75
Sentenced to pay a fine	3
Discharged or cautioned	76
	186

Discharges from the School during the year numbered 40, of whom 39 had completed their period of detention and one was released on pardon.

The programme of instruction has remained unaltered, every boy receiving the usual primary school education during a portion of the day and being employed on agricultural work, carpentry, or tinsmith work for the remaining time.

The health of the boys is excellent and their physical development during their residence at the School is remarkable.

The problem of securing employment for these boys on discharge from the School has always been difficult and the question of how to provide some sort of after-care for them still remains unanswered.

There are, however, signs of something of the sort being attempted owing to the initiative of the local branch of Toc H and if the scheme matures a serious gap in the local penal system will have been filled.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

A list of the Ordinances passed during the year under review, is given in Appendix I to this Report.

Of the Ordinances passed, the following, which are important and of interest not purely local, may be mentioned specifically :—

Customs Tariff.—Ordinance No. 28 enacts a consolidated Customs Tariff involving increased duty on many articles and establishing throughout a large measure of preferential duties in favour of British and Canadian goods—with a clause enabling the Governor by Proclamation to extend the preferential rates to any other Dominion or Colony granting reciprocity. The measure of preference on many articles is much over, and in no case less than, a 10 per cent. difference between the general and preferential rates.

Immigration of Destitutes and Repatriation of Distressed Seamen.—Ordinance No. 6 imposes restrictions, by way of security to be furnished or refusal to land, on destitute or criminal immigrants or immigrants once already repatriated at the cost of the Colony.

Ordinance No. 35 imposes on the masters, owners, or consignees of all ships, other than those registered in Mauritius, the obligation of giving security for the cost of relief, maintenance, and repatriation of seamen engaged locally, in the event of these seamen being discharged or left behind in distress in a foreign part.

Income Tax.—Ordinance No. 21 provides for the imposition of income tax at the rate of 5 per cent. on the first Rs. 6,000 of income and 10 per cent. on any income above that amount. The Ordinance is based on the Colonial Office model drafted in 1922. The year of assessment was to have begun on 1st

July, 1932, for the preceding year of chargeable income, but authority has been received to postpone the tax for one year, so that the year of assessment will begin on 1st July, 1933, in respect of the chargeable income received from 1st July, 1932, to 30th June, 1933.

Road Transport.—Ordinance No. 8 establishes a Transport Control Board with an unofficial majority of members to regulate and co-ordinate motor vehicular traffic (goods and passengers) on roads—charges and rates distribution of transport over roads and areas, and general control; insurance against passenger and third-party risks is compulsory. The Ordinance is based on the legislation in South Africa and the recent English Statutes.

Widows' and Orphans' Pensions.—Ordinance No. 23 hands over the existing fund to the general revenue of the Colony and is preparatory to legislation converting the fund into a Government scheme.

General.—Other Ordinances were passed providing for :—licence duty increases (No. 25); a passenger tax on embarking and on landing, on a graduated scale (No. 33); a tax of 1 per cent. on remittances abroad and on drafts, etc., sent for collection (No. 29); levies on Government officials' salaries (Nos. 4, 20, and 32); an excise duty on locally-manufactured fruit wines (No. 38); and tobacco production and marketing amendment (No. 27).

Forty-five Ordinances were passed.

The outstanding features of this year's Ordinances and subsidiary legislation are :—

(1) Fiscal measures to increase revenue and the re-distribution of the Receiver-General's, now the Treasurer's Department, as a consequence of a policy of retrenchment.

(2) The institution of a centralized control of Road Transport to regulate traffic and forces, prevent overlapping, and ensure greater protection by compulsory insurance against third-party risks.

(3) The introduction of income tax.

(4) The imposition of a levy on salaries of Government servants.

CHAPTER XV.

FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1932, amounted to Rs. 12,160,278.81, being Rs. 1,539,283.19

below the Estimates of 1931-32 and Rs. 608,686.26 above the revenue of the previous year.

The expenditure for the same period amounted to Rs. 17,704,574.70, being Rs. 3,019,572.70 above the Estimates for 1931-32 and Rs. 1,612,500.81 above the expenditure of the previous year. The expenditure included a sum of Rs. 3,292,320.57 for writing off the excess of expenditure over revenue of the Railway Department for the period 1st July, 1926, to 30th June, 1932.

The expenditure incurred during the financial year 1931-32 exceeded the revenue by Rs. 5,544,295.89 which amount represents the deficit on the financial transactions of the Colony for the year.

Of the expenditure for 1931-32 Rs. 4,922,576.84 was spent on "Personal Emoluments" and Rs. 12,781,997.86 on "Other Charges". The corresponding figures for 1930-31 were Rs. 5,032,366.84 for "Personal Emoluments", and Rs. 11,059,707.05 for "Other Charges".

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1927-28	15,308,918	16,725,513
1928-29	13,322,248	16,930,182
1929-30	14,483,467	15,575,001
1930-31	11,552,210	16,092,073
1931-32	12,160,278	17,704,574

The Colonial Government pays a military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its revenue (total revenue exclusive of land sales, irrigation, Mare-aux-Vacoas and other waterworks, revenue, contribution towards loan 1922 charges, and special export duty on sugar) as a contribution to the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. The amount of the contribution for the year ended 30th June, 1932, was Rs. 562,985.79. As from 1st July, 1932, the annual contribution was reduced to Rs. 200,000.

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony, which on 30th June, 1931, stood at £2,796,994 7s. 7d., was £3,396,994 7s. 7d. on 30th June, 1932.

Against this liability of £3,396,994 7s. 7d. there was an accumulated sinking fund of £1,410,077 15s. 7d. as compared with £1,258,235 13s. 9d. on 30th June, 1931.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets and liabilities at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 17,859,813.87 and Rs. 21,305,842.97, showing a deficit of Rs. 3,446,029.10 on 30th June, 1932.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1932.

Liabilities.	Rs.	*Assets.*	Rs.
Deposits	16,869,771.79	Cash	1,850,713.60
Colonial Military Lands Fund	50,384.95	Investments	7,823,002.54
Government of India ...	11,664.71	Improvement and Development Fund	2,311,813.07
Joint Colonial Fund—Advances by	586,666.67	Value of lands and buildings given up by War Department	50,384.95
Family remittances ...	5,366.54	Government of Seychelles	11,156.33
Loan Funds unexpended ...	3,781,988.31	Advances	5,590,036.06
		Unallocated Stores—Public Works	201,727.31
		Remittances	20,980.01
		Surplus of liabilities over assets	3,446,029.10
	Rs. 21,305,842.97		Rs.21,305,842.97

Description of the Main Heads of Taxation and their Yield.

The main heads of taxation, with their yield, for the current year, as compared with the preceding year, are the following :—

		Year 1931-32.	*Year* 1930-31.
		Rs.	Rs.
Customs	Import duties	3,656,522.10	3,822,385.11
	Export duties	402,672.23(*)	54,503.71
Excise duty on rum issued for home consumption.		1,496,012.71	1,445,812.94
Licence duty		1,049,144.05	1,097,327.57
Tobacco excise		1,009,998.74	429,959.86
Taxes on vehicles and animals.		348,828.47	365,969.55
House tax		279,448.01	193,675.56

By the end of 1932 it was possible to state that there was every indication that revenue would exceed expenditure in the financial year 1932-33.

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* Includes special export duty on sugar.

Customs.

Import Duty.

1913.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Rs. 3,506,622	Rs. 4,136,008	Rs. 3,762,014	Rs. 3,935,135

Export Duty.

1913.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Rs. 570,948	Rs. 220,584*	Rs. 41,802*	Rs.752,832

* Amounts collected as extra duty and not considered as revenue are not included.

Customs Tariff (summarized).

The following shows the rates of duty of the principal imports and exports on the 31st December, 1932 :—

Imports.

Rice	63c per 100 kilos.	Wines in casks up to 14°.	Rs. 22 per hectolitre.
Dholl	Rs. 1·14 per 100 kilos.	Wines in cases up to 14° (still).	33c per litre.
Flour	94c per 100 kilos.	Spirits (proof) ...	Rs. 6·87 per litre.
Fertilizers ...	11c to Rs. 1·10 per 100 kilos.	Tobacco, manufactured.	Rs. 15·00 per kilo.
Coal	8c per 100 kilos.	„ cigarettes	Rs. 16·50 per kilo.
Petroleum oil ...	Rs. 5·28 per hectolitre.	Vegetable oil, other than olive.	Rs. 5·50 to Rs. 7·70 per 100 kilos.
Petroleum spirits	Rs. 14·00 per hectolitre.	Most manufactured articles.	5·5 to 55 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Soap, common ...	Rs. 1·93 per 100 kilos.		

Exports.

*Sugar ...	2c per 100 kilos.	Aloe fibre ...	R. 1·00 per 100 kilos.

* *Note.*—Not including other duties levied, on export of these articles, for specific purposes.

Principal preferential rates on imports.

	Preferential.	*General.*
Motor vehicles of all kinds (including tyres and tubes).	5·5 per cent. *ad valorem*	36⅔ per cent. *ad valorem*
Silk manufactures (including art silk).	16·5 „ „ „ „	55 „ „ „ „
Indigo	R. 1·10 per kilo.	Rs. 2·75 per kilo.
Cement	·22 per 100 kilos.	·82 per 100 kilos
Cinema films ...	Free	·04 per metre.
Machinery, industrial	R.1·45 per 100 kilos.	5·5 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Cotton manufactures	13 per cent. *ad valorem.*	26 per cent. *ad valorem.*
	and also specific rates in certain cases.	
Hardware	11 per cent. *ad valorem.*	22 per cent. *ad valorem.*

Excise and Stamp Duties.

The duty on rum for home consumption is Rs. 2.75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

The duty on rum to be denatured for heating or lighting purposes is four cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of four cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier.

The duty on rum to be denatured for industrial purposes is four cents per litre or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier.

The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures or drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of " Alcoolats " in accordance with the formulae of the *British Pharmacopoeia* or the *French Codex* or of any other tincture or drug to be notified in *Gazette* is Rs. 2.50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier, with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees.

The duty on vinegar is Rs. 1.70 per hectolitre on vinegar not exceeding 8 degrees of strength and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8 degrees.

According to the excise figures the number of litres of alcohol distilled in 1931-32 (July to June) was 743,440 litres as compared with an average of 787,237 litres for the past five years.

Since 7th June, 1932, an excise duty has been imposed on wine and other liquor (excepting rum and compounded rum) manufactured in the Colony which contain more than four degrees of alcohol according to Gay Lussac's alcholometer, as follows :—

(i) on all such liquor not exceeding 14 degrees by Gay Lussac's alcoholometer, a duty of 15 cents per litre ;

(ii) on all such liquor exceeding 14 degrees, a duty at the same rate and on the same scale as the Customs duty on wine payable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

An excise duty of Rs. 4 per kilo is charged on leaf tobacco used for the manufacture of tobacco for local consumption.

Prior to 1st July, 1932, the same duty was charged on the manufactured tobacco produced.

According to the official figure the quantity of tobacco manufactured in the year 1932 was 307,968.120 kilos as compared with 256,191.900 kilos in 1931.

Under Ordinance No. 26 of 1932 the stamp duty on receipts and cheques was increased to ten cents.

Two Government Notifications affecting the revenue of the Colony were passed, during the financial year 1931-32, viz. :—

No. 21 of 2nd February, 1932, which provides for 3 half-yearly licences of Rs. 30, Rs. 25, and Rs. 15, respectively, for dealers in tobacco in Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3, as defined by Article 11 of Ordinance No. 38 of 1930, as amended by Article 6 of Ordinance No. 46 of 1931.

No. 117 of 21st May, 1932, which provides for a yearly licence of R. 1 for hawkers or sellers of wax locally prepared.

The Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926, was amended by Ordinance No. 48 of 1931 by the addition of a proviso to Article 14 of Ordinance No. 22 of 1926 as under :—

> Provided that for policies of insurance or indemnity, or other instruments by whatever name the same shall be called whereby any employer enters into a contract with an insurer in respect of any liability under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1931, there shall be paid on the issuing of such policies stamp duty as follows :
>
> R. 1 for every Rs. 100 or part of Rs. 100 premium, with a minimum of R. 1 for premiums under Rs. 100.

House Tax.

Rates.—(1) A flat rate of R. 1 per annum on every habitable room of any building assessed at Rs. 500 or less, the rate not to exceed Rs. 3, and

(2) 1 per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs. 500.

Yield.—The amount collected during the financial year 1931-32 was Rs. 279,448.

Method of Assessment.—Any building liable to the house tax is assessed according to its full and fair value.

In assessing the full and fair value, the valuer takes into consideration the actual or possible rent a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for such building. This applies only to buildings whose basic value is above Rs. 500 and on which the annual tax is 1 per cent. on the value.

Method of collection.—For the purpose of collecting the house tax when the assessment arrived at is final for the year, notices for payment are served upon owners of buildings and the tax is paid to the Cashier of the district in which it is levied.

The tax at the flat rate ceased on 31st December, 1932, houses assessed at Rs. 500 or less being in future exempted from house tax.

Income Tax.

The decision to impose an income tax in Mauritius represented a departure from the fiscal policy which had hitherto been followed. As early as 1909 a Financial Commission suggested that an income tax of 2 per cent. be levied, but it was not till twenty-three years later that an Ordinance was passed in 1932 making income tax effective from 1st July, 1932.

The Ordinance is simple in form and levies a tax on the income of any person accruing in, derived from, or received in the Colony, the basis of assessment being the income of the preceding year. It also taxes by deduction at the source any mortgage or debenture interest paid to a person not resident in the Colony.

Deduction of tax at the source is adopted in the case of dividends paid by companies registered in the Colony, but only so far as the dividends are paid out of profits on which tax has been or will be paid. In only one other case does it apply, and that is in relation to the payment of mortgage and debenture interest to a person not resident in the Colony. In these cases the non-resident actually possesses a stake in the Colony, and by a simple process of classification it is obvious that the principle of taxation by " origin " must include such sources.

Apart from the question of deduction of tax and the general basis of charge, the structure differs from the United Kingdom system in certain important respects :—

(1) The assessment of rents is based on actual income and includes premiums.

(2) Profits from employments include payments in kind and the value of any quarters, board, or residence.

Important differences in the appeal procedure and method of collection are also noticeable :—

(1) There is no local appellate body. When agreement is not reached with the Commissioner the case goes to the Supreme Court, whether on a point of law or fact.

(2) Assessment and collection proceed throughout the year of assessment and a 10 per cent. penalty is incurred if duty is not paid within 30 days after service of a notice of assessment which is automatically a demand note.

The provisions with regard to the assessment of non-residents, including cases of foreign control, proceed on the identical lines followed in the United Kingdom. It is interesting to observe that a non-resident who is a British subject is entitled to all the usual personal allowances which in the United Kingdom are granted only to a person resident there. This is to be expected where the " origin " theory mainly applies.

The taxation of life insurance companies is reduced to the simplest measures by reference to their investment income and management expenses. In the case of all insurance companies the assessment also depends upon the ratio of premiums received in the Colony to those received outside the Colony.

The taxation of shipping is not on an arbitrary basis. In the case of shipowners within the British Empire the profits depend on the total profits of the owner wherever arising. In other cases it is a matter for negotiation.

The chargeable income of any year is the aggregate amount of income from all sources and thus includes automatic provision for losses. This allowance is extended in the case of losses in any trade, business, profession, or vacation by a system of " carry forward " for five years with the interesting limitation that the " carry forward " shall not operate in any one year to grant relief in excess of one-half of the tax which would otherwise have been chargeable. This restriction is vital to the finances of a colony such as Mauritius, which possesses one staple industry which is entirely at the mercy of the elements.

A personal allowance is granted of Rs. 2,000 with an additional allowance of Rs. 1,000 in the case of a married man. There are also allowances of Rs. 300 for each child and Rs. 200 for each dependent relative of the husband. Allowance is also made for life assurance premium and for certain contributions to pension funds.

When all allowances have been granted the first Rs. 6,000 bears tax at 5 cents in the rupee and thereafter at 10 cents in the rupee. There is no supertax but certain allowances are withheld when the chargeable income, before granting those allowances, exceeds Rs. 30,000.

Finally, there is one extremely interesting provision. That part of the tax attributable to the income of a married woman can be recovered from her although the assessment is made on the husband in one sum. There is no provision for separate assessment.

CHAPTER XVI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

One of the most important events of the year was the decision of His Majesty's Government, which was announced early in 1932, to increase the sugar preference, during a period of 5 years by 1 shilling per cwt., on all Colonial sugars consigned from a Colony to the United Kingdom and by a special additional preference of 1 shilling per cwt., on a prescribed quota, which in the case of Mauritius was fixed at 95,400 tons for the 1932 crop. With a total sugar production of 247,000 tons the assistance which was thus extended to the Colony by the Imperial Government amounted to over £340,000 for the year and was received with gratitude by the inhabitants of the Colony during a period of acute financial depression.

Another decision for which the people of Mauritius are greatly indebted to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom was the announcement made later in the year that the agreement of the Treasury and War Office had been secured to the reduction to £15,000 of the military contribution payable by the Colony during the financial years 1932-33 and 1933-34. This represents an annual saving to the Colony of about Rs. 450,000 for two years and has greatly assisted the recovery of financial equilibrium.

The Report of the Financial Commissioners* appointed by the Secretary of State in 1931 to visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget was received early in 1932. The principal measures recommended by the Commissioners and adopted by Government, after certain modifications or adjustments, included the extensive reorganization of certain Departments and retrenchments of staff calculated to bring about substantial economies in public expenditure. Legislative measures were also enacted with the object of increasing Government revenues.

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* Cmd. 4034.

Retrenchment measures have operated on fairly extensive lines in the Railway, Public Works, and Forests Departments, while it was also found advisable to abolish the Inland Revenue Branch of the Receiver-General's Department and to transfer the duties hitherto performed by that Branch to the Police and Customs Departments. The Office of Receiver-General was also abolished and the title of the Head of the Department altered to that of Treasurer.

The principal legislative measures passed with a view to bringing about increased revenue include an Ordinance to impose a temporary levy on a graduated scale on the salaries of public servants; and also Ordinances, the effects of which are detailed in the chapter on Legislation, to provide for a consolidated Customs Tariff involving increased duties on many articles, the imposition of an income tax, increased licence duties, a tax on passengers entering or leaving the Colony, a tax of 1 per cent. on remittances abroad or on drafts sent for collection, and an excise duty on locally manufactured wines.

The decision to impose an income tax was arrived at after prolonged discussions arising out of the Financial Commissioners' original recommendation for the imposition of an occupiers' tax. Public opinion in the Colony was not in favour of an occupiers' tax and, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the conclusion was reached that an income tax was the most suitable form of direct taxation applicable to the Colony.

The services of a specialist officer from the Inland Revenue Department of the Home Civil Service were secured to inaugurate the income tax organization in Mauritius. The officer arrived in the Colony in October, 1932. The year of assessment will begin on the 1st of July, 1933, in respect of the chargeable income received from the 1st July, 1932, to the 30th June, 1933.

On 19th March His Excellency Sir W. E. Jackson inaugurated the Mauritius Hemp Spinning and Weaving Factory at Quatre Bornes. The funds required for the purchase of the plant and the erection of the factory were partly supplied by Government in the form of an advance of Rs. 150,000 made to the company. The factory has started operations and a new subsidiary industry is thus established in Mauritius.

The island was visited in June by H.M.S. *Enterprise*. The stay of the *Enterprise* at Mauritius, from 15th to 27th June, was characterized by interesting seaplane demonstrations over the District of Port Louis and various other parts of the island.

In July the Unofficial Members of the Council of Government moved the adoption of a resolution to the effect that a delegation be sent to England to discuss with the Secretary of State for the Colonies certain questions concerning the constitution of Legislative and Executive Councils, the administrative and fiscal policy and the sanitary improvement of the Colony. Four delegates chosen by the Unofficial Members left the Colony after the consent of the Secretary of State had been sought and obtained. The Mohammedan community decided later to send a delegate at their own expense to lay before the Secretary of State a memorandum bearing on the interests of their community in the Colony. The result of the conversations had not been made public at the close of 1932.

His Excellency Sir W. E. Jackson left the Colony on leave on 24th August and arrived in England in time to introduce the members of the Delegation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A collision between two railway trains occurred on 12th September, which caused the death of four railway employees and considerable damage to rolling stock. A goods train with twenty-three loaded wagons got out of control shortly after leaving Rose Hill Station on the Midland Line and met a light engine which was moving up the line between Richelieu and Pailles Stations. The total loss to the Railway, including compensation for injuries and loss of life, is estimated at Rs. 81,500.

APPENDIX I.

ORDINANCES PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS DURING THE YEAR 1932.

No. *Titles.*

1. To amend the Fisheries Ordinance, 1918.
2. To authorize the transfer of the functions and duties of the Receiver-General and officers of his Department or acting under his authority, direction, and control.
3. To declare the office of carpenter in the Department of Electricity to be pensionable in so far as Mr. H. Rahiman's service therein is concerned.
4. To authorize a levy on the emoluments of public officers and other persons in receipt of salary from public funds.
5. To amend the Licences (Consolidating) Ordinance, 1915.
6. To amend the Destitute and Criminal Immigrants Regulation Ordinance, 1907.
7. To amend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1931.
8. To make provision for the control of road transport and the establishment of a Transport Control Board.
9. To amend the Road Traffic Ordinance, 1922.
10. To regulate the payment of charges for the publication of notices and advertisements in the *Gazette*.
11. For applying a further sum not exceeding Rs.1,450,734.32 to the service of the year 1930-31.

No. *Titles.*

12. To make provision for the Public Service for the financial year 1932-33.
13. To make provision for the Mauritius Government Railways for the financial year 1932-33.
14. To amend the Appropriation Ordinance, 1929-30.
15. To amend the Appropriation (1930-31) Ordinance, 1930.
16. To amend the Appropriation (1931-32) Ordinance, 1931.
17. To provide for the establishment and working of a Planters' Syndicate.
18. To alter the title of Receiver-General into that of Treasurer.
19. To amend the House Tax Ordinance, 1928.
20. To provide that officers deprived of certain specific allowances shall be exempt in whole or in part from the levy on their emoluments.
21. To impose a tax upon incomes and to regulate the collection thereof.
22. To empower the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate to receive and to distribute the proceeds of a special preference granted to colonial sugars amongst the sugar planters of the Colony not forming part of the Syndicate.
23. To amend the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund Ordinance, 1928.
24. To amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1925.
25. To amend the Licences (Consolidating) Ordinance, 1915.
26. To amend the Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926.
27. To amend the Tobacco Production and Marketing Ordinance, 1930.
28. To validate certain resolutions of the Council of Government and to amend and consolidate the Customs Tariff and the Ordinances relating thereto.
29. To impose a tax on remittances abroad and to regulate the collection thereof.
30. To amend the Transport Control Board Ordinance, 1932.
31. To amend the law on securities to be furnished by auctioneers.
32. To provide that an officer or class of officers may be exempted from the levy on their emoluments.
33. To impose a tax on passengers.
34. To provide for the transfer of Rodrigues prisoners to the Mauritius Prison.
35. To provide for the cost of relieving and repatriating distressed seamen.
36. To amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1925.
37. To amend the Lunacy Ordinance, 1906.
38. To validate a resolution of the Council of Government imposing an excise duty on country liquor.
39. To authorize the Society incorporated as "The Mauritius Cricket Club" to be styled "The Rose Hill Club".
40. To amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1932, so as to empower the Income Tax Commissioner to obtain information from the Receiver of Registration Dues for the purposes of the income tax.
41. To amend Ordinance No. 30 of 1881 (Pensions).
42. To amend the Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1925, for the purpose of extending the time limit fixed for the exercise of the option in that Ordinance provided.
43. To exempt certain foreign plaintiffs in commercial cases from the liability to furnish security for costs.
44. For instituting "The Austin Wilson's Home", for constituting the said Home into a body corporate and for making provision for the management thereof.
45. To amend the Customs Ordinance, 1925.

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF LOCAL PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	*Agents for Sale.*	*Price.*
T'Eylandt Mauritius: Esquisses Historiques, 1698–1710;*	Out of print.	
L'Ile de France: Esquisses Historiques, 1715–1833. By Albert Pitot.*	Do.	
Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1886). By Baron d'Unienville.*	Do.	
Le Folk-lore Mauricien (Maisonneuve, Paris, 1888);	Do.	
Le Patois Creole Mauricien (Mauritius, 1880). By Charles Baissac.	Do.	
Renseignements pour servir a l'histoire de l'Ile de France et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1890). By Adrien d'Epinay.	Do.	
Mauritius Illustrated. By A. MacMillan.*	Do.	
Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of Mauritius.*	His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.	2s.
Financial Situation of Mauritius, Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931.*	Do.	4s. 6d.
Mauritius Blue Books.*	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	Rs. 5·84
A School History of Mauritius. By W. H. Ingrams.*	MacMillan & Co., London.	2s. 6d.
Report on the Anophelinae of Mauritius and on certain aspects of Malaria in the Colony. By Malcolm E. MacGregor.*	Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius.	Rs. 10
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L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921). By W. Edward Hart.*	Do.	Rs. 3
Island of Mauritius. By Raymond Philogene.*	Do.	
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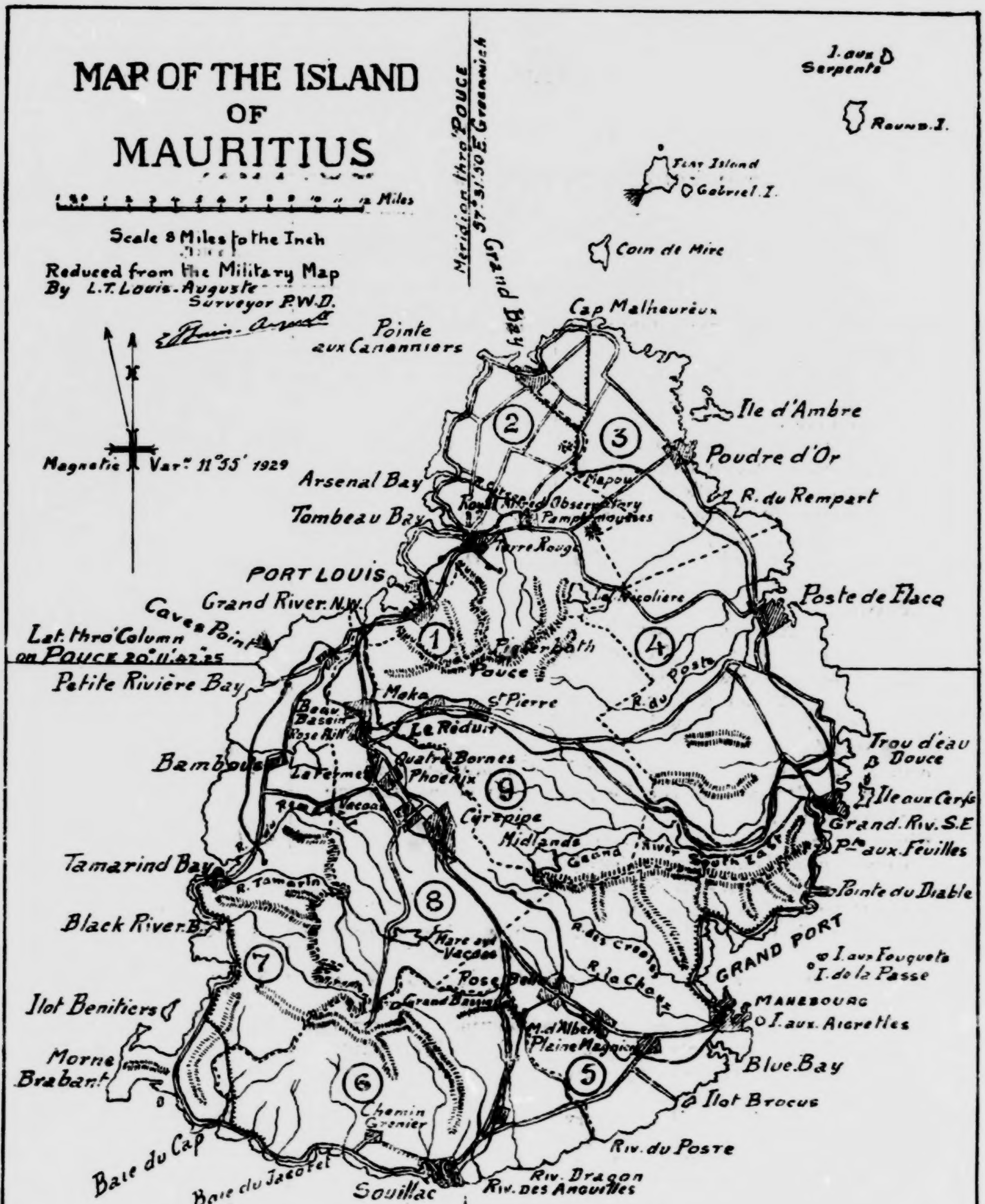
* May be consulted in the Colonial Office Library.



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

Scale 8 Miles to the Inch

Reduced from the Military Map By L.T. Louis-Auguste Surveyor P.W.D.

Miles
Magnetic Varn 11°55' 1929
Meridian thro' Pouce 57°31'30"E. Greenwich
Lat. thro' Column on Pouce 20°11'42"25
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Canonniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Mapou
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
R. du Rempart
Terre Rouge
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
La Nicolière
Poste de Flacq
Pieter Both
Pouce
Petite Rivière Bay
Moka
St Pierre
R. du Poste
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Réduit
Trou d'eau Douce
Bambous
La Ferme
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
Ile aux Cerfs
Vacoas
Curepipe
Grand Riv. S.E
Midlands
Grand River South East
Pte aux Feuilles
Tamarind Bay
R. Tamarin
Pointe du Diable
Black River B.
Mare aux Vacoas
R. des Creoles
GRAND PORT
I. aux Fouquets
I. de la Passe
Rose Belle
R. la Chaux
Grand Bassin
MAHEBOURG
I. aux Aigrettes
Ilot Benitiers
Mt. d'Albion
Plaine Magnien
Blue Bay
Morne Brabant
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Riv. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie du Jacotet
Souillac
Riv. Dragon
Riv. des Anguilles
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

— DISTRICTS —

1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka

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EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1932. Cmd. 4121.	9*d*. (10*d*.).
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MAURITIUS

REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1933

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. It is situated in the South Indian Ocean at about 1,400 miles from the east coast of Africa and lies between 19° 50′ and 20° 35′ S. latitude and between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ E. longitude. The greatest length from north to south is nearly 39 miles and the widest breadth from east to west is 29 miles. The area of the island is about 716 square miles exclusive of that of several small islets round the coast which measure about 4 square miles.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius had a population estimated at 8,950 on 31st December, 1933. The estimated population of the lesser Dependencies on that date was 1,360.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used Mauritius as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer, and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar cane, but were frustrated by rats. Although they denuded the forests of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called Maroons were formed. The combination of the rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin uncontrolled by any tribal or political system proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population, apart from Maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de la Bourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Port Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops, and barracks. Labourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755 large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and, when in 1825 the duty of ten shillings a hundredweight, levied on Mauritius sugar entering England (in order to protect the West Indian sugar), was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 pounds the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 pounds in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842 Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who to-day own and cultivate more than two-fifths of the whole area under sugar cane. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits, and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artisan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle *Phytalus Smithii* was discovered in the sugar canes and about four hundred millions of these insects are now destroyed every year.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water-supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the maintenance of many works undertaken in better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve his recommendations that a subsidy should be given to sugar to supplement the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

The situation became worse in 1931 owing to a cyclone which caused considerable damage to property and reduced the year's output of sugar by about 33 per cent. The Imperial Government guaranteed a loan of £750,000 for planters, house-owners, and repairs to Government property, on condition that a Financial Commission should visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget. The Commission's report was published at the beginning of 1932 and immediate steps were taken to carry out measures of retrenchment and economy. As a result it has been possible to balance the budgets for the years 1932-33 and 1933-34.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. The next year the Constitution was amended and a Council, including unofficial members, was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, was composed of the Governor, eight *ex officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the population : of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who are to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect is made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions. The new Letters Patent, however, provide that the Governor shall have power to enact legislation considered by him to be essential in the interests of good government. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four *ex officio* members was amended at the same time and the former practice of appointing two unofficial members to the Council was revived.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1933, was 10,425. Every male person who is qualified as follows is entitled to be registered as a voter :—

(1) has attained the age of 21 years ;

(2) is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights ;

(3) is a British subject by birth or naturalization ;

(4) has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications :—

(*a*) is the owner of an immoveable property of the annual value of Rs.300 ;

(*b*) is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs.25 a month ;

(*c*) is the owner of moveable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs.3,000 ;

(*d*) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow possessing any one of the above qualifications ;

(*e*) is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs.600 or of a monthly salary of at least Rs.50 ; and

(*f*) is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs.200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary. The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called " Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis " and was instituted, as were other local Municipalities by the " Assemblée Coloniale ". These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the " Assemblée Coloniale ", on

21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the " Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis " and were denominated the " Conseil des Notables ". The " Conseil des Notables " was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the " Conseil des Communes " and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1850, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge " La Triple Esperance " from 21st to 23rd February in that year. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered, subject to regulations made by the sanitary authorities to take measures within the prescribed limits of the townships for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility, for the prevention of fires, and for the proper paving and lighting of the town, etc.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These Boards are empowered to pass regulations for the making, maintenance, and improvement of branch roads and footpaths, and for the levying of taxes.

III.—POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into

(1) the General Population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans and people of African, Chinese and mixed origin; and

(2) the Indian Population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants.

The estimated population of the Island, exclusive of its dependencies, on 31st December, 1933, was 390,697 distributed as under :—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
General Population ...	62,195	64,931	127,126
Indian Population ...	136,162	127,409	263,571

The estimated population of Rodrigues on the 31st December, 1933, was 8,950 and that of the minor Dependencies 1,360.

The total estimated population of Mauritius and its Dependencies was 401,007 showing an increase of 2,670 compared with the figure of 1932.

The geographical distribution of the population of the Colony exclusive of its Dependencies is shown in the following table :—

DISTRICTS.	AREA IN SQUARE MILES.	CENSUS POPULATION, 26TH APRIL, 1931.			POPULATION ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1933.		
		General population.	*Indian population.*	*Total.*	*General population.*	*Indian population.*	*Total.*
Port Louis...	16½	29,832	24,603	54,435	30,448	24,011	54,459
Pamplemousses	69	6,847	30,000	36,847	6,695	28,815	35,510
Riviere du Rempart ...	57	5,518	25,274	30,792	5,678	25,241	30,919
Flacq	115	10,438	42,202	52,640	10,521	40,809	51,330
Grand Port	100½	12,484	36,135	48,619	12,561	34,890	47,451
Savanne	94½	6,645	24,456	31,101	6,660	23,479	30,139
Plaines Wilhems	78½	41,866	53,392	95,258	43,611	54,502	98,113
Moka	89	5,522	23,761	29,283	5,652	23,645	29,297
Black River	100	5,437	8,826	14,263	5,300	8,179	13,479
TOTAL	720	124,589	268,649	393,238	127,126	263,571	390,697

The year was marked by a striking change in the vital statistics. In the previous year the number of deaths had actually exceeded the number of births but in 1933 the figures returned to normal proportion. The reasons for the high death-rate and low birth-rate of the previous two years are obscure, but it is believed to have been due to depressed economic conditions aggravated by a severe cyclone in 1931.

The births during the year numbered 13,479 and the deaths 10,615 as against 10,266 and 12,848 respectively in 1932. The birth-rate in the general population was 36·3 per 1,000 against 32·1 in 1932 and in the Indian population 33·9 against 23·5 in 1932.

The death-rates per thousand in the two populations were 24·6 and 28·6 respectively in 1933 against 29·0 and 34·6 in 1932. The highest death-rate for 1932 is shown in Black River 33·5 and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems 21·6 in a thousand. The death-rate for the whole Colony was 27·3 and for Port Louis 28·1 in a thousand compared with 32·8 and 33·6 in 1932. The number of deaths of children under five years of age was 2,769 or 26·1 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. The proportion was 22·9 in 1932.

The marriages during the year numbered 1,521 as compared with 1,271 in 1932. The marriage-rate or number of persons married to every thousand of the entire population was 7·9 against 6·6 in 1932.

The total excess of departures over arrivals was 567 in 1933.

IV.—HEALTH.

The present constitution of the Medical and Health Department dates back to 1895 when under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894-95 the powers vested in the General Board of Health were transferred to the Director, Medical and Health Department.

The Headquarters staff of the Department consist of the Director, the Deputy Director and the Clerical and Accounting staffs of the Correspondence, Financial and Storekeeping branches.

The administrative unit of Government is the District which is the political unit as well. Every District with the exception of Black River is provided with a hospital for the reception and treatment of the sick poor. Patients from the Black River District are treated in the Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes, or the Civil Hospital, Port Louis. The medical and sanitary administration of each of the rural Districts is entrusted to a Government Medical Officer who is in charge of the District Hospital and Dispensaries and who is also the Health Officer for the District. To assist him, he has a number of subordinate officers; dispensers and sanitary officers and the staff necessary for the care of the patients in the hospital. In addition to his medical and sanitary duties he has also statutory duties of a medical or sanitary nature which he carries out on behalf of the Police and Poor Law Departments.

The District dispensaries are visited at regular intervals at least twice weekly by the Government Medical Officer.

The hospitals of the Colony are divided into two groups :—

(i) General hospitals; namely, Civil, Victoria, and Moka, totalling 684 beds, which are fully equipped for X-ray and major operative work; and

(ii) District hospitals where only medical and midwifery cases are admitted and where minor surgery is carried out to a certain extent.

Patients who apply to the latter hospitals and require special treatment, surgical or other, are conveyed to the nearest general hospital by motor ambulances.

There are also a mental hospital and a leper hospital administered by the Department.

From the sanitary point of view, the two chief problems are hookworm disease and malaria. It is difficult to assign a date to the first appearance of hookworm disease, but it was microscopically diagnosed in 1895. More insidious than malaria in its general manifestations, ankylostomiasis did not, at first, attract public attention, and it is feared that even now the leading classes do not quite realize its social and economical importance—yet, reviewing the disease in Health Problems of the Empire, the late Sir Andrew Balfour writes :—

> " Ankylostomiasis is perhaps the Imperial disease *par excellence*, for even Malaria does not, day in and day out, produce such heavy economic loss ".

The fight against the disease is entrusted to a special branch of the Medical and Health Department, and progress realized during recent years is most encouraging.

The history of malaria dates back to 1865; before that year it is almost certain that, despite the numerous imported cases, Anopheline mosquitoes did not exist in the Colony and there was no endemic malaria. Early in 1865 a few cases were recorded near Port Louis in the marshy area lying at the mouth of Grand River North West. At the end of the same year an epidemic broke out in Black River on Wolmar Estate and all the coastal districts were very rapidly invaded by the disease. The subsequent history of the disease is one of steady penetration from the coastal belt to the elevated regions in the interior of the Colony, where, however, thanks to the cool dry season, the disease has never become so firmly established as it has done in the lower parts of the Island. It is still possible to describe certain residential parts of the Island as being practically malaria-free, though constant vigilance is required to avert the threat of endemicity. A campaign, based on the most recently available knowledge on the disease, has been formulated and it is hoped that the maximum benefit will thereby accrue from the expenditure incurred.

V.—HOUSING.

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories : (*a*) housing on estates, (*b*) housing in rural areas not estates, and (*c*) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are, for the most part, adequately housed. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs more commonly of thatch, but frequently of corrugated iron. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult.

The lines must be kept clear of weeds, and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least ten feet round them. Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes.

As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. Lighting is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

As a result of the favourable balance of the last sugar crop the tendency during the year has been to improve the housing conditions of labourers residing on estates.

The housing in rural areas other than estates is fairly satisfactory. It is in the labouring class of the population that one can very often see racial difference in the choice of building materials. The negro will build an untidy-looking shack of old timber, scrap pieces of wood, petrol cases, and petrol tins hammered out flat, whereas the Indian will construct a very neat hut of wattle and clay or cowdung, on a stone plinth, furnished with a small verandah, and roofed with a compact thatch. The amenities of life are few. There is seldom water laid on to the premises. Unless the occupier has dug a well, he generally has to carry his water from the nearest standpipe which may be some five hundred yards away.

In the towns conditions are, as a rule, unsatisfactory. The chief features about the town housing are overcrowding and overbuilding; overcrowding is caused by poverty and overbuilding arises as a necessary consequence of overcrowding. Too many families of the labouring classes live in one room. Fortunately, children are seldom confined to the house on account of inclement weather, and they can pass most of their time in the open air. Rickets is very uncommon in consequence, as are other consequences of overcrowding in places where the climatic conditions are more severe either on account of excessive cold or excessive light and heat.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Meteorological Conditions and Sugar Production.

Weather conditions were, upon the whole, very favourable during the year. No cyclone occurred and, in consequence, the total of rainfall showed, during the summer months, a pronounced deficit on the average; however, the distribution was excellent. It must be remembered that, owing to the immense quantities of rain often brought down by distant cyclones, the average figure for the rainfall during the summer months in Mauritius is high and, in general, in excess of agricultural needs.

Temperature was high during the growing months and low during the ripening season, thereby favouring both tonnage of cane and sucrose content.

The Sugar Industry.

The production of sugar in 1933 was the second best on record, totalling 261 thousand tons (metric) as against a maximum of 277 thousand tons produced in 1914. The following table exhibits the comparative production of the past seven years:—

Unit=One thousand metric tons.

Districts.	*1933.*	*1932.*	*1931.*	*1930.*	*1929.*	*1928.*	*1927*
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart.	57·77	62·73	41·81	43·00	54·68	59·55	52·72
Flacq...	41·37	35·97	27·91	37·81	38·91	41·17	33·21
Moka	40·08	34·12	20·83	32·10	35·97	34·76	30·88
Plaines Wilhems ...	18·22	17.05	11·64	14.62	15·66	16·40	15·06
Black River... ...	8·88	9·06	6·29	9·81	9·22	9·72	9·03
Grand Port ...	50·66	46·66	27·01	37·09	36·41	41·41	35·88
Savanne	44·48	41·63	28·52	46·53	47·18	50·42	41·22
Total	261.46	247·22	164·01	220·96	238·03	253·43	218·00

The extraction of sugar per cent. of cane was exceptionally high this year: one factory realized 12·05 per cent., while 12 factories exceeded 11·50 per cent. The average was 11·25. The next best average values were 11·01 in 1932 and 10·92 in 1930.

Grades of Sugar.—Raws provided 87·70 per cent. of the total sugar produced; Vesous (plantation white) 11·80 per cent. and low sugars 0·50 per cent. The following table illustrates the change in this respect brought about by the introduction of the new English Tariff in 1928.

GRADES OF SUGAR, 1924-1933.

Years.	*Vesous.*	*Raws.*	*Lows.*
1924	98·34	—	1·66
1925	98·21	—	1·79
1926	98·10	—	1·90
1927	98·63	—	1·37
1928	71·80	27·30	0·90
1929	23·90	75·20	0·90
1930	16·80	82·50	0·70
1931	16·20	83·10	0·70
1932	12·10	87·50	0·40
1933	11·80	87·70	0·50

Area under sugar cane.—At the beginning of 1933, the area under cane was estimated at 133,867 acres. At the end of the year, the estimate was 138,116 acres. Estates with factories cultivated 59,227 acres, estates without factories 38,459 acres, giving a total estate cultivation of 97,686 acres or an increase of 3,449 on the corresponding figure for last year. Increase in the total area under cane for 1933 approximated to 4,249 acres.

Disposal of the 1932 *sugar crop.*—The total quantity of sugar exported at the end of the 1932-33 export year (31st July, 1933), was 237,724 metric tons, distributed as follows :—

	Tons (metric).
Great Britain	236,837
Hong Kong	610
Other places	277
Total	237,724

The exportation for the 1933-34 year was as follows at the end of December, 1933 :—

	Tons (metric).
Great Britain	125,454
India	2
Hong Kong	102
Other places	140
Total	125,698

Sugar market.—The market for sugar continued dull throughout the year. The average net price realized at the end of the year approximated to Rs.6·16 per 50 kilos, exclusive of the special Colonial preference of 1s. per cwt., representing a slight falling off on last year's figure. The local Sugar Syndicate which represents nearly all growers, continued its operations, controlling the sales of more than 80 per cent. of the total sugar production of the Island.

Labour conditions.—No further reduction in wages took place during the year. The labour supply was fairly satisfactory during the year and little difficulty was experienced in reaping one of the heaviest cane harvests on record.

Sugar machinery.—Machinery, to the value of Rs.594,719, was imported during the year, as against Rs.277,656 last year. Tractor parts to the value of Rs.1,518, and ploughs to the value of Rs.1,969, were imported. Tramway material, for use on estates, to the value of Rs.287,371 was imported during the year, as against Rs.110,289 last year.

Varieties of canes.—A census of cane varieties cultivated on estates was taken during the year. The percentage distribution of the principal varieties is given in the following table :—

	Percentage distribution.
Tannas (mostly white)	53
M.55	5
M.131	5
D.K.74	6
R.P.6	2
R.P.8	4
D.109	4
D.130	2
252	1
B.H.10/12	7
M.2716	1
P.O.J.213	2
55/1182	1
Rich Fund	1
Other varieties	6
	100

Thus while Tanna continues to be the leading cane, B.H.10/12 is promising to become an important rival. Other varieties such as M.2716, M.2316, M.522, are full of promise. Further trials are being continued by the Sugarcane Research Station.

Fertilizers.—During the year, 20,405,353 kilos were imported, to the value of Rs.2,328,299 as compared with 12,726,702 kilos last year valued at Rs.1,325,439.

Insect pests and cane diseases.—No material change has taken place in the status of *Phytalus smithii, Arrow.* The captures during the 1932-33 season were appreciably less than usual. There is no doubt that, in some parts of the Island, this pest is on the move—

leaving previously infested areas and invading fresh ones. Biological control is now under study and a special entomologist was appointed for these investigations.

The annual survey of sugar cane diseases was carried out in the field and some varieties moderately susceptible to gumming were discovered. A somewhat severe outbreak of "Fourth" disease was discovered in a certain part of the Island during May.

Minor Agricultural Industries.

Tobacco.—This industry flourished exceedingly during the year. Excellent weather conditions, combined with a sure market, rendered the cultivation of this crop a most attractive proposition. The total area under tobacco was 2,081 acres representing an increase of 781 acres on last year's figure. The control of the production and sale of leaf tobacco in the Colony is vested in a Government Tobacco Board composed of three official members, two tobacco growers and one member of the commercial community. A Government tobacco warehouse has been established for the purpose of handling and grading all leaf tobacco produced in the Colony and for the sale of such leaf tobacco. The warehouse is under the control of the Government Tobacco Board.

Fibre.—Stagnation in this industry continued. The export for the year amounted to 422 tons valued at Rs.87,802. Quotations for prime, very good, and good grades rose by Rs.15 per ton during the year but the market, upon the whole, remained very dull.

Pineapple.—The export during the year amounted to 5,282 cases of pineapple preserves. It is estimated that there are now 50 acres under the Smooth Cayenne pineapple.

Tea.—The improvements have been well maintained. Prices for local tea remained at a satisfactory level during the year.

Coconut.—The export of copra during the year amounted to 1,203 tons valued at Rs.201,393 as compared with 1,746 tons valued at Rs.287,516 in 1932. The export of coconut oil during the year was 4,385 litres valued at Rs.1,992 as against 5,480 litres valued at Rs.2,176 last year.

Alcohol.—The total quantity of alcohol distilled for human consumption amounted to 553,287 litres as compared with 378,209 last year. The quantity of alcohol distilled for industrial purposes was 480,554 litres. 36,489 litres of rum valued at Rs.7,792 were exported in 1933 as against 5,308 litres valued at Rs.1,489 in 1932.

Livestock.—Stock raising continues to be of interest to a number of people. In 1933 bovines on estates increased by 977 head and, in 1932, by 1,256. The Government Dairy showed satisfactory progress but towards the end of the year surra made its appearance and limited the milk output to some extent.

Surra gave some trouble during the year and a herd of deer (*Cervus hippelaphus, Cuv.*) were infected; it is believed that this is the first record of such an event in Mauritius.

Other Manufacturing Industries.

Activity was well maintained in the various branches of minor manufacturing industries. Engineering establishments, numbering 48, gave employment to about 500 people. Bakeries numbered 65 in 1933; lime kilns, 31; cabinet making establishments, 101. In all, about 1,000 artisans were employed in the above.

As regards larger establishments, four docks (landing, etc.) gave employment to about 500 people; there were eight cigarette factories employing about 100 people; four hydro-electrical plants (for light and power) employing about 300 people; four salt-making establishments, employing about 100 people and one match factory employing about 100 people.

In addition to the above, there is a number of less important but fairly prosperous industries such as aerated water works, ice making, vinegar making, pottery, leather tanning, boot and shoe making, and the manufacture of biscuits, pickles and preserved fruit, etc. No export of the products of these industries has yet been found possible: but in some cases, e.g., cigarettes, the home-made product has almost entirely superseded the imported one thereby transferring to the credit side of the Colony's trade a sum of more than a million rupees annually.

Fisheries.

The island of Mauritius is protected by a barrier coral reef round the major portion of the coast line; on the south coast, however, reefs are non-existent for approximately nine miles. The vast area of lagoons offer excellent shelter and exceptional breeding places for fish of every variety. The methods employed for industrial fishing in the lagoons are netting, lining and basket-net trapping. The " Large Net ", the dimensions of which are fixed by law, is the one generally used and each net is worked by 8 to 15 men in 3 to 7 boats. The catch from this source provides about half of the local consumption. Line fishing in lagoons is practised generally by the poorer fishermen not in possession of sea-going boats. The basket-net trap is a contrivance made of bamboo or metal wire and is of two types: (i) flat-topped and angular, and (ii) cylindrical; each type having two inlets. Shell-fish, dried octopus liver, green algae, etc, are placed inside the traps as bait and large quantities of fish are attracted.

High sea fishing has greatly developed amongst amateur fishermen who generally use motor boats. Surface fishing by trawling is the most popular, and large " tunnies ", " becunes " (*Cybrium* Sp.), sword fish, and other large species of oceanic fish are frequently caught. The hot months, that is from October to January, are the best season for this type of fishing. During the cool season, deep sea fishing is common, and the best known species of fish are caught. Deep sea fishing is also carried on by professional fishermen, and good types of sailing pinnaces are available. The supply of fish has been abundant during the year, and the average price of first class fish was half a rupee per kilogramme, whilst other grades were sold for as little as 15 cents per kilogramme. The fishing population of the island is estimated to be 1,336, of whom 384 are net fishermen, while 1,433 boats form the fishing fleet of the Colony.

The Police Department is responsible for the enforcement of the Fishery Laws. Seven Fishery Police Stations are established round the coast and a staff of 4 Sub-Officers and 13 Constables is employed for the control of fishing. The Police Fishery Section is supplied with two motor-boats and seven sailing "pirogues" for the performance of its duties.

A permanent Advisory Committee, formed in 1927, met frequently during the year and their recommendations on such questions as the introduction of a prohibited period for net fishing, extension of reserves, etc., have been adopted.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total external trade of the Colony in merchandise for the year 1933 amounted to Rs.61,211,980, of which figure, Rs.29,035,237 represents imports and Rs.32,176,743 exports. After a succession of adverse trade balances, the year 1932 showed a slight excess of exports over imports. This favourable trade balance increased in 1933, during which year both exports and imports increased in volume. The total trade figures in rupees are given below for some of the previous years :—

	Imports.	*Exports.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1932	26,992,760	27,662,851
1931	32,064,074	23,829,884
1926	50,596,137	41,208,198
1921	105,744,980	157,249,822

The foregoing figures do not include bullion and specie which were imported or exported as follows :—

	Imports.	*Exports.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1933	—	213,030
1932	—	1,042,352
1931	802	1,933,546
1926	137,490	5,944,500
1921	21,371,270	650,000

Imports of Merchandise.

One interesting feature of the imports in 1933 is the large reduction (due to fall in prices) in the amount spent on articles of food and drink in contrast to the larger sums than in previous years which were expended by the sugar industry on fertilizers, machinery, tramway materials, etc., to compensate for reduced importations of the last few years. This is illustrated by the following table :—

	Value in Rupees—c.i.f.		
Imports.	*1933.*	*1932.*	*1931.*
Food and drink... ...	10,199,269	12,069,997	14,026,945
Chemical fertilizers ...	2,328,299	1,325,439	1,515,208
Sugar machinery ...	594,719	277,656	399,124
Tramway materials ...	287,371	110,289	79,234

The signs of returning prosperity which appeared in 1932 were clearer in 1933. Apart from the increasing popularity of motor traffic, the fact that importations of motor-cars and spare parts increased from Rs.300,000 to nearly Rs.600,000 is a clear indication that the days of rigid economy in importing are numbered.

Export of Merchandise.

Mauritius relies entirely on her sugar exports. In 1933 these represented 98·6 per cent. of the domestic exports and the situation has been practically the same for many years. The dangers inherent in the situation are obvious and attempts have from time to time been made to foster other industries. The small remaining percentage of exports is chiefly composed of copra and aloe fibre. The pineapple canning industry is still in its infancy and cannot yet be called a vigorous infant. Attempts to find a foreign market for Mauritius tobacco have not yet proved successful but this industry appears capable of considerable expansion.

Distribution of Trade.

IMPORTS.

The Colony's importations of essential foodstuffs (rice and other grain) are almost exclusively from India, with the exception of wheat flour which comes mainly from Australia. Apart from these the principal importations are textiles, fertilizers, etc. The main source of manufactured articles is the United Kingdom whence imports have increased with rapid strides in the course of the year. The Preferential Tariff is making its effect felt and there has been considerable propaganda—centering in an Empire Shopping Week—in favour of goods of Empire origin. In spite of this, however, the level of prices ruling in the Far East is so low, that it cannot be said that a successful reply has been made to Japanese competition.

The following table shows some of the above-mentioned imports together with the main countries whence they came during the last two years :—

	Quantity in Kilos.		*Value in Rupees.*	
	1933.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1932.*
Rice :—				
From India	50,560,246	56,986,224	4,901,212	6,680,671
,, all countries ...	50,721,508	57,100,271	4,923,642	6,699,800
Cotton goods of all sorts (except apparel, haberdashery and umbrellas) :–				
From United Kingdom	—	—	1,124,572	898,945
,, Japan	—	—	864,066	876,886
,, all countries ...	—	—	2,161,601	1,988,470
Silk goods of all sorts :—				
From United Kingdom	—	—	61,987	64,609
,, Japan	—	—	556,924	385,452
,, all countries ...	—	—	670,822	503,237
Chemical Fertilizers :—				
From United Kingdom	14,004,126	8,326,408	1,304,885	674,124
,, all countries ...	20,405,353	12,726,702	2,328,299	1,325,439

The development of motor traffic of recent years is mainly responsible for other imports of importance :—refined oils, vehicles, rubber goods, etc. Of these, petroleum products come chiefly from the United States and the Dutch East Indies, but motor-cars and tyres are imported almost exclusively from the United Kingdom and Canada, as is apparent from the following table :—

Imports.	*Value in Rupees (c.i.f.).*	
	1933.	1932.
Refined products of petroleum :—		
From U.S. America ...	613,501	1,232,403
From Dutch East Indies	618,039	387,188
From all countries ...	1,296,156	1,630,955
Motor-cars and parts thereof :—		
From United Kingdom ...	412,107	182,185
From Canada	133,439	76,142
From all countries ...	589,864	301,449
Rubber tyres and tubes :—		
From United Kingdom ...	152,859	161,035
From all countries ...	197,119	191,816

EXPORTS.

These now go almost entirely to the United Kingdom, owing to the preference on Empire sugar. Of a total value of Rs.30,811,638 of sugar exported from Mauritius in 1933, Rs.30,701,819 went to the United Kingdom.

IMPORTS BY COUNTRIES.

As regards value of imports the United Kingdom now ranks first and India next in the list of countries exporting goods to Mauritius. This is illustrated by the following table :—

	Value in Rupees (c.i.f.).		
Imports from :—	*1933.*	*1932.*	*1931.*
United Kingdom	9,421,478	6,455,759	7,504,119
India	8,414,824	9,961,711	11,577,406
Japan	1,792,705	1,459,329	1,124,070
Australia and New Zealand	1,171,065	1,265,728	1,330,344
France	1,430,497	1,493,237	2,212,821
Total all countries ...	29,035,237	26,992,760	32,064,074

It is noteworthy that whereas Japan is steadily progressing, the French imports continue to diminish. The decline in the value of imports from India and Australia is due to fall in prices of foodstuffs rather than to actual reduction in bulk of imports.

Course of Prices.

Generally speaking, prices are now on a downward trend. The mean price of rice, which is by far the principal article of imports and the staple food of the population was quoted 17 cents per kilo C.I.F., in 1930. It is now under 10 cents per kilo.

The problem of cheap Japanese goods due to the debasement of the yen from a value of 2s. to one of 1s. 2d. is exercising the attention of the entire British market. So far as Mauritius is concerned Japanese imports do not compete with any local industry and any potential loss of revenue due to falling prices of goods chargeable on an *ad valorem* basis has been met by the substitution of an alternative specific duty.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

No material change in wages took place during the year. The salary of labourers under monthly contract remained at Rs.10, with rations, free lodging, free medical attendance, etc., in all equivalent to about Rs.18 per month. Male day-labourers received, generally, R.0·45 per daily task, although, during crop time, higher rates often prevailed. Females, as a rule, received half the wages of male workers. The supply of female labour has increased appreciably during recent years. In 1921, census figures indicated a proportion of male to female workers of 84 to 16, in 1931, the corresponding figures were 73 to 27 and, apparently, the increase in the proportion of female workers has continued during the past two years.

Remuneration for piece work remained, on the average, as follows :—

	Per acre.
	Rs.
Clearing land	30-35
Digging cane holes	18
Manuring	10
Weeding	7
Cutting canes (20 tons per acre)	13

No great change took place in the wages of artisans, etc. Workers by day received R.1 to Rs.1·50 during the year, while those employed by the month received Rs.35-70 according to circumstances.

The supply of domestic servants was, generally speaking, abundant. Butlers, cooks, gardeners and other servants received Rs.10 to Rs.30 per month, while chauffeurs were paid Rs.30 to 40 per month. Owing to more favourable climatic conditions, the concentration of population in the central districts of the Island is very pronounced and labour more abundant there than elsewhere.

In 1933 salaries remained generally on the same level as during the previous years. The following table indicates, in a general way, the ruling rates :—

	Per annum.
	Rs.
Managers on sugar estates and Senior Government Officials	8,000-13,000
Government, Bank and Commercial Clerks (higher grade)	4,000- 7,000
Clerks and Employees on sugar estates	1,500- 3,000
Junior Clerks and Employees	720- 1,500

The index number of the cost of living decreased generally during the year. Rice, the staple food of the population, reached its lowest index, 61, during the second quarter, but, afterwards, rose steadily to 65, in the last. Other grains and flour showed a slight trend downwards throughout the year. Tea and coffee remained generally stationary at about 83, while oils and fats decreased from 86 to 80. Articles of clothing oscillated between 150 in the second quarter to 90 in the last. The index for the total cost of living in 1933 was as follows (100 being the index for 1914) :—

First quarter	108·7
Second quarter	114·8
Third quarter	113·8
Fourth quarter	112·4

The mean for the year was 112·4 as compared with 121·8 in 1932.

As regards the labouring class, the following table indicates the purchasing power of wages, in terms of rice since 1927 :—

Year.	*Average daily wages of male labourer.*	*Average price of fair quality rice per lb.*	*Purchasing power of wages expressed in lb. of rice.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1927	1·25	0·13	9½
1928	1·25	0·10	12½
1929	1·00	0·10	10
1930	0·80	0·09	9
1931	0·75	0·08	9
1932	0·45	0·05½	8
1933	0·45	0·06	7½

As many items such as housing, lighting, tuition of children, etc., have either not been reduced at all or but slightly so, and are much above pre-War levels, the index figure must not, however, be taken as indicating the cost of living for the European.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Primary.—Primary education is not compulsory, but it is given free through Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony. The following table shows the number of primary schools, the number of pupils on roll, and the staff of teachers during the year 1933 :—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Government	51	362	14,867	10,259
Aided	75	641	23,900	16,340
Total	126	1,003	38,767	26,599

State-aided schools are under the control of a Manager, and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Pupils must be at least five years old and must have been successfully vaccinated in order to be allowed admission to a primary school; when they are under five they undergo a preliminary training before being promoted to the lowest form. The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French and arithmetic. In the higher classes elementary history and geography are taught and girls study needlework. Regular instruction is also given in physical drill, nature study, hygiene, and the elementary principles of agriculture. There are six primary school standards or classes, viz. :—

Standard	I	with pupils from	5 to 6	years of age.
Standard	II	with pupils from	6 to 7	years of age.
Standard	III	with pupils from	7 to 8	years of age.
Standard	IV	with pupils from	8 to 10	years of age.
Standard	V	with pupils from	9 to 11	years of age.
Standard	VI	with pupils from	10 to 12	years of age.

Fourteen apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicrafts. Twenty-six scholarships and exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools are awarded every year, through competitive examinations, to the best pupils attending primary schools. There are 30 gardens attached to the primary schools and they are cultivated by the pupils of Standards III to VI. These gardens are regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation.

Secondary.—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz. :—(1) Secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (2) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by Government.

(1) *Aided Secondary School.*—Government grants to secondary aided schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as is the case of primary aided schools, with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

The following table shows the number of institutions, the number of pupils on roll and in average attendance, and the staff of teachers during the year 1933 :—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Aided	9	115	1,573	1,378

These schools provide not only for elementary education such as is given in primary schools, but also for higher education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate and the London Matriculation. The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history, and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale. These schools are visited periodically by the Superintendent of Schools, who examines the lower forms. The middle and higher forms are examined partly by local examiners and partly through examinations conducted by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools, extend, as a general rule, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. no provision being made for evening classes.

(2) *Royal College.*—The Royal College, Curepipe, is a Government school for the higher education of boys up to the age of 20. Affiliated to it is the Royal College School at Port Louis, where boys are educated on the same lines up to the Cambridge School Certificate Standard. The Staff of the Royal College consists of the Rector, 12 Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, and 11 Assistant Masters locally appointed; and at the Royal College School of the Headmaster, one Master and eight Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped libraries and chemical and physical laboratories; almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies. The subjects taught are English, French, mathematics, Latin, Greek, chemistry, physics, botany, geography and history. Physical training is compulsory. Admission to the College and School is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning one of the twenty Annual Primary Schools Scholarships and Exhibitions or one of the two Secondary Schools Scholarships awarded annually. The boys are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from ten to twenty years. The fees are from Rs.96 to Rs.192 per annum, and pupils are allowed to travel on the Government railways at reduced rates. About twelve College Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded annually to College and School pupils, besides one Scholarship and one Exhibition open to other secondary schools as well, and also a Classical and a Modern Scholarship of the present value of £1,300 each (with first class passage to and from England) tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom. Besides the winners of these scholarships, a few boys, whose parents can afford it, go to England or France to study for a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practise. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the Island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects. Specialization begins at the entrance class and the division into modern and classical sides becomes complete in the upper middle class. At the School pupils may undergo commercial training in place of classics or science.

In addition to the secondary education there are Saturday extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public science examinations are helped in their studies.

The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1932, was 325, and of the School 92. The average attendance at the College was 255 and at the School 85. (The number of College pupils on the roll in May, 1933, after the publication of the School Certificate results was 289.) Sixty-nine pupils sat in December, 1932, for the Cambridge School Certificate, of whom 49 obtained certificates. In May, 1933, the number of pupils who had passed this examination and proceeded to the highest class of the College was 51.

Encouragement is given to athletics, rugby and association football, hockey, boxing and physical training, and gymnastics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high. As the pupils are all day-boys it is difficult to obtain much support for other social activities, but a school magazine is published thrice yearly.

Welfare Institutions.

There are five Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women, and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy; also an orphanage for boys and one for girls under the control and management of the Church of England, and one " home " for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland. These institutions receive from the Government a maintenance fee for each pauper maintained therein.

Under Ordinance 44 of 1932, which came into force on the 24th December, 1932, a " Home " styled " The Austin Wilson Home " will be established at Quatre Bornes for the aged, destitute, and infirm. The funds for the formation of this " Home " are being generously contributed by Mr. A. J. Wilson in memory of his son, the late Austin Wilson.

A Mahommedan Orphanage was also established in Port Louis in 1932 for the maintenance and education of orphans of the Mahommedan creed. Funds for running the institution are obtained from voluntary subscriptions among the Mahommedans.

Outdoor assistance to paupers is granted by the Poor Law Department partly in cash and partly in food provisions. Several private religious societies for the distribution of assistance in food and medical care are also in existence. The Société Francaise d'Assistance assist chiefly destitute French people.

The Child Welfare Committee and the Oeuvre Pasteur de la Goutte de lait, two philanthropic institutions, deal especially with expectant and nursing mothers and their babies.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance provides for the grant of compensation by the employer to workmen who are injured in the course of their work.

Recreation, Music, Art and Drama.

Association football is the most popular form of sport, and there is a stadium at Curepipe and a second one at Rose Hill. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and rugby football are played mostly by the wealthier classes. The Mauritius Turf Club and the Mauritius Jockey Club hold race meetings from June to September at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis, and at Mangalkhan, in the district of Plaines Wilhems; and regattas are held by the yacht clubs of Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay. " La Chasse " or the shooting of driven deer can be said to be the national sport of Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies; the latter are known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy Scouts have not been so successful as the Girl Guides, but efforts are being made to encourage the movement.

There is not much encouragement for any of the arts. Music is fostered principally by the parish churches whose amateur singers frequently give concerts. The Christian Brothers also provide musical training and apart from the Police Band, which consists of a bandmaster and 30 bandsmen, a band styled the " Alliance Musicale " and comprising 25 units has recently been established.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent. The Institute has a collection of pictures presented by Mr. Rochecouste, but there is no other art gallery.

Occasional dramatic performances are given by amateurs, but no permanent society has been formed. In better times the Municipality of Port Louis subsidizes a theatrical company from France, which plays in the theatre at Port Louis. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town, to which companies come from China when conditions are prosperous.

There exists a Royal Society of Arts and Sciences which was founded in 1829 under the title of Société d'Histoire Naturelle and was granted a Royal Charter in 1846. It interests itself in most branches of science and arts especially those relating to questions of agriculture and the national history of the Colony. The Society was incorporated with the Mauritius Institute in 1906 and its library is being transferred to the Institute library.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads and Road Transport.

The Colony is well served with some 700 miles of public roads, most of which are suitable for motor traffic. All roads are metalled and 140 miles of the main roads have been covered with bitumen.

The number of motor vehicles in actual use on the roads at the end of 1933 was as follows :—

Private motor cars	1,471
Motor cycles	183
Motor lorries	322
Motor cabs	267
Motor omnibuses...	126
Total ...	2,369

A certain number of vehicles imported into the Colony for use on the sugar estates are exempted from taxation and do not appear on the records of road traffic.

Of the above vehicles, only about a quarter are of British manufacture ; during the past few years, however, the demand for vehicles of English make has very much increased. This has been due to some extent to a preferential customs tariff, but the improved condition of the roads with the consequent introduction of the light car has also been a contributory factor. In addition to this there has been a growing demand on the part of the public for all types of English machines, and in the year under review, of the 251 new vehicles registered, 182 were of English manufacture.

The modern bus, of which there are 126 in use, is built locally on an imported chassis. It is of the single deck type, with a seating capacity varying from 15 to 26. The specifications as to size and general construction of all public service passenger-carrying motor vehicles are fixed by the Police, but once a vehicle has been passed as fit for service by that Department, the routes over which it may work and the fares that may be charged are subject to the direction of the Transport Control Board. Since the inauguration of this Board at the end of 1932, all public service vehicles have been insured against passenger and third party risks. The buses provide an excellent service in outlying Districts not reached by the railways, and also supply a convenient and quick means of passenger transport in certain areas already provided with railroad facilities. The fares vary from 2 to 5 cents a mile. Considerable quantities of freight are carried over the roads by motor-lorries varying in carrying capacity from one to six tons. From checks made in July, it was found that an average of 180 tons of goods were carried out of, and 68 tons into, Port Louis daily by this means.

Practically all motor vehicles in the Colony use petrol as fuel but some of the bigger lorries have been fitted with charcoal generators and work on suction gas. Some attempt has also been made to market a mixture of alcohol, distilled locally from sugar, with petrol or ether, as a motor fuel, and although these mixtures are undoubtedly cheaper than imported petrol, there is at present no general demand for them. None of the latest type of vehicles fitted with Diesel engines has as yet arrived in the Colony.

The annual tax on all motor vehicles except motor-cycles is calculated at the rate of Rs.5 per unit of horse-power. The tax for motor-cycles is Rs.4 per horse-power. Lorries pay an additional tax of Rs.40 per ton on gross weight. Licence duty on vehicles for hire is paid according to seating capacity in the case of cabs and buses and carrying capacity in the case of goods vehicles.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways, not including 18 miles of 75 cm. gauge track, known as the Bois Cheri Light Railway, are of the British standard 4 feet 8½ inch gauge and comprise 110¾ miles of main line, 30 miles of station lay-outs and Government sidings, as well as 17 miles of other sidings maintained by the Railway Department for planters and sugar estates. The railway is exceptional on account of its comparatively short length and very heavy gradients, much of it being 1 in 26. The most important section, the Midland Line, 35½ miles long, rises to 1,800 feet above the terminals at Port Louis, the capital, on the north-west and Mahebourg, the old port, on the south-east coasts of the island. A branch from Rose Belle on the Midland Line, 870 feet above sea-level, to the little creek and town of Souillac is 11 miles long. The North Line from Port Louis to Grand River South East, 33½ miles long, is fairly level. The Moka Branch, from Rose Hill, on the Midland Line, 950 feet above sea-level, to Montagne Blanche, is 14¾ miles long and rises on this length to 1,500 feet. The Black River Branch, from Richelieu on the Midland Line to Tamarin, is 12½ miles long, and the Montagne Longue Branch, from Terre Rouge on the North Line to Montagne Longue, is 3½ miles long. There are no heavy gradients on either of these lines.

The drastic cuts in personnel made in 1931-32 have been fully justified and the results anticipated have been attained as the following table for 1932-33 denotes. It has not therefore been found necessary to carry out a second scheme of retrenchment as originally intended. The excess of expenditure over revenue for 1932-33, excluding capital charges, was Rs.1,230 as shown below :—

	Revenue 1930-31.	*Revenue 1931-32.*	*Revenue 1932-33.*	*Increase or Decrease of 1932-33 over 1931-32.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers	**606,668**	**434,325**	**419,181**	**— 15,144**
Parcels	**73,393**	**63,466**	**62,163**	**— 1,303**
General Goods ...	**1,143,729**	**817,077**	**1,174.046**	**+ 356,969**
Miscellaneous	**60,987**	**70.875**	**57,412**	**— 13,463**
Net Revenue	**119,354**	**187,938**	**63,554**	**— 124,384**
Total	**2,004,131**	**1,573,681**	**1,776,356**	**+ 202,675**
Goods Tonnage ...	**354,611**	**254,139**	**362,642**	**+ 108,503**

	Expenditure 1930–31.	*Expenditure 1931–32.*	*Expenditure 1932–33.*	*Increase or Decrease of 1932–33 over 1931–32.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Working expenditure including renewals.	2,626,145	1,945,113	1,516,631	– 428,482
Net revenue expenditure	129,194	642,785	260,955	– 381,830
Total	2,755,339	2,587,898	1,777,586	– 810,312
Capital Expenditure ...	3,162	20,226	304	– 19,922
	2,758,501	2,608,124	1,777,890	830,234

Further reductions in passenger fares have been made this year. The railway fares are now therefore down to the level of those charged by the bus companies, with the result that the railway passenger traffic has very considerably increased. The revenue figures, however, this year, do not fully reflect the increase of passenger traffic, but the monthly figures clearly show that bottom has been reached and that revenue from this source is steadily increasing.

As regards goods revenue, which represents the largest item of the railway revenue, the increase is chiefly due to the heavy sugar crop harvested, which estimated at 230,000 tons, actually amounted to 247,000 tons. General goods revenue (other than sugar and cane) which has suffered, equally with passenger revenue, by competition of the road services, was increased this year by the inauguration of a " door-to-door " rail and road service, specially arranged to cope with the Chinese merchants' shop traffic.

The working of the railway, and incidentally its financial results, were marred by a serious accident on the 12th September, 1932. A heavy sugar train ran away down a steep gradient on the Midland Line and collided with a light engine. Four men were killed and two injured. The estimated cash cost of the accident is Rs. 35,000, excluding the loss of stock, a large proportion of which will not require replacement. The loss including replacement of stock would amount to about Rs.80,000.

Tramways.

No marked change was in evidence in the net-work of tramway lines established, since 1901, on sugar estates. In 1933, there were about 1,700 kilometres of rail, 216 locomotives and 7,100 trucks. Farm tractors, occasionally utilized for hauling, numbered 100 in 1933.

Posts and Telegraphs.

The usual post office facilities in regard to correspondence, parcels, and remittances are available in Mauritius. The island is served by 57 offices and postal agencies, 53 of which are also telegraph offices where inland telegrams, cablegrams and radiograms are accepted for despatch and are received for delivery. In Port Louis, the capital, the offices are three in number, including the General Post Office which, for the sake of convenience, is equipped in two separate sections: the Letter Mail Office and the Parcels Office. The other offices are in rural townships and in villages. Practically every fairly populated centre is served and with the exception of a few agencies in outlying localities, all the offices are at railway stations. There is also a post office in the Island of Rodrigues, the largest Dependency.

Oversea mails are received and despatched regularly four times a month, twice by the French Messageries Maritimes steamers via Suez, and twice in transit through South Africa, by the Dutch K.P.M. steamers. Inward and outward mails are also carried at irregular intervals by cargo steamers. The outward mails include correspondence for onward transmission by air, either from Johannesburg or Nairobi. The average time required by this partial air-mail to reach Europe varies between 18 and 28 days as against the all through steamer service, between 27 and 38 days.

Though opportunities for direct communication occasionally occur, mails to and from India, Ceylon, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand, are usually sent and received via Aden, and those to and from Seychelles via Mombasa, by the Messageries Maritimes steamers, fortnightly. The parcel service includes C.O.D. exchanges with the United Kingdom and France.

English parcel mails are not usually despatched through South Africa and are therefore less frequent than letter-mails. The regular route is across France and from Marseilles by the Messageries Maritimes steamers, and the irregular, direct by the Cape route by a Clan line, or other steamer. Remittances are made by both money orders and postal orders.

Telephone communication is available in Port Louis and between Port Louis and the more important rural districts. The service is owned and maintained by the Oriental Telephone Company. The Government offices are linked together by a Government owned telephone system, which itself is connected with the Oriental Telephone Company's lines. Telegraphic communication is provided by cable and is maintained by the Eastern and South African Telegraphic Company, whose local station is in Port Louis. Cablegrams from and to the rural districts, are transmitted over the Government land telegraphs. The Company maintains a station also at Port Mathurin, in Rodrigues. All classes of traffic are accepted.

There is a wireless station at Rose Belle which maintains a twenty-four hour service, and works mainly with ships at sea and with Reunion Island. The wireless station was built by the Admiralty in 1915 for communication with ships at sea and with the various naval bases in the Indian Ocean, and was taken over by the Mauritius Government in June, 1923.

During the cyclonic season from 1st November to 15th May, a detailed weather report including obsevations made at Seychelles, Rodrigues and Reunion is transmitted to all ships and stations within range at 0845 G.M.T. daily. When a cyclone is in the vicinity, the Government tug *Maurice*, stationed in the harbour at Port Louis, is manned and inland weather reports are transmitted by wireless telegraphy from the tug to all vessels in port, for the guidance of their masters. The wireless apparatus in the *Maurice* also acts as a stand-by in the event of accident to the aerial system at the main wireless telegraphy station at Rose Belle. The present transmitting range of the station is 500 miles by day and 1,000 miles by night. It is hoped, however, soon to instal an up-to-date transmitter, thereby considerably increasing the transmitting range of the station. For economic reasons a small continuous wave transmitter is installed. It has day range of 300 miles and a night range of 650 miles and is chiefly used for ships leaving or entering port and for communication with Reunion. Ships bound for Mauritius and within range are also communicated with by this low power set. The receiving range of the station is world-wide on all frequencies in general use and the range is only limited by atmospherical conditions to signal level.

Harbour.

Port Louis, the capital of the Colony, possesses the only navigable harbour for ocean-going ships, which is picturesquely situated on the north-west coast. A wide break in the ring of coral reefs surrounding the island, caused by the meeting of several rivers and streams, the Latanier, La Paix, Le Pouce, and Creole, gives access to the harbour, which has been dredged so as to provide deep-water accommodation for ten ships lying at berths in the channel and drawing from 24 to 31 feet of water. The harbour is flanked on the north by Fort George, a military post, and on the south by Fort William, which is abandoned. The mountains of the range behind Port Louis, including the Pouce, 2,661 feet, and Pieter Both, 2,690 feet, are guiding beacons to ships by day. The lighthouses on Flat Island, the Colony's quarantine station six miles north of Mauritius, and Caves Point, five miles south of Port Louis on the cliff's edge, and the gas buoy to the north of the outer harbour entrance, direct ships approaching Port Louis by night. A tide gauge has been in operation for four years. The maximum rise of tide at ordinary springs is three feet, which diminishes to two or three inches at ordinary neaps.

Dredging of the berths and channel by the Government plant is continuously in progress.

The Government of Mauritius is the Harbour Authority. The Government has from time to time sold or let to two lighterage companies various areas of land bordering the harbour. These two companies, the New Mauritius Dock Company and the Albion Dock Company, each own about 45 lighters with the necessary tugs, and undertake all the storage and lighterage of sugar. The British India Steam Navigation Company also own 30 lighters and two tugs. This Company mainly handles grain from the East, the rest of the general cargo being shared fairly evenly between the British India Company and the other two lighterage companies.

Four years ago the Government built a deep-water quay, 500 feet long, with 32 feet of water alongside, which is able to deal with 100,000 tons of cargo per annum. Actually only 40,000 to 50,000 tons, chiefly petroleum products, Government coal, etc., are discharged annually at the quay.

A Government granary, capable of storing 300,000 bags of rice, was completed three years ago, as a protection against the spread of plague in the Colony and is now working satisfactorily.

Shipping.

There are two regular lines of passenger steamers connecting Mauritius with the United Kingdom. There is a fortnightly service between Marseilles and Mauritius maintained by the Messageries Maritimes Company; the average journey takes about six weeks and involves a stay of five or six days at Reunion either on the outward or inward journey.

Vessels of the K.P.M. (Dutch) Line leave Mauritius once a month for Durban and Cape ports and once a month for Mombasa via Beira. A vessel also leaves Durban once a month direct for Mauritius. The K.P.M. Line has a working arrangement with the Union Castle Line of steamers, and the voyage to England via the K.P.M. and Union Castle Lines averages about 32 days. Occasional vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company take passengers to Colombo and the journey to England by this means takes from 28 to 35 days. Cheap passages to the United Kingdom can occasionally be secured during the sugar shipping season, October to March, on cargo steamers. The voyage averages 40 days.

It is interesting, but regrettable, to note that passenger facilities between Mauritius and the United Kingdom were far better twenty years ago than they arc to-day. The vessels of the Messageries Maritimes Company used to perform the voyage in 31 to 35 days, and the Union Castle Company and the British India Company used to make regular monthly calls. Passenger fares have also increased in so far as voyages via South Africa are concerned, by over 100 per cent.

The number of vessels and total tonnage entering and leaving the port during the past three years were as follows :—

INWARDS.

		1931.		*1932.*		*1933.*	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	184	535,747	175	547,874	202	622,772
	Sailing Ships	3	2,013	9	5,473	2	426
		187	537,760	184	553,347	204	623,198
Coasting	Steamers ...	8	3,812	6	2,961	5	2,376
	Sailing Ships	10	3,328	12	2,657	13	3,385
		18	7,140	18	5,618	18	5,761

OUTWARDS.

		1931.		*1932.*		*1933*	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	178	522,693	173	545,307	204	627,638
	Sailing Ships	3	2,013	8	5,473	2	426
		181	524,706	181	551,780	206	628,064
Coasting	Steamers ...	8	3,812	6	2,961	6	2,839
	Sailing Ships	11	3,686	7	2,111	14	3,743
		19	7,498	13	5,072	20	6,582

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are three private banks in the Colony, viz.—

(*a*) The Mauritius Commercial Bank,
(*b*) The Mercantile Bank of India, and
(*c*) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838, and has paid up capital of Rs.2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs.200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1933, was Rs.7,913,460·19. The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1933, amounted to Rs.2,630,900·59. Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) has a paid up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local Bank on 31st December, 1933, amounted to Rs.2,161,409. This Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank, Limited, was founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836), and the National Bank of South Africa Limited. A branch of the last named bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned. This bank conducts a savings bank department and also pays interest on fixed deposits as well as conducting a short-term deposit business.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1933, was 38,093 as against 37,645 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs.5,279,006·44 as against Rs.5,114,747·68. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

Currency.

The currency of the island is based on the Indian rupee. Apart from Indian silver coins the principal currency in circulation is provided by a Government issue of notes. Important changes, *details of which are given in Chapter XVI, are being introduced* in the monetary system of the Colony. The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs.7,854,365 as compared with an average of Rs.7,287,300 for the previous year. Against these notes the Commissioners of Currency held silver coins to the average value of Rs.1,844,750 as compared with Rs.2,974,922 in 1932-33. Their investments on 1st July, 1932, amounted to Rs.9,879,218·09 (which does not include Depreciation Fund). Of the investments Rs.3,483,888·06 were sold leaving a balance of Rs.6,395,330·03 on the 30th June, 1933. The Depreciation Fund which amounted to Rs.1,902,148·75 on the 1st July, 1932, remained unchanged during the year under review. From their investments the Currency Commissioners received interest amounting to Rs.540,330·52 which was credited to the general revenue of the Colony. The assets of the Commissioners of Currency which include Depreciation Fund exceed their liabilities by Rs.1,902,148·75 calculating the value of investments at mean market rate on 30th June, 1933. The liabilities include a sum estimated at Rs.1,000,000 in respect of notes destroyed in circulation by fire, floods, etc. It is considered that the surplus of the Commissioners of Currency may be estimated to be increased by this amount.

Weights and Measures.

The Metric system is in general use and the following are special French and local measures still in use :—

Measures of length and area:—

1 ligne Francaise = 2·258 millimetres or 0·088 inch.
12 lignes = 1 French inch.
12 French inches = 1 French foot.
1 French foot = 1·06 English feet.
1 lieue = 2½ English miles (approx.).
1 gaulette = 10 French feet.
1 arpent = 40,000 square French feet or 1·04 acres.
1 toise = 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches.
1 aune = 1 yard 11 inches.

Measures of capacity:—

1 barrique = 50 gallons (cane juice, etc.).
1 tiercon = 190 to 192 litres (molasses).
1 velte = 7·45 litres (coconut oil).
1 bouteille = 800 cubic centimetres (liquid).
1 chopine = ½ bouteille.
1 corde = 80 cubic French feet or 96·82 English cubic feet (firewood).

Measures of weight:—

1 gamelle = 5·250 kilogrammes.
1 livre = 500 grammes or 1·10 English pounds.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Government buildings, the sewerage of Port Louis, roads and bridges, the survey of Crown Land, water-supplies, and state irrigation.

Buildings.—Some of these, such as a time-ball tower in the Port Office, are of historical interest, dating from the time of the French Governor Mahé de Labourdonnais in 1740. Government House in Port Louis was then in project and was built between 1740 and 1767. Apart from the addition of a second storey, it now stands exactly as it was originally constructed. It contains the Governor's offices, in which are to be found the table on which the capitulation of the island was signed in 1810, a throne room, a council room, the council offices, a library, and quarters for the Governor and officials. The former and present Residences of the Governors at "Mon Plaisir," Pamplemousses, and "Le Reduit," Moka, also date back to the French occupation. The value of the Government buildings is approximately 15 million rupees.

There are in the island one mental and nine general hospitals. An old hospital, the Grand River North West Hospital, built in 1769 for seamen is now being used as a quarantine station for plague.

Severe cyclones, which happily are not frequent, are responsible for a good deal of damage to water-works, roads, and buildings.

Sewerage Works of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922 the scheme was revised by Messrs. Mansergh and Sons and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connexions, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

Bridges.—There exist 335 bridges on main and branch roads, the longest span being of 150 feet. The old timber bridges are being gradually replaced by ferro-concrete structures, and there are 66 to be replaced.

Water-Works.—The water supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from the Grand River North West at a distance of about four miles from the town and at a level of 250 feet. This supply was under the charge of the Municipality of the town until 1922, when it was handed over to the Public Works and Surveys Department. The dam in the river was burst by the flood of December, 1929, and much of the pipe-line leading from it was also swept away. The works of restoration of the dam and pipeline were begun in September, 1931, and were completed by the end of February, 1932. The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated. The capacity of the mains leading to the filters is 5,000,000 gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of 2,000,000 gallons.

The water-supply of the towns of Plaines Wilhems and of parts of Moka and Black River districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare aux Vacoas, at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons. The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands. The whole of this water-supply is filtered through sand filters at " La Marie," about two miles below the reservoir, whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being 5,500,000 gallons. The population served by this supply is approximately 90,000 and the average daily consumption 3,500,000 gallons. The Mare aux Vacoas water supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. The supply is limited to 900,000 gallons per day. In this connexion a covered service reservoir at Petite Riviere of 750,000 gallons was completed and put into operation in 1931. The water-supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from twenty-seven different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest. The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000, and is comprised mostly of the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains.

Irrigation Works.—Government storage irrigation works were begun in 1914 according to plans made by Mr. C. M. Harriott, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Central Provinces, India, and Consulting Engineer for Irrigation Works to the Government of Mauritius. The La Ferme scheme for the irrigation of the south-west of the island, between Grand River North West and River Dragon, has been finished, and the Nicoliere scheme to irrigate land in the north, has been started. These two schemes cover a great deal of the fertile lands of the Colony which are below the level which enjoys 60 inches of rain and cannot be cultivated to the best advantage without irrigation water. The La Ferme scheme is dependent on a low-level reservoir of 2,500 million gallons, which was completed in 1918 and now irrigates 3,700 acres of land under sugar cane plantation. The plans for the Nicoliere scheme include a high-level storage reservoir at 1,300 feet altitude at Midlands, of 4,400 million gallons capacity, intended to fill a low-level reservoir at Nicoliere of a capacity of about 250 million gallons.

The Nicoliere reservoir has been finished, but, although some land under cane cultivation is being irrigated from it, the full scheme will only be working when the Midlands reservoir is completed. Owing to financial conditions the plans were first curtailed and the works afterwards suspended as a result of the visit of the Financial Commission, but the feeder channel, which measures 16¾ miles from Midlands to Nicoliere was completed by the end of 1931, with a reduced section.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The Supreme Court sits in the capital (Port Louis) and is presided over by one Chief Judge and two Puisne Judges. It has jurisdiction in Civil and Criminal matters and also as a Court of Admiralty; it also decides appeals from the Supreme Court of Seychelles and the Inferior Courts of Mauritius. There is a Bankruptcy Division presided over by one of the Judges or by the Master and Registrar sitting as Judge in Bankruptcy. In 1933 the Supreme Court dealt with 240 civil matters out of 309 which were brought before it, as against 282 out of 335 in the year before. In 1933 twenty persons were brought before this

Court and tried on criminal charges, all of them being convicted. Criminal cases are tried by a Judge and a Jury. Divorce causes, bankruptcy matters, and civil actions in which the sum involved is less than Rs.3,000 are heard by one Judge. Civil actions in respect of claims over Rs.3,000 are heard by two Judges. Where, however, the magnitude of the interests at stake or the importance of the questions of fact or law involved make it desirable, a case is heard by three Judges.

Magistrates.—There is a Magistrate's Court in each of the nine districts, the Courts in Port Louis and in Plaines Wilhems each sitting in two divisions. A Magistrate has jurisdiction in nearly all civil matters involving not more than Rs.1,000 and in all criminal matters with power to inflict not more than one year's imprisonment and Rs.1,000 fine. A Bench of three Magistrates may be instituted by law for the trial of certain offences and also at the request of the Procureur General for nearly all offences, with jurisdiction extending to three years' penal servitude or imprisonment and fine possibly of Rs.3,000. An appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court within the limits stated above, both in fact and law, the several modes of reviewing the decisions being the same as in English Law. There is no system similar to the French Assistance Judiciaire but facilities are given to very poor litigants both before the Supreme and the Inferior Courts to obtain leave to sue *in forma pauperis.* In Supreme Court cases, counsel are ever ready to accept a pauper brief at the request of the Chief Judge while in Assize cases, counsel is always appointed without fee, for undefended prisoners. The Dependencies are visited periodically by one of two Magistrates supernumerary to the District Magistrates, whose services are also available in Mauritius.

The Dependency of Rodrigues is administered by a Magistrate who has the same jurisdiction in Rodrigues as a District Magistrate in Mauritius and whose duties are to a considerable extent administrative.

The Magistrates tried 9,135 civil cases and held :—

150 coroners' inquests;
19 preliminary inquiries into crimes and serious misdemeanours
11,811 ordinary criminal cases and petty offences.

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force is organized on a purely civil basis, but all recruits are instructed in squad drill with arms and elementary musketry whilst passing through the Training Depot. A special Armed Detachment of one officer and 46 other ranks is maintained in a state of military efficiency and undergoes periodical training in platoon, ceremonial and anti-riot drill. Certain members of the specialist branches of the Force are trained in the use of the Lewis Gun and are formed into special Lewis Gun Sections for use in any emergency. The military side of Police training is supervised by officers and other ranks who have previously served in the army. At the present time there are eight Gazetted officers and 44 other ranks serving in the Mauritius Police Force, who were on active service during the War of 1914-18. Gazetted officers are mainly provided by promotion from the ranks, but direct Colonial Office appointment in these ranks are also made when necessary. The rank and file are now entirely recruited locally and there is no shortage of suitable applicants for the Police.

Distribution.—The establishment of 20 officers and 595 other ranks is divided into Headquarters Staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Motor Traffic Branch, Revenue Branch, Training Depot, Harbour Police, District Police, Railway Police, Rodrigues Police and Band. The Headquarters of the Force, with the special Branches and Depot, are established in the Line Barracks at Port Louis which have been gradually improved and adapted to meet modern requirements. The general duty police of the Force are distributed in Magisterial Districts as follows :—

District.	*Number of Stations.*	*Number of Personnel.*
Port Louis	8	207
Plaines Wilhems ...	5	87
Black River	4	14
Curepipe	3	50
Grand Port	6	44
Savanne	5	23
Pamplemousses ...	6	31
Riviere du Rempart ...	5	21
Moka	5	34
Flacq	5	35

The Harbour Police also control an area of Port Louis including the Custom House, Post Office, Docks, Wharves and Harbour. For their duties afloat they are provided with a motor launch. The Rodrigues and Railway Police, whose numbers are provided from the trained establishment of the General Police, are under the independent control of the Resident Magistrate of Rodrigues and the General Manager of Railways respectively. The Band consists of one European Bandmaster holding the rank of Inspector and 30 bandsmen mostly recruited in Mauritius with a few ex-military bandsmen from India.

Revenue Control.—Reference has been made in previous reports to the transfer of functions of the Inland Revenue Branch to the Police Department. In this connexion it is interesting to note that the inland revenue collected in direct taxes and licences has increased from Rs.1,419,467.01 in 1932 to Rs.1,465,951.60 in 1933. This has been achieved without any increase of personnel in the Police Department.

Crime.—The total number of offences of all kinds reported to the Police during the year 1933 was 23,502, but taking into account approximately 4,000 cases of contravention of the Licence, Fishery, Weights and Measures, Forest Laws, etc., the former figure is reduced to approximately 19,500 in so far as crimes, misdemeanours and minor offences are concerned. Of these 19,500 offences, 8,492 are classified as offences against the person and show an increase on the corresponding figure for the previous year which was 7,748, and 3,275 are classified as offences against property, which figure shows a decrease on that for 1932, which was 3,441. The number of persons prosecuted in connexion with these 23,502 offences was 11,647, of whom 10,264 were convicted, 658 otherwise disposed of and 625 were awaiting trial at the end of the year. In 1932, 9,376 persons were prosecuted, 8,663 were convicted, 545 otherwise disposed of, and 168 were awaiting trial at the end of the year.

Prisons.

Organization.—The Prison Department of Mauritius, in common with that of many other Crown Colonies where strict economy in the cost of administration is essential, is placed under the charge of the Inspector General of Police who is responsible for the control of Penal Institutions as Superintendent of Prisons. This arrangement has been in force since 1912 and, although liable to criticism in theory, has worked extremely well in practice, and the prisons of the Colony are generally considered to be well-managed and properly controlled. Four senior officers, in addition to the Superintendent, are drawn from British Army, Police, or Prison Services and the remaining staff of 108 are recruited from local sources.

Establishments.—The penal institutions are Port Louis Central Prison, Beau Bassin Convict Prison, and Barkly Industrial School for male juvenile offenders. Port Louis Prison provides separate cell accommodation for 154 male prisoners and association cells for 40 women. It also contains the offices of the Department and quarters for two senior officers and two wardresses. All prisoners awaiting trial are housed in this prison in convenient proximity to the Supreme and Magistrates Courts, and special arrangements are in force, under the supervision of the Medical Director, for treating convicted prisoners on admission for prevalent diseases before transfer to the Convict Prison at Beau Bassin. This prison also serves as the centre for classification of convicted prisoners and for treatment of special and difficult cases.

Beau Bassin Prison is a modern type convict prison containing single cell accommodation for 756 male prisoners. Detached bungalow-type quarters for the Superintendent and two Chief Warders are located in the surrounding Prison grounds.

Barkly Industrial School consists of a large range of buildings and quarters formerly used as a hospital and now providing accommodation for 200 boys and 7 School Officers. Boys falling into the hands of the Police are sent to the School direct without being detained in Police cells or the Central Prison, and remain there while awaiting disposal by a Magistrate.

Classification.—Convicted prisoners are at present classified as (*a*) penal servitude, (*b*) hard labour, (*c*) misdemeanants, and (*d*) juvenile and first offenders and, so far as the existing accommodation permits, the various classes are separated and wear distinctive clothing. The experiment in the creation of a " Special " class to correspond to the " Star " class of English prisons is still incomplete but has given encouraging results and it is anticipated that the new classification will be officially authorized in 1934. Classes (*a*) and (*b*) serve their sentences at Beau Bassin Prison, while (*c*) and (*d*) with old, infirm, and special type prisoners are kept at Port Louis.

Labour.—The principle governing the employment of all prisoners is that they shall be put to such remunerative work as lies within their physical capacity and past experience, and that all long-sentence prisoners who are not tradesmen before conviction shall be taught a trade during their period of imprisonment. The normal labour for male prisoners at Port Louis is carpentry, stone-breaking, cutting firewood, carting stores, and cleaning Government buildings and grounds. Women prisoners are employed on laundry work and sewing clothing and bedding. At Beau Bassin prison prisoners with long sentences are taught a trade, while those serving shorter sentences are principally employed on agricultural work in the prison gardens. The trades taught in the prison workshops comprise tailoring, boot, sail, and mattress making; carpentry and cabinet making; blind, mat, and basket making; tinsmith work and blacksmithing. Instruction in baking is given in the prison bakery which produces about 1,400 pounds of bread daily and numerous prisoners are trained as stonemasons in the quarries and neighbouring grounds.

Population.—The number of persons admitted to Port Louis Prison during the year was 3,210, which is 443 less than in the previous year, and 565 less than in 1931. Of these 3,210 persons 1,799 were convicted and, of these, 1,145 were sentenced to imprisonment for one month or less. The convicted prisoners comprised 1,718 men and 81 women. The daily average population was 500·44 compared with 662·10 in 1932, and the number of persons in prison on 31st December, 1933, was 381 compared with 503 in 1932 and 677 in 1931. Of the 381 persons in prison 364 were serving sentences and comprised 356 men and 8 women. This reduction is entirely due to improvement in economic conditions resulting in more employment and increased capacity to pay fines. 822 persons, of whom 13 were women, served sentences of imprisonment in lieu of paying fines.

Health.—The Medical Officers in charge of the prison hospitals report that the health of the prisoners was excellent. Deaths in hospital during the year totalled 7 compared with 22 in 1932 and 33 in 1931.

Juvenile Offenders.—The number of boys in the Barkly Industrial School at the end of the year was 46 compared with 47 in 1932 and 102 in 1926. 33 boys were admitted during the year and 35 were discharged. All the boys receive the normal lower standard primary school education during a portion of the day and spend the remainder of their working hours at agricultural work or manual training. Their health has been, as usual, excellent, thanks to the care and attention of the medical staff who free them from every sort of internal and external parasite after admission and enable them to be discharged in the great majority of cases in good physical condition. A Committee to deal with the all-important question of employment on discharge and the after care of these boys has been appointed as a result of the initiative of the local branch of Toc H and is doing excellent work.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

A list of the Ordinances passed during the year under review is given in Appendix I to this Report. Of the Ordinances passed, the following which are important and of interest not purely local may be mentioned specifically :—

> *Free Emigration.*—No. 12 removes restrictions (other than under the Passport or Police Laws) on the emigration from Mauritius and its Dependencies of natives or of residents. Power to make regulations is reserved under the Ordinance to the Governor in Executive Council, so that adequate provision be made to ensure the protection of prospective or actual emigrants.
>
> *Consolidation of Post Office and Telegraph Laws.*—No. 13 brings up to date the Post Office and Telegraph Laws of the Colony.
>
> *Identification of Illicit Rum.*—No. 18 aims at combating traffic in rum which is prepared in contravention of the Distillery and Revenue Laws, by enacting that all rum containing more than a given proportion of *furfuraldehyde* shall be considered illicit rum. The principle thus adopted is based on the fact that *furfuraldehyde* is altogether absent (or practically so) from the produce of all the licensed distilleries of the Colony, the method employed ensuring its elimination from the distillate.
>
> *Preferential Tariff of Customs Duties.*—No. 27 extends to all parts of the British Empire the Preferential Tariff of Customs duties, in accordance with the principles adopted by the Ottawa Conference. Certain items of the Schedule of tariffs are at the same time revised, as a consequence, to compensate short returns on the Customs estimates.

Passports.—No. 33 provides that a passport shall henceforth be necessary for leaving as well as for entering the Colony.

Merchant Shipping.—No. 35 applies to ships registered in the Colony the "direct system" of giving helm orders, in accordance with the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea.

General.—Other Ordinances were passed providing for:—The suppression of houses of ill-repute (No. 5); long term contracts (5 years) under the Labour Laws (No. 6); the opening of a Government granary for the storage of grain directly on its importation, so as to render anti-plague measures more effective (No. 17); the levying of an export duty on silver in bullion or coin (No. 20); the continuing in effect of legislation concerning a levy on the salaries of civil servants (No. 24); the levying of an increased export duty on sugar, to secure more funds to be applied to the destruction of the pest the *Phytalus Smithii* (No. 38).

XV.—FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the year ended the 30th June, 1933, reached the abnormal figure of Rs.30,200,418·30. The revenue normally becoming due and collected during the year was Rs.14,503,504 and the increase in the amount shown for the year was due to special adjustments comprising, *inter alia*, the following transfers to Revenue:—

	Rs.
Widows' and Orphans' Fund	5,032,347·84
Government Scholarship Fund	539,769·17
Improvement and Development Fund ...	6,317,717·98
Mauritius Loan, 1922	1,362,678·99
Unexpended balance Sugar Industry Loan, 1929	7,315·90
	Rs.13,259,829·88

The Revenue was Rs.15,822,585·30 above the Estimates and Rs.18,040,139·49 above that of the previous year.

The Expenditure for the same period amounted to Rs.13,810,589·27 being Rs.957,587·73 below the Estimates for 1932-33 and Rs.3,893,985·43 below the expenditure of the previous year.

The revenue during the financial year 1932-33 exceeded the expenditure by Rs.16,389,829·03 and the surplus balance on 30th June, 1933, amounted to Rs.12,943,799·93. Of the expenditure for 1932-33 Rs.4,741,399·51 was spent on "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.9,069,189·76 on "Other Charges". The corresponding figures for 1931-32 were Rs.4,922,576·84 for "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.12,781,997·86 for "Other Charges". The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:

Year.	*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.
1928-29	13,322,248	16,930,182
1929-30	14,483,467	15,575,001
1930-31	11,552,210	16,092,073
1931-32	12,160,278	17,704,574
1932-33	30,200,418	13,810,589

The Colonial Government pays a military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its revenue (total revenue exclusive of land sales, irrigation, Mare aux Vacoas and other water works revenue, contribution towards loan 1922 charges, and special export duty on sugar) towards the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. The annual contribution was reduced to £15,000 for the two years 1932-33 and 1933-34, the amount paid for the year ended 30th June, 1933, was Rs.205,125.

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony on 30th June, 1933, was £3,396,994 7s. 7d. Against this liability of £3,396,994 7s. 7d., there was an accumulated sinking fund of £1,652,076 7s. 8d. as compared with £1,410,077 15s. 7d. on 30th June, 1932.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets and liabilities at the end of the year amounted to Rs.23,125,361·34 and Rs.10,181,561·41 showing a surplus of Rs.12,943,799·93.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1933.

Liabilities.	Rs.	*Assets.*	Rs.
Other Colonial Governments	**2,325.57**	**Cash**	**2,416,833.77**
Deposits	**557,416.90**	**Remittances in transit**	**8,301.78**
Loan Funds unexpended	**910,101.98**	**Surplus Funds invested from Improvement and Development Fund.**	**2,372,617.03**
Appropriated Funds	**8,711,716.96**	**1922 Mauritius Loan Funds—**	
Balance: Surplus of Assets over Liabilities at 30th June, 1933.	**12,943,799.93**	**Invested**	**481,865.16**
		Other Colonial Governments.	**963.44**
		Advances	**9,537,706.47**
		Unallocated Stores	**545,630.79**
		Appropriated Funds invested.	**7,761,442.90**
	Rs. 23,125,361.34		**Rs.23,125,361.34**

Description of the Main Heads of Taxation and their Yield.

The main heads of taxation, with their yield, for the current year, as compared with the preceding year, are the following :—

	Year 1931-32.	*Year* 1932-33.
	Rs.	Rs.
Customs, Import duties ...	3,656,522·10	4,423,265·79
Export duties[*]...	402,672·23	906,251·75
Excise duty on rum issued for home consumption ...	1,496,012·71	1,632,897·07
Licence duty	1,049,144·05	1,112,698·23
Tobacco excise	1,009,998·74	1,335,297·07
Taxes on vehicles and animals	348,828·47	371,992·07
House Tax	279,448·01	403,293·43

Customs Duties.

The revenue from Customs duties for the year 1933 was Rs.4,777,368 for imports and Rs.863,472 for exports (excluding amount levied on export for specific purposes).

The figures for the previous years were :—

	Import duty.	*Export duty.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1932	3,935,135	752,832
1931	3,762,014	41,802

Customs Tariff (Summarized).

The following shows the rates of duty of the principal imports and exports on the 31st December, 1933 :—

Imports.

Rice	**63c per 100 kilos.**
Dholl	**Rs. 1·14 per 100 kilos.**
Flour	**Rs. 0.94c per 100 kilos.**
Fertilizers ...	**11c to Rs. 1·10 per 100 kilos.**
Coal	**8c per 100 kilos.**
Petroleum oil ...	**Rs. 5·28 per hectolitre.**
Petroleum spirits	**Rs. 14·00 per hectolitre.**
Soap, common ...	**Rs. 1·93 per 100 kilos.**
Wines in casks up to 14°.	**Rs. 22 per hectolitre.**
Wines in cases up to 14° (still).	**33c per litre.**
Spirits (proof) ...	**Rs. 6·87 per litre.**
Tobacco, manufactured.	**Rs. 15·00 per kilo.**
Tobacco, cigarettes.	**Rs. 16·50 per kilo.**
Vegetable oil, other than olive.	**Rs. 5·50 to Rs. 9·00 per 100 kilos.**
Most manufactured articles.	**5·5 to 55 per cent.** ***ad valorem.***

---

[*] Includes special export duty on sugar.

Exports.

Sugar ...	45c per 100 kilos.	Aloe fibre ...	Rs. 4·- per 100 kilos.

Principal preferential rates on imports.

	Preferential.	*General.*
Motor vehicles of all kinds (including tyres and tubes).	5·5 per cent. *ad valorem*	36⅔ per cent. *ad valorem*
Silk manufactures (including art silk).	16·5 „ „ „ „ or R.0·55 per kilo	55 „ „ „ „ or R.1·75 per kilo
	whichever is the higher	
Indigo	R.1·10 per kilo.	Rs.2·75 per kilo.
Cement	R.0·30 per 100 kilos.	R.1·00 per 100 kilos.
Cinema films ...	Free	R.0·04 per metre.
Machinery, industrial	R.1·45 per 100 kilos.	5·5 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Cotton manufactures	13 per cent. *ad valorem.*	26 per cent. *ad valorem.*
	and also specific rates in certain cases.	
Hardware	11 per cent. *ad valorem.*	22 per cent. *ad valorem.*

Excise and Stamp Duties.

The duty on rum for home consumption is Rs.2·75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier. The duty on spirits to be denaturated for heating and lighting purposes is R.0·04 cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 4 cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier. The duty on spirits to be denaturated for use as motor fuel is 4 cents per litre or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier. The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of " Alcoolats " in accordance with the formulae laid down in the British Pharmacopoeia or the French Codex or of any other medicinal tincture and drug as notified in the Gazette is Rs.2·50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre for every degree above 23. The duty on vinegar is R.1·70 per hectolitre on vinegar not exceeding 8 degrees of strength and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8 degrees.

According to the excise figures the number of litres of spirits distilled in 1932-33 (July to June) was 1,105,373 litres as compared with an average of 798,370 litres for the past five years. The duty on wine and other liquor (excepting rum and compounded rum) manufactured in the Colony which contain more than 4 degrees of alcohol according to Gay Lussac's alcoholometer is as follows :—

---

* NOTE—The duty on Sugar is only for special purposes as under :—

R.0·02 per cent. kilos for destruction of *Phytalus Smithii;*
0·03 „ „ „ „ College of Agriculture;
0·04 „ „ „ „ Sugar Industry Reserve Fund;
0·36 „ „ „ „ in refund of loans.

The duty on Aloe fibre includes Rs.3 per 1,000 kilos in refund of loan to the Hemp Industry.

(i) on all such liquor not exceeding 14 degrees by Gay Lussac's alcoholometer a duty of 15 cents per litre ;

(ii) on all such liquor exceeding 14 a duty at the same rate and on the same scale as the customs duty on wines payable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

An excise duty of Rs.4 per kilo is charged on leaf tobacco used for the manufacture of tobacco for local consumption. According to the official figures the quantity of tobacco manufactured in the year 1933 was 321,931 kilos 100 grms. as compared with 307,968 kilos 120 grms. in 1932. The excise duty collected on tobacco during the last two financial years is given below :—

	Year 1932-33. Rs.	*Year* 1931-32. Rs.
Tobacco	1,335,332·45	1,009,998·74

The figures for the calendar years are :—

	Year 1933. Rs.	*Year* 1932. Rs.
Tobacco excise ...	1,182,074·35	1,286,971·90

House Tax.

Rates.—1 per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs.500.

Yield.—The amount collected during the financial year 1932-33 was Rs.403,293·43.

Method of Assessment.—Any building liable to the house tax is assessed according to its full and fair value. In assessing the full and fair value, the valuer takes into consideration the actual or possible rent a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for such building. This applies only to buildings whose basis value is above Rs.500 and on which the annual tax is 1 per cent. on the value.

Method of Collection.—For the purpose of collecting the House Tax when the assessment arrived at is final for the year, notices for payment are served upon owners of buildings and the tax is paid to the Cashier of the District in which it is levied or to the Chief Cashier, Treasury.

Income Tax.

The Income Tax whch was imposed as from the 1st of July, 1932, was subsequently postponed to a later year, and was still in abeyance at the end of the year.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Colony continued during the year to enjoy the benefit of the special sugar preference of 1s. per cwt. and the additional preference of 1s. per cwt. on a prescribed quota which were granted by

His Majesty's Government in 1932 for a period of five years on all Colonial sugars consigned to the United Kingdom. The above grants are exclusive of the General Imperial Preference on all sugars amounting to nearly 3s. 9d. per cwt. With a total sugar production of 261,000 tons and a quota which was fixed at 104,000 tons in the case of Mauritius, the assistance extended to the Colony by the Imperial Government amounted to about £1,343,750 in respect of the 1933-34 crop.

The decision of His Majesty's Government to reduce the Military Contribution payable by the Colony to £15,000 during the two financial years 1932-33 and 1933-34 with a view to assisting in the recovery of financial equilibrium resulted in a saving of over Rs.500,000 in respect of the financial year 1933-34 and greatly facilitated the preparation of a balanced budget.

Four delegates chosen by the unofficial members of the Council of Government in 1932 to proceed to England and discuss with the Secretary of State for the Colonies certain questions concerning the constitution of the Legislative and Executive Councils, the administrative and fiscal policy, and the sanitary improvement of the Colony, returned to Mauritius during the year 1933 The negotiations resulted in certain changes in the constitution of the Government which are detailed in Chapter II of this Report. It was also decided to effect radical changes in the monetary system of the Colony comprising (*a*) the calling in of the Currency Notes in circulation and the issue of new Currency Notes, and (*b*) the abandonment of the Indian rupee as the basis for the coinage of the Colony and its replacement by a rupee, and its sub-divisions, of the Government of Mauritius. Legislation to give effect to the changes in the Currency Notes has already been enacted and it is estimated that the transactions will result in a net profit of about Rs.3,500,000 to the Government. Legislation to provide for the changes in coinage is in course of preparation.

The question of the control of the *Phytalus Smithii* pest also received consideration during the stay of the delegation in England and early in 1933, Mr. W. F. Jepson, a specialized entomologist of the Parasite Laboratory, Farnham Royal, was selected as *Phytalus* Investigation Officer, for research work in connexion with the biological control of the pest in Mauritius. Mr. Jepson arrived in the Colony in October, 1933.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir W. E. F. Jackson, who was on leave of absence in England during the visit of the delegation, returned to the Colony on the 29th April, 1933.

The Ordinance which was passed in 1932 to provide for the imposition of an income-tax had not been enforced by the end of the year and, in view of certain representations from a Committee of taxpayers and, later, from the elected and unofficial members of the Council of Government, it has been decided to abandon the tax and to provide additional revenue by alternative direct taxation in the form of a graduated personal or poll tax on all persons (including companies) possessing incomes in excess of Rs.5,000 per annum. Legislation is being prepared for the imposition of this tax.

The Island was visited in May, 1933, by H.M.S. *Hawkins* flying the flag of Vice-Admiral M. E. Dunbar-Nasmith, V.C., C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station, and in July, 1933, by the French War Vessel *Bougainville*.

In September, 1933, communication by air was established between Reunion and Mauritius by the arrival in the Colony of two aviators from Reunion.

APPENDIX I.

Thirty-nine Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1933, as follows:—

No. *Title.*

1. To make provision for the disposal of Rodrigues leaf tobacco imported before a certain date and for the levying of excise duty on such leaf tobacco.
2. To correct a clerical error in the Appropriation (1932-33) Ordinance, 1932, and thereby to provide for the amount truly intended to be appropriated to a certain item in the Schedule thereof.
3. To fix a time limit for the granting of loans under the Mauritius Hurricane Loan (Appropriation) Ordinance, 1931, and the Hurricane Loan Ordinance, 1931.
4. To authorise the transfer to the general revenue of an unexpended balance of the Funds raised for the purposes of the Sugar Industry Loan Fund Ordinance, 1929.
5. To make provision for the suppression of disorderly houses.
6. To amend the Labour Law in regard to the duration of Contracts of Service.
7. For applying a further sum not exceeding Rs.3,858,459.50 to the service of the year 1931-32.
8. To amend the House Tax Ordinance, 1928.
9. To regulate the application of fines.
10. To empower the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Beau Bassin and Rose Hill to raise a loan of Rs.200,000 for certain purposes.
11. To amend the Municipality Pensions Ordinance, 1929, for the purpose of extending the time limit fixed for the exercise of the option in that Ordinance provided.
12. To allow the emigration of natives of or residents in Mauritius.
13. To amend and codify the Laws of the Post Office and Telegraphs.
14. To amend Ordinance No. 14 of 1895 and to repeal the Ordinance amending the same.

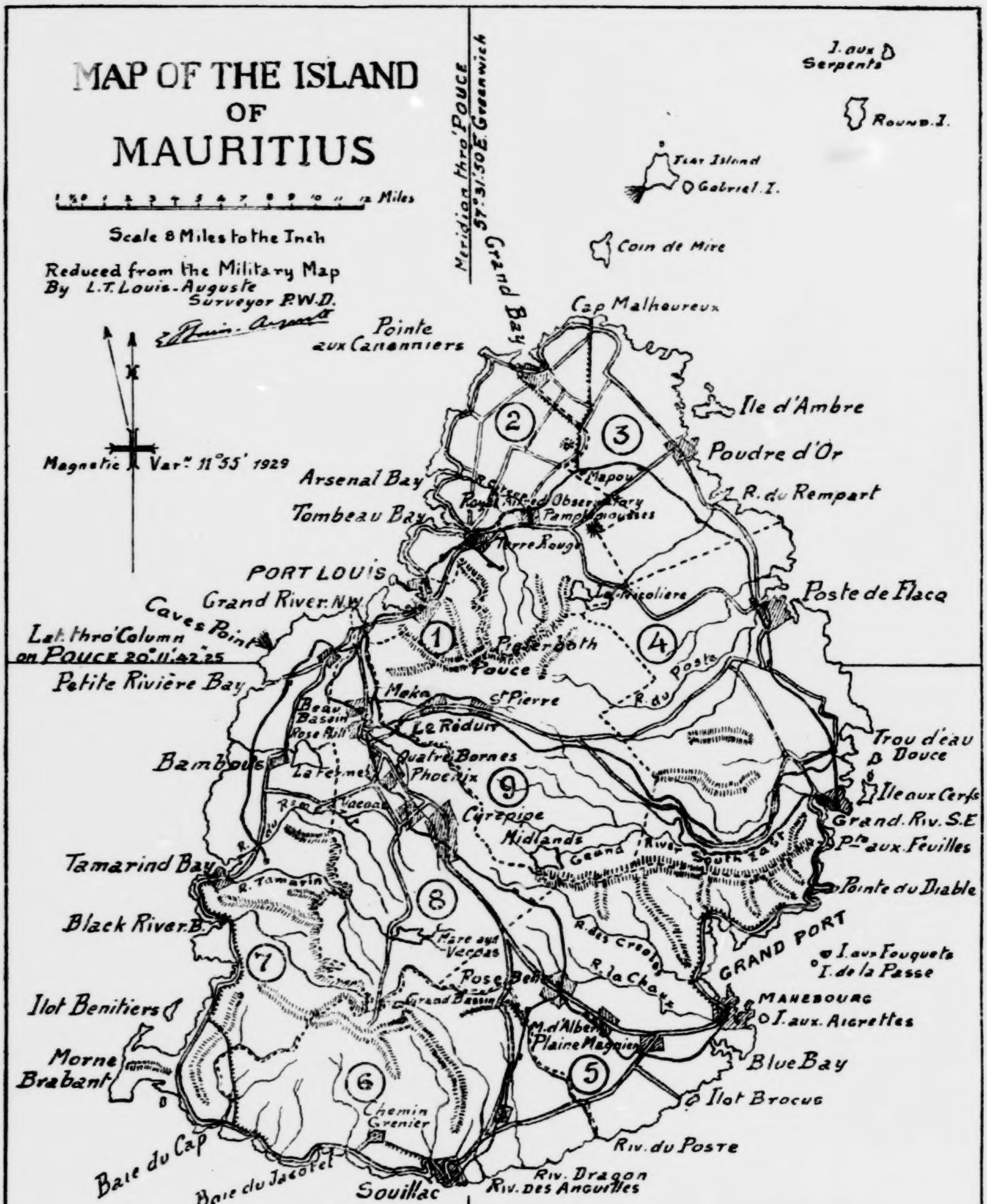
15. To repeal Ordinance No. 12 of 1837 and to remove doubts on the validity of appointments of officers of the Ministère Public.
16. To amend the Licences (Consolidating) Ordinance, 1915.
17. To provide for the fumigation, disinfection and landing of certain grain and the storing thereof in a granary.
18. To provide for the identification of rum illicitly manufactured and punish the possession thereof.
19. To amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1932.
20. To provide for the levying of an export duty on silver.
21. Further to amend the Licences (Consolidating) Ordinance, 1915.
22. To authorise the exhumation of the remains of the late Right Reverend James Romanus Bilsborrow from St. Pierre Cemetery, in the District of Moka, and their reinterment within the precincts of St. Louis Cathedral in the Town of Port Louis.
23. To validate and continue in effect a Resolution of the Council of Government relating to the collection of excise duty on Leaf Tobacco.
24. To declare and extend the time during which certain Levy on Salaries Ordinances shall have effect.
25. To make provision for the Public Service for the financial year 1933-34.
26. To make provision for the Mauritius Government Railways for the financial year 1933-34.
27. To amend the Customs Tariff Consolidation Ordinance, 1932.
28. To amend the Hurricane Loan Ordinances 1931, so as to provide a lower rate of interest on loans made under the said Ordinances.
29. To correct clerical errors in certain Ordinances.
30. For applying a further sum not exceeding Rs.86,728 to the service of the Mauritius Government Railways for the year 1931-32.
31. For constituting the Association called "The Mauritius Motor Transport Association" into a body corporate and to provide for the establishment and working thereof.
32. To continue the Stamps (Consolidation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1932.
33. To amend the Passports Ordinance, 1924.
34. To amend the Registration of United Kingdom Designs Ordinance, 1930.
35. To provide for a new method of giving helm orders on British ships registered in the Colony.
36. To amend the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1898.
37. To amend the Licences (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance, 1932.
38. To provide an increased duty on sugar exported from this Colony.
39. For applying a further sum not exceeding Rs.356,090.31 to the service of the year 1932-33.

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF LOCAL PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	*Agents for Sale.*	*Price.*
T'Eylandt Mauritius: Esquisses Historiques, 1698–1710;*	Out of print.	
L'Ile de France: Esquisses Historiques, 1715–1833. By Albert Pitot.*	Do.	
Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1886). By Baron d'Unienville.*	Do.	
Le Folk-lore Mauricien (Maisonneuve, Paris, 1888);	Do.	
Le Patois Creole Mauricien (Mauritius, 1880). By Charles Baissac.	Do.	
Renseignements pour servir a l'histoire de l'Ile de France et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1890). By Adrien d'Epinay.	Do.	
Mauritius Illustrated. By A. MacMillan.*	Do.	
Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of Mauritius.*	His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.	2s. (approx.)
Financial Situation of Mauritius, Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931.*	Do.	4s. 6d.
Mauritius Blue Book*	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	Rs. 5·84
A School History of Mauritius. By W. H. Ingrams.*	MacMillan & Co., London.	2s. 6d.
Report on the Anophelinae of Mauritius and on certain aspects of Malaria in the Colony. By Malcolm E. MacGregor.*	Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius.	Rs. 10
Report on Medical and Sanitary matters in Mauritius by Andrew Balfour C.B., C.M.G., M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H.*	Do.	Rs. 15
Mauritius Almanac and Commercial Handbook. By Andre Bax.*	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd., Mauritius.	Rs. 10
L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921). By W. Edward Hart.*	Do.	Rs. 3
Island of Mauritius. By Raymond Philogene.*	Do.	
Ile de France—Documents pour son Histoire Civile et Militaire. By Saint Elme le Duc.*	Government Printing Office, Mauritius.	Rs. 10

* May be consulted in the Colonial Office Library.



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS
Miles
Scale 8 Miles to the Inch
Reduced from the Military Map By L.T. Louis-Auguste Surveyor P.W.D.
Magnetic Var.n 11°55' 1929
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°31'50"E. Greenwich
Lat. thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42"25
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Canonniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Mapou
Terre Rouge
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Petite Rivière Bay
Poste de Flacq
Pieterboth
Pouce
R. du Poste
Moka
St Pierre
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Rose Hill
Le Réduit
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
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R. la Chaux
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I. de la Passe
MAHEBOURG
I. aux Aigrettes
Ilot Benitiers
Grand Bassin
M. d'Albert
Plaine Magnien
Blue Bay
Morne Brabant
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Riv. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie du Jacotet
Souillac
Riv. Dragon
Riv. des Anguilles
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
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3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1731

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

MAURITIUS, 1934

(For Report for 1932 see No. 1627 (Price 2s. 6d.)
and for Report for 1933 see No. 1685 (Price 2s. 0d.).)

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Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE, 1932.
[Colonial No. 95.] £1 5*s.* (£1 5*s.* 9*d.*).

CUSTOMS TARIFFS OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE.
[Colonial No. 97.] (3 volumes.)
Part I—Africa. 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 9*d.*)
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Part III—West Indies. 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*)

COLONIAL REGULATIONS.
Regulations for His Majesty's Colonial Service.
Part I—Public Officers. [Colonial No. 88-1.] 9*d.* (10*d.*).
Part II—Public Business. [Colonial No. 88-2] 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).

COLONIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE LIST.
1st Edition, January, 1933. [Colonial No. 80.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Supplement to 1st Edition, 1st January, 1934.
[Colonial No. 92.] 9*d.* (10*d.*).

COLONIAL SERVICE.
Report of Committee on Leave and Passage Conditions for the Colonial Service. [Cmd. 4730.] 9*d.* (10*d.*).

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
Fifth Annual Report covering the period 1st April, 1933, to 31st March, 1934. [Cmd. 4634.] 9*d.* (10*d.*).

EMPIRE SURVEY.
Conference of Empire Survey Officers, 1931.
[Colonial No. 70.] £1 (£1 0*s.* 9*d.*).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, OTTAWA, 1932.
Summary of Proceedings and copies of Trade Agreements.
[Cmd. 4174.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 4175.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

ECONOMIC CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION.
Report of Imperial Committee, 1933. [Cmd. 4335.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

NEWFOUNDLAND.
Report of Royal Commission, with Appendices and Maps.
[Cmd. 4480.] 5*s.* 6*d.* (5*s.* 11*d.*).
Papers relating to the Report. [Cmd. 4479.] 2*d.* (2½*d.*).

CLOSER UNION IN EAST AFRICA.
Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies in Eastern and Central Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3234.] 6*s.* (6*s.* 5*d.*).
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit to East Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3378.] 9*d.* (10*d.*).
Report of Joint Select Committee. H.C. 156.
Vol. I—Report and Proceedings ... 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).
Vol. II—Minutes and Evidence ... £1 10*s.* (£1 10*s.* 9*d.*).
Vol. III—Appendices ... ... 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 11*d.*).

KENYA LAND COMMISSION.
Report, September, 1933. [Cmd. 4556.] 11*s.* (11*s.* 9*d.*).
Evidence and Memoranda. [Colonial No. 91.]
Vol. I ... ... £2 (£2 0*s.* 9*d.*).
Vol. II ... ... £2 (£2 0*s.* 9*d.*).
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MAURITIUS

REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1934

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. It is situated in the South Indian Ocean at about 1,400 miles from the east coast of Africa and lies between 19° 50′ and 20° 35′ S. latitude and between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ E. longitude. The greatest length from north to south is nearly 39 miles and the widest breadth from east to west is 29 miles. The area of the island is about 716 square miles, exclusive of that of several small islets round the coast which measure about 4 square miles.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, had a population estimated at 9,111 on 31st December, 1934. The estimated population of the lesser Dependencies on that date was 1,346.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island, tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used Mauritius as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer, and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar-cane, but were frustrated by rats. Although they denuded the forests of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called Maroons were formed. The combination of the rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin uncontrolled by any tribal or political system proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population, apart from Maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de Labourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Port Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops and barracks. Labourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755, large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and, when in 1825 the duty of ten shillings a hundredweight, levied on Mauritius sugar entering England (in order to protect the West Indian sugar), was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 pounds the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 pounds in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842, Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who to-day own and cultivate more than two-fifths of the whole area under sugar-cane. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artisan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle *Phytalus smithi* was discovered in the sugar canes and more than 300 millions of these insects are now destroyed every year.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water-supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the maintenance of many works undertaken in better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve his recommendation that a subsidy should be given to sugar to supplement the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

The situation became worse in 1931 owing to a cyclone which caused considerable damage to property and reduced the year's output of sugar by about 33 per cent. The Imperial Government guaranteed a loan of £750,000 for planters, house owners, and repairs to Government property, on condition that a Financial Commission should visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget. The Commission's report was published at the beginning of 1932 and immediate steps were taken to carry out measures of retrenchment and economy. As a result it has been possible to balance the budgets for subsequent years.

The year 1934 has been a very disappointing one from the economic point of view. Owing to a severe drought which prevailed during the latter part of the year 1933 and the beginning of 1934, the sugar crop was reduced by over 20 per cent. below its normal figure, and this reduction combined with the very low price realized for sugar caused a serious deficit in the main source of income of the Colony and resulted in an important reduction of the money available for financing the next crop.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. The next year the Constitution was amended and a Council, including unofficial members, was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, was composed of the Governor, eight *ex officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the population: of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represent the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who are to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect is made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions. The new Letters Patent, however, provide that the Governor shall have power to enact legislation considered by him to be essential in the interests of good government. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four *ex officio* members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing two unofficial members to the Council was revived.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1934, was 9,984. Every male person who is qualified as follows is entitled to be registered as a voter :—

(1) has attained the age of 21 years;

(2) is under no legal incapacity, and is in possesion of his civil rights;

(3) is a British subject by birth or naturalization;

(4) has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications :—

(*a*) is the owner of an immoveable property of the annual value of Rs.300;

(*b*) is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs.25 a month;

(*c*) is the owner of moveable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs.3,000;

(*d*) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications;

(*e*) is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs.600 or of a monthly salary of at least Rs.50; and

(*f*) is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs.200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary. The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called " Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis " and was instituted, as were other local Municipalities by the " Assemblée Coloniale." These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the " Assemblée Coloniale ", on

21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the " Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis " and were denominated the " Conseil des Notables ". The " Conseil des Notables " was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the " Conseil des Communes " and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1850, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge " La Triple Esperance " from 21st to 23rd February in that year. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered to take measures within the prescribed limits of the townships for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility, for the prevention of fires, and for the proper paving and lighting of the town, etc.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These Boards are empowered to pass regulations for the making, maintenance, and improvement of branch roads and footpaths, and for the levying of taxes in the extra urban areas.

III.—POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into

(1) the General Population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans, and people of African, Chinese and mixed origin, and

(2) the Indian Population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants.

The estimated population of the Island, exclusive of the Dependencies, on 31st December, 1934, was 393,733, distributed as under :—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
General Population ...	62,682	65,622	128,304
Indian Population ...	137,027	128,402	265,429

The estimated population of Rodrigues on 31st December, 1934, was 9,111, and that of the minor Dependencies, 1,346.

The total estimated population of Mauritius and its Dependencies was 404,190, showing an increase of 3,183 compared with the figure of 1933.

The geographical distribution of the population of the Colony exclusive of the Dependencies is shown in the following table :—

Districts.	*Area in Square Miles.*	*Census Population, 26th April, 1931.*			*Population on 31st December, 1934.*		
		General population.	*Indian population.*	*Total.*	*General population.*	*Indian population.*	*Total.*
Port Louis...	16½	29,832	24,603	54,435	30,645	24,231	54,876
Pamplemousses	69	6,847	30,000	36,847	6,618	28,794	35,412
Riviere du Rempart ...	57	5,518	25,274	30,792	5,706	25,634	31,340
Flacq	115	10,438	42,202	52,640	10,626	40,941	51,567
Grand Port	100½	12,484	36,135	48,619	12,663	35,041	47,704
Savanne	94½	6,645	24,456	31,101	6,687	23,530	30,217
Plaines Wilhems	78½	41,866	53,392	95,258	44,275	55,344	99,619
Moka	89	5,522	23,761	29,283	5,718	23,804	29,522
Black River	100	5,437	8,826	14,263	5,366	8,110	13,476
TOTAL	720	124,589	268,649	393,238	128,304	265,429	393,733

The return to normal proportion of the birth and death rates noticed in the year 1933 was maintained during the year 1934. The figures for births and deaths for the last three years were :—

BIRTHS.

	Number of births.			*Rate per 1,000 of population.*		
	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
General Population ...	4,022	4,570	4,609	32·1	36·3	36·1
Indian Population ...	6,244	8,909	8,907	23·5	33·9	33·7
Whole Population ...	10,266	13,479	13,516	26·2	34·7	34·5

STILL-BIRTHS.

	Number of still-births.			*Rate per 100 live births.*		
	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
General Population ...	271	267	282	67·3	58·4	61·2
Indian Population ...	724	978	1,025	112·7	109·7	115·1
Whole Population ...	995	1,245	1,307	96·9	92·3	96·7

DEATHS.

	Number of deaths.			*Rate per 1,000 of population.*		
	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
General Population ...	3,636	3,102	2,987	29·0	24·6	23·3
Indian Population ...	9,212	7,513	7,082	34·6	28·6	26·8
Whole Population ...	12,848	10,615	10,069	32·8	27·3	25·7

The death-rates for Port Louis were 33·6, 28·1 and 25·9 respectively for the years 1932, 1933 and 1934. The highest death-rate for 1934 is shown in the District of Savanne—30·6 per thousand: and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems—21·2 per thousand.

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 1,754 against 1,773 in 1933. The infantile mortality rate was 129·7 per thousand live births registered during the year, as compared with 131·5 in 1933.

The marriages during the year numbered 1,767 as compared with 1,521 in 1933. The marriage rate or number of persons married to every thousand of the entire population was 9·0 against 7·9 in 1933.

The excess of departures over arrivals was 411.

IV.—HEALTH.

The present constitution of the Medical and Health Department dates back to 1895 when under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894-95 the powers vested in the General Board of Health were transferred to the Director, Medical and Health Department.

The Headquarters staff of the Department consists of the Director, the Deputy Director and the Clerical and Accounting staffs of the Correspondence, Financial and Storekeeping branches.

The administrative unit of Government is the District which is the political unit as well. Every District with the exception of Black River is provided with a hospital for the reception and treatment of the sick poor. Patients from the Black River District are treated in the Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes, or the Civil Hospital, Port Louis. The medical and sanitary administration of each of the rural Districts is entrusted to a Government Medical Officer who is in charge of the District hospital and dispensaries and who is also the Health Officer for the District. To assist him, he has a number of subordinate officers; dispensers and sanitary officers and the staff necessary for the care of the patients in the hospital. In addition to his medical and sanitary duties he has also statutory duties of a medical or sanitary nature which he carries out on behalf of the Police and Poor Law Departments. The District dispensaries are visited at regular intervals by the Government Medical Officer.

The hospitals of the Colony are divided into two groups :—

(i) General hospitals, namely, Civil, Victoria and Moka, totalling 684 beds, which are fully equipped for X-ray and major operative work ; and

(ii) District hospitals where only medical and midwifery cases are admitted and where minor surgery is carried out to a certain extent.

Patients who apply to the latter hospitals and require special treatment, surgical or other, are conveyed to the nearest general hospital by motor ambulance. A mental hospital and a leper hospital are also administered by the Department.

From the sanitary point of view the two chief problems are hookworm disease and malaria. Of the two, hookworm disease though less spectacular, is the more dangerous and insidious. Invasion of the body by hookworms does not at first produce actual disease, and if the infection is not a heavy one, the patient may scarcely be conscious of being ill at all. But he is more susceptible to fatigue, he cannot put in an adequate day's work, and he feels vaguely out of sorts. Such a patient is really more dangerous than one who suffers from the disease in clinically recognizable form, because the lightly infected patient can move about and spread his infection whereas the patient who is definitely ill remains at home and limits the area of infection. Formerly it was thought that hookworm disease in the Colony was being maintained by the practice of using human dejecta as fertilizer in the cane fields. This was stopped some ten years ago and it is now probable that the situation has changed from that of a large scale public health problem to a domestic one. Though most habitations in the Colony have latrines the population have still to realize the importance of using them rather than a secluded piece of open ground. It is the habit of regularly resorting to the same place for defecation which is now producing the extensive infection still seen at the rural dispensaries.

Malaria has been endemic in the Colony since its introduction in 1865. For the first few years after its introduction the disease spread steadily all over the Island, and there was no district in the Colony which escaped the invasion. As time went on, and the efforts of Government began to be effective, the territorial distribution of the disease changed. At the present day its distribution is largely determined by altitude. The disease is endemic in the coastal lowlands. Above the 600 feet level the disease is generally seasonal, endemicity being restricted to a relatively small number of places. The efforts of the Medical and Health Department are at present directed to the maintenance of the salubrity of the central plateau by anti-mosquito measures of different kinds, and to diminishing the severity of the attacks of the disease in the coastal lowlands by making as widely available as possible the specific remedies for the disease.

In spite of the disastrous effect of the drought on the sugar crop, the health of the population generally during 1934 has been good. It is fortunate that with the fall in the price of sugar, a fall has taken place in the cost of the Colony's staple foodstuff, rice, so that acute destitution has been avoided. This factor, and the absence of epidemic disease, has resulted in the general state of the people's health being much better than the actual financial condition of the Colony would lead one to suppose.

V.—HOUSING.

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories: (*a*) housing on estates, (*b*) housing in rural areas not estates, and (*c*) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are, for the most part, adequately housed. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts, constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs more commonly of thatch, but frequently of corrugated iron. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult. The lines must be kept clear of weeds, and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least ten feet round them. Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes. As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. Lighting is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

The housing in rural areas other than estates is fairly satisfactory. It is in the labouring class of the population that one can very often see racial difference in the choice of building materials. The negro will build an untidy-looking shack of old timber, scrap pieces of wood, petrol cases, and petrol tins hammered out flat, whereas the Indian will construct a very neat hut of wattle and clay or cow dung, on a stone plinth, furnished with a small verandah, and roofed with a compact thatch. The amenities of life are few. There is seldom water laid on to the premises. Unless the occupier has dug a well, he generally has to carry his water from the nearest standpipe which may be some hundreds of yards away.

In the towns conditions are, as a rule, unsatisfactory. The chief features about the town housing are overcrowding and overbuilding; overcrowding is caused by poverty and overbuilding arises as a necessary consequence of overcrowding. Too many families of the labouring classes live in one room. Fortunately, children are seldom confined to the house on account of inclement weather, and they can pass most of their time in the open air. As a result, rickets is very uncommon, as are other consequences of overcrowding in places where the climatic conditions are more severe either on account of excessive cold or excessive light and heat.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Meteorological Conditions and Sugar Production.

The year 1934 was by no means a favourable one for the sugar industry of Mauritius as far as atmospheric conditions were concerned. Temperature was in defect throughout the growing season and drought conditions prevailed from November, 1933, to the end of April, 1934. On 28th and 29th January, a moderate cyclone passed fairly close to the Island: no serious damage was done, but practically all the rainfall received in January was associated with the passage of that disturbance. Such marked deficiencies on the part of vital factors at a critical period in the growth of the cane resulted in a disappointing crop.

The Sugar Industry.

The discomfiture of a short crop was further accentuated by market conditions which deteriorated during the year. The average net price for the 1933 crop was Rs.6.061 per 50 kilos, including the extra Colonial preference. For 1934, the average net price realized at the end of the year approximated to Rs.6 per 50 kilos.

The total production for 1934 was only 178·86 thousand tons as against 261·46 for the preceding year. The shortage was especially pronounced in the northern districts where the deficit was the largest since 1902. The following table exhibits the comparative production for the past seven years:—

Unit=One thousand metric tons.

Districts.	*1934.*	*1933.*	*1932.*	*1931.*	*1930.*	*1929.*	*1928.*
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart.	30·13	57·77	62·73	41·81	43·00	54·68	59·55
Flacq...	30·87	41·37	35·97	27·91	37·81	38·91	41·17
Moka	29·30	40·08	34·12	20·83	32·10	35·97	34·76
Plaines Wilhems ...	11·54	18·22	17.05	11·64	14.62	15·66	16·40
Black River... ...	5·99	8·88	9·06	6·29	9·81	9·22	9·72
Grand Port ...	38·37	50·66	46·66	27·01	37·09	36·41	41·41
Savanne	32·66	44·48	41·63	28·52	46·53	47·18	50·42
Total	178·86	261.46	247·22	164·01	220·96	238·03	253·43

Grades of sugar.—The proportion of raws was 78·76 per cent. of the total production, vesous (plantation white) were 20·56 per cent., while low sugars approximated to 0·68 per cent. The change brought about by the introduction of the new English tariff in 1928 is well illustrated in the following table:—

GRADES OF SUGAR, 1925-1934.

Year.	*Vesous.* *Per cent.*	*Raws.* *Per cent.*	*Lows.* *Per cent.*
1925	98·21	—	1·79
1926	98·10	—	1·90
1927	98·63	—	1·37
1928	71·80	27·30	0·90
1929	23·90	75·20	0·90
1930	16·80	82·50	0·70
1931	16·20	83·10	0·70
1932	12·10	87·50	0·40
1933	11·80	87·70	0·50
1934	20·56	78·76	0·68

Area under sugar-cane.—At the beginning of 1934 the area under cane was estimated at 138,116 acres or an increase of 4,249 acres on the corresponding figure for 1933.

Estates with factory cultivated 59,227 acres; estates without factory, 38,459 acres; giving a total estate cultivation of 97,686 acres, or 3,449 above the corresponding figure for last year. The balance was made up by peasant planters, mostly Indian.

Disposal of the 1933-34 *sugars.*—The total quantity of sugar exported at the end of the 1933-34 export year (31st July, 1934) was 250,829 metric tons distributed as follows:—

	Tons (metric).
Great Britain	250,134
India	2
Hong Kong	457
Other places	236
	250,829

The exportation for 1934-35 up to 31st December, 1934, was as follows :—

	Tons (metric).
Great Britain	53,498
Canada	6,401
Hong Kong	681
Other places	148
	60,728

The local consumption of sugar for 1933-34 was 10,381 metric tons, as against 9,111 for 1932-33.

Labour conditions.—Some labour difficulties were experienced in certain districts in connexion with the harvesting of the crop. During the year, Government appointed a committee to gauge the extent of unemployment in Mauritius. The committee found that there was no real unemployment in so far as unskilled able-bodied labourers were concerned; on the other hand, skilled artisans were often without work and measures were recommended to remedy the situation.

Sugar machinery.—Machinery to the value of Rs.297,700 was imported during the year as against Rs.594,719 last year; tractor parts valued at Rs.972, and ploughs valued at Rs.61 were imported, as against Rs.1,518 and Rs.1,969 respectively last year. In 1934, tramway material to the value of Rs.280,557 was imported, as against Rs.287,371 in 1933.

Fertilizers.—The importation of fertilizers totalled 14,970,515 kilos valued at Rs.1,807,097, as compared with 20,405,353 kilos valued at Rs.2,328,299 last year.

Insect pests and cane diseases.—The premier cane pest of the Island—*Phytalus smithi, Arrow*—appears to be steadily diminishing in a number of areas. On the other hand, it has increased in some districts. Mr. W. F. Jepson, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., who is employed by the Sugar Industry Reserve Fund to make a special study of the insect, completed a year's useful work. In pursuance of his policy of introducing further parasites to deal with *Phytalus*, Mr. Jepson has been requested by the Sugar Industry Reserve Fund to visit Java, the Malay States, the Philippines, and possibly some other countries. Several further promising parasites have been introduced from Madagascar.

Minor Agricultural Industries.

Tobacco.—There has been inordinate activity of mosaic disease on tobacco in certain parts of the Island where serious loss has been caused.

Some temporary difficulties in relation to the sale of leaf to local manufacturers were experienced during the year.

In 1934, the acreage under tobacco approximated to 982 acres, as against 2,081 in 1933. The leaf purchased by the warehouse in 1934 amounted to 468,881 kilos, as compared with 514,014 kilos in 1933. This gives an average yield per acre of 470 kilos as against 247 last year. The monetary value of purchases by the warehouse was Rs.541,403 in 1934 and Rs.681,604 in 1933.

Export is receiving full attention. Some seven tons of superior flue-cured leaf were sent to test the London market. A small shipment of air-cured leaf was forwarded likewise.

Aloe fibre.—Market conditions were slightly better during the year and, as a result, exportation was perceptibly higher than during the two previous years. The total exported in 1934 was 670 metric tons, as against 422 in 1930 and 417 in 1932.

Owing to the slump in the jute bag market, the Mauritius Spinning and Weaving Company found themselves in difficulties as regards the marketing of the local fibre bag; in consequence, a provisional closing down of the factory took place in December.

Pineapple industry.—No progress is in evidence in relation to this industry. There has been no extension in the area under Smooth Cayenne and consequently the canning factory has not been in a position to work on full load. The manufacture during the year totalled 2,443 cases of pineapple preserves of a value of Rs.16,550, as against 5,281 cases of a value of Rs.31,022 for the previous year.

Tea.—This industry shows some progress and it is on a better footing now than since its creation.

A general tariff of 90 cents per kilo was imposed on foreign tea on the 10th of October last; the preferential tariff of 60 cents per kilo on British Empire grown tea was not altered.

Coconut.—The export of copra during the year amounted to 1,565 metric tons of a value of Rs.161,687, as against 1,203 tons valued at Rs.201,393 last year. The export of coconut oil during the year was 15,324 litres valued at Rs.3,653, as compared with 4,385 litres last year, valued at Rs.1,992.

Alcohol.—The total quantity of alcohol distilled for human consumption amounted to 510,232 litres, as compared with 553,287 last year. The quantity distilled for industrial purposes was 441,620 litres as against 480,554 last year. There has been a decrease in the consumption of Cernite owing to the fall in price of petrol. The exportation of rum during the year was 35,325 litres valued at Rs.10,177, as against 36,489 litres in 1933, valued at Rs.7,792.

Veterinary and livestock.—The improvement in cattle raising was well maintained during the year. The total horned cattle on estates at the beginning of the year was 14,247 head, as compared with 13,260 the previous year.

Importation of cattle from Madagascar during the year numbered 4,544 head for food and 223 head for other purposes.

Other Manufacturing Industries.

As is usually the case when the price of sugar is low, attention is more actively given to minor manufactures. Engineering workshops, numbering 46, gave employment to about 500 people. During the year there were 71 bakeries in operation, employing about 300 people. There were 37 limekilns and 122 cabinet-making establishments, employing in all about 800 artisans.

The larger establishments comprise four docks (landing, etc.), employing about 500 people; eight cigarette factories with 100 people at work; four hydro-electrical plants (for light and power) employing about 300 people; four salt-making establishments employing 100 people, and one match factory employing about 100 people.

In addition to the above, there are several fairly prosperous minor industries making commodities such as aerated waters, ice, vinegar, biscuits, pickles and preserved fruits, and manufacturing pottery, leather, boots and shoes.

All the produce of these local industries is locally utilized and helps, to a certain extent, in equilibrating the Colony's trade balance.

Fisheries.

The marine resources of Mauritius are fully described and discussed in a report by Mr. James Hornell, F.L.S., F.R.A.I., formerly Director of Fisheries in Madras, which was published in 1926 and has formed the basis for all modern methods of fisheries control and development during the past eight years. The recommendations of Mr. Hornell have been put into effect by legislative measures submitted to Government by a Fisheries Advisory Committee consisting of ten members, of whom five are elected members of Council, the most important development of the year 1934 being the introduction of a prohibited season for fishing with nets. This experiment is being watched with the closest interest by the Committee, and there is abundant evidence up to the present that its introduction has been entirely justified, the quantity and quality of fish in the markets having shown a steady improvement since netting was suspended.

Most of the smaller types of fish sent to market are caught in bamboo or wire " basket-traps " placed in the lagoons, and the larger varieties are taken by line fishing in the open sea outside the reefs. Both these methods of fishing are gradually developing as a result of the cessation of net fishing, and the catches are steadily improving on all the fishing grounds.

The Fisheries Committee is taking an active interest in the expansion of the fishing industry, the welfare of the working fisherman, the introduction of modern methods of fishing and drying fish, and the question of the establishment of a shark-product industry.

Large fish of the following species are to be found in the usually calm water surrounding the Island and are commonly taken by trolling with modern tackle comprising rod, reel and harness, and also with powerful hand lines known locally as " chicottes " :—

Local Name.	*General Name.*	*Scientific Name.*
Thon.	Tunny, Tuna.	*Thunnus, Thynnus.*
Becune.	—	*Cybrium Commersonii.*
Empereur Eventail.	Sailfish.	*Histiophorus Indicus.*
Empereur.	Marlin Swordfish.	*Tetrapturus mitsukurri.*
Carangue.	Horse Mackerel.	*Caranx ferdom.*
Tazare.	Barracuda.	*Sphyraena barracuda.*
Dorade.	Dolphin.	*Coryphoena hippurus.*
Vacoa.	—	*Aprion Virescens.*

The enforcement of the fishery laws is in the hands of a specially organized police unit of eighteen men in the form of eight fishery control sections distributed round the Coast at the principal fishing centres. They are equipped with one motor launch, two boats fitted with outboard motors and ten sailing boats, and perform constant patrols in the reserves.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The year 1934 was one of trade depression for the Colony.

The total value of exports of domestic produce was about Rs.25,000,000, whereas the imports were roughly Rs.29,600,000. The re-exports being about a million rupees, the total trade thus resulted in an adverse balance of about three and a-half million rupees.

This situation was brought about by :—

(*a*) Low prices obtained by sugar, almost the sole produce of the Colony ;

(*b*) a prolonged drought which cut down the crop.

It does not appear on the other hand that there were any very exaggerated expenses on articles of imports, twelve million rupees being for food and drink, out of which over seven million rupees were for rice and flour. Moreover restrictions were clearly made on textiles (probably as a result of quotas), on machinery and fertilizers and even on petrol, though not to the same extent as in 1932, another year of similar depression.

The total values of imports and exports for the last four years were :—

	Imports.	*Exports.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1931	32,064,074	23,829,884
1932	26,992,760	27,662,851
1933	29,035,237	32,176,743
1934	29,680,346	26,136,140

Imports of Merchandise.

The Colony relies for its existence on imports of all classes of goods (except sugar) from other countries. All the essential food-stuffs (rice, flour, dholl, etc.), all articles of transport (motor-cars, coals, petrol), all kinds of metal-ware and textiles, and manures are imported.

The following table indicates some of the principal imports, with the figures for the last two years :—

		Quantity.		*Value in Rupees (c.i.f.).*	
		1933.	*1934.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Rice	kilos	50,721,508	59,872,476	4,923,642	5,916,026
Flour	„	9,461,259	14,796,214	975,613	1,340,935
Coals	„	39,028,260	35,546,079	518,858	469,362
Timber	—	—	—	266,860	446,045
Apparel	—	—	—	533,260	632,542
Gunny bags ...	number	3,244,006	3,800,400	976,132	1,116,914
Cotton, grey or white.	metres	2,966,360	3,016,894	524,158	575,432
„ coloured	„	6,075,976	4,068,131	1,293,171	1,049,457
Silk		—	—	670,822	396,108
Machinery ...		—	—	767,606	612,474
Motor-cars ...	number	211	246	478,358	553,807
Petrol	hectolitres	57,471	55,788	844,760	754,821
Saltpetre ...	kilos	4,411,898	3,533,177	790,493	664,763
Sulphate of Ammonia.	„	13,465,494	7,396,528	1,252,099	732,290
Soap	„	1,746,960	1,625,744	730,612	649,941

Exports of Merchandise.

The life of Mauritius depends on one industry (sugar) with practically a single outlet (the United Kingdom).

In 1934, 185,606 tons of sugar were exported, valued at Rs.24,510,185, compared with 226,651 tons valued at Rs.30,811,638 in 1933. The share of the United Kingdom in these exports was 178,177 tons valued at Rs.23,514,119, compared with 225,888 tons valued at Rs.30,701,819 in the previous year. The residue went mainly to Canada and Hong-Kong.

Small quantities of aloe fibre, copra, rum, coconut oil, etc., are also exported each year.

The re-exports consist mainly of lentils, gunny bags, salted fish, old metals, etc.

The total value of domestic exports (other than sugar) in 1934 was Rs.518,625 and of re-exports Rs.1,107,330.

Bullion and Specie.

The figures previously quoted do not include the trade in bullion and specie.

In 1934, the Indian silver currency was replaced in Mauritius by a new local currency.

Mainly as a result of this, Rs.2,182,000 and Rs.2,419,834 bullion and specie were imported and exported respectively in 1934.

Distribution of Imports.

The sources of the essential food-stuffs are India for grain and Australia for flour.

The manufactured articles come mainly from the United Kingdom.

On a total value of Rs.12,010,600 for food, drink and tobacco imported in 1934, Rs.7,487,941 came from India and Rs.1,571,406 from Australia.

On a total of Rs.15,231,749 for manufactured articles imported in 1934, Rs.7,199,536 came from the United Kingdom. The difference is mainly represented by Rs.2,412,124 from India (gunny bags, etc.): Rs.1,396,446 from the United States and the Dutch East Indies (petrol, etc.); and Rs.1,320,354 from Japan.

The imports of manufactured articles from Japan in 1933 were Rs.1,736,362. The decline is an effect of quotas for cottons and artificial silks.

The values of imports from the six principal countries for the last four years were :—

	1931. Rs.	*1932.* Rs.	*1933.* Rs.	*1934.* Rs.
United Kingdom ...	7,504,119	6,455,759	9,421,478	8,607,391
India	11,578,208	9,961,711	8,414,824	10,125,043
France	2,212,821	1,493,237	1,430,497	1,317,978
United States of America	1,369,193	1,706,612	1,060,471	1,183,337
Japan	1,124,070	1,459,329	1,792,705	1,353,913
Australia	1,330,344	1,265,728	1,171,065	1,743,371

Course of Prices of Imports.

The declared *c.i.f.* price of rice was somewhat higher in 1934 than in 1933, but it did not much exceed 10 cents per kilo on an average. Wheat flour was cheaper, being under 10 cents per kilo. Petrol was sufficiently cheap (cheaper than in 1933) and most essential food-stuffs (other than rice) and textiles were generally at moderate prices.

Speaking generally, the prices of imports did not fall sufficiently to enable the Colony, with its increased purchasing power, to achieve a favourable trade balance.

Development of Empire Trade.

On the 30th of September, 1924, a small preferential tariff in favour of the United Kingdom was introduced. Since that time, this tariff has been gradually enlarged, and it now embodies two-thirds in value of the goods imported from the United Kingdom. Moreover, from the 11th of July, 1933, the same protection has been extended to all parts of the Empire.

The difference between the duty collected on preferential imports from the United Kingdom and the would-be collections at the general tariff rates is about Rs.800,000 yearly.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages and salaries remained practically on the same level as last year. Labourers under monthly contract received in cash Rs.10 per month, with rations, free lodging, free medical attendance, etc., in all equivalent to about Rs.18 per month. Male day labourers received generally Rs.0.45 per daily task, although during the harvesting season higher rates were often paid. As a rule, females received half the wages of males.

Remuneration for piece-work was, on the average, as follows :—

	Per acre. *Rs.*
Clearing land	30 - 35
Digging cane holes	18
Manuring	10
Weeding	7
Cutting canes (20 tons/acre)	13

The wages of artisans remained upon the whole the same as last year. Day workers received R.1 to Rs.1.50, while those employed by the month received Rs.35 to Rs.70 according to circumstances.

The supply of domestic servants was, generally speaking, abundant. Butlers, cooks, gardeners and other servants received Rs.10 to Rs.30 per month, while chauffeurs were paid Rs.30 to Rs.40 per month. Owing to healthier conditions and better opportunities for work, the concentration of population in the central districts of the Island is very pronounced, and labour is more abundant there than elsewhere.

Salaries remained in 1934 on the same level as during the previous year. The following table indicates, in a general way, the ruling rates :—

	Per annum. *Rs.*
Managers of sugar estates and senior Government officials	8,000-13,000
Government, bank, and commercial clerks (higher grade)	4,000- 7,000
Clerks and employés on sugar estates ...	1,500- 3,000
Junior clerks and employés	720- 1,500

During the year, a graduated poll tax on all incomes in excess of Rs.5,000 per annum was imposed.

The index numbers of the cost of living which had been trending downwards rose considerably during the last quarter of the year. Rice, the staple food of the population, oscillated about 66 as compared with 100 in 1914), while other grains remained about 80. Flour, after a brief period of rise, fell to 53 during the last quarter. Tea rose from 115 to 128, while coffee fell from 85 to 70. Articles of clothing remained, upon the whole, markedly above pre-war level: at the beginning and the end of the year they were, on the average, indexed at 142 and 187 respectively. The quarterly index for the total cost of living (28 items) in 1934 was as follows (100 being the index for 1914):—

First quarter	110·9
Second quarter	105·7
Third quarter	105·4
Fourth quarter	129·4

The mean for the year was 112·8 as compared with 112·4 in 1933.

As regards the labouring class, the following table indicates the purchasing power of wages, in terms of rice, since 1927:—

Year.	*Average daily wages of male labourer.*	*Average price of fair quality rice per lb.*	*Purchasing power of wages expressed in lb. of rice.*
	Rs.	Rs.	lb.
1927	1·25	0·13	9½
1928	1·25	0·10	12½
1929	1·60	0·10	10
1930	0·80	0·09	9
1931	0·75	0·08	9
1932	0·45	0·05½	8
1933	0·45	0·06	7½
1934	0·45	0·06	7½

The official index numbers do not include a number of items such as housing, lighting, tuition of children, etc., which have been either not reduced at all or but slightly so, and are still markedly above pre-war level: in consequence, the cost of living for Europeans and people living in European style is, in fact, higher than the official index would lead one to suppose.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Primary.—Primary education is not compulsory, but it is given free through Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony. The following table shows the number of primary schools, the number of pupils on roll, and the staff of teachers during the year 1934:—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Government	50	389	15,550	10,505
Aided	76	605	24,672	17,532
Total	126	994	40,222	28,037

State-aided schools are under the control of a Manager, and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Pupils must be at least five years old and must have been successfully vaccinated in order to be allowed admission to a primary school; when they are under five they undergo a preliminary training before being promoted to the lowest form.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French and arithmetic. In the higher classes elementary history and geography are taught and girls study needlework. Regular instruction is also given in physical drill, nature study, hygiene and elementary principles of agriculture.

There are six primary school standards or classes, viz. :—

Standard I with pupils from 5 to 6 years of age.
Standard II with pupils from 6 to 7 years of age.
Standard III with pupils from 7 to 8 years of age.
Standard IV with pupils from 8 to 10 years of age.
Standard V with pupils from 9 to 11 years of age.
Standard VI with pupils from 10 to 12 years of age.

Examinations which were formerly held for all the classes are now limited to Standards V and VI. The new system allows educational officers to devote more time to inspection work proper with the result that teaching methods are gradually improving.

Fourteen apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicrafts. Twenty-six scholarships and exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools are awarded every year, through competitive examinations, to the best pupils attending primary schools.

There are thirty gardens attached to the primary schools and they are cultivated by the pupils of Standards III to VI. These gardens are regularly inspected by the officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation.

Secondary.—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz :—(1) Secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (2) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by Government.

(1) *Aided Secondary Schools.*—Government grants to secondary aided schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as in the case of primary aided schools, with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

The following table shows the number of institutions, the number of pupils on roll and in average attendance, and the staff of teachers during the year 1934 :—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Aided	9	120	1,581	1,402

These schools provide not only for elementary education such as is given in primary schools, but also for higher education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate and the London Matriculation.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history, and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale.

These schools are visited periodically by the Superintendent of Schools, who examines the lower forms. The middle and higher forms are examined partly by local examiners and partly through examinations conducted by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools extend, as a general rule, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., no provision being made for evening classes.

(2) *Royal College.*—The Royal College is a Government School for the higher education of boys up to the age of 20. It comprises two schools under the management of the Rector, the Royal College proper in Curepipe and the Royal College School in Port Louis, where pupils who live in or near the capital are educated on the same lines as in Curepipe up to School Certificate standard. At the Royal College the teaching staff consists of the Rector, twelve Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, eleven Assistant Masters appointed locally, and a Physical Training and Gymnastic Instructor: and at the Royal College School, of the Headmaster, one Master and eight Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped libraries and chemical and physical laboratories; almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies. The subjects taught are English, French, mathematics, Latin, Greek, chemistry, physics, botany, biology, geography and history; and classes are held during school hours in physical training and gymnastics. Admission to the College and School is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning one of the twenty Annual Primary Schools Scholarships and Exhibitions (or one of the two Secondary Schools Scholarships awarded annually). The boys are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from ten to twenty years. The fees are from Rs.96 to Rs.192 per annum, and pupils may travel at quarter rate on the Government railways. About twelve College Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded annually to College and School pupils, besides one Scholarship and one Exhibition open to other secondary schools as well, and also a Classical and a Modern Scholarship of the present value of £1,300 each (with first-class passage to and from England) tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom. Besides the winners of these Scholarships, a few boys whose parents can afford it go to

England or France to study for a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practise. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the Island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects. Specialization begins at the entrance class, and the division into modern and classical sides becomes complete in the upper middle class. At the School pupils may undergo commercial training in place of classics or science.

Classes are held between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on five days weekly. In addition to the ordinary classes there are Saturday extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public science examinations are helped in their studies. The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1933, was 302, and of the School, 102. The average attendance at the College was 286 and at the School 96. (The number of College pupils on the roll in May, 1934, after the publication of the School Certificate results, was 305.) One hundred and three pupils sat in December, 1933, for the Cambridge School Certificate, of whom 55 obtained certificates. In May, 1934, the number of pupils who had passed this examination and proceeded to the highest class of the college was 53.

Encouragement is given to athletics, rugby and association football, hockey, boxing and physical training, and gymnastics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high. As the pupils are all day-boys it is difficult to obtain much support for other social activities, but a school magazine is published thrice yearly.

Welfare Institutions.

There are six Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women, and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy; also an orphanage for boys and one for girls under the control and management of the Church of England, and one "home" for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland. These institutions receive from the Government a maintenance fee for each pauper maintained therein.

Under Ordinance No. 44 of 1932 as subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 21 of 1934, a "home" styled The Austin Wilson Home has been instituted and incorporated to provide accommodation and subsistence for aged gentlefolk. The funds for the establishment of this "home" have been generously contributed by Mr. A. J. Wilson in memory of his son, the late Austin Wilson.

A Mohammedan Orphanage was also established in Port Louis in 1932 for the maintenance and education of orphans of the Mohammedan creed. Funds for running the institution are obtained from voluntary subscriptions among the Mohammedans.

Outdoor assistance to paupers is granted by the Poor Law Department partly in cash and partly in food provisions. Several private religious societies for the distribution of assistance in food and medical care are also in existence. The Société Française d'Assistance assist chiefly destitute French people.

The Child Welfare Committee and the Oeuvre Pasteur de la Goutte de lait, two philanthropic institutions, deal especially with expectant and nursing mothers and their babies.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance provides for the grant of compensation by the employer to workmen who are injured in the course of their work.

Recreation, Music, Art and Drama.

Association football is the most popular form of sport. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and rugby football are played mostly by the wealthier classes. The Mauritius Turf Club and the Mauritius Jockey Club hold race meetings from June to September at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis and at Floreal in the district of Plaines Wilhems; and regattas are held by the yacht clubs of Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay. " La Chasse " or the shooting of driven deer can be said to be the national sport of Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies; the latter are known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy Scouts have not been so successful as the Girl Guides, but efforts are being made to encourage the movement.

There is not much encouragement for any of the arts. Music is fostered principally by the parish churches whose amateur singers frequently give concerts. The Christian Brothers also provide musical training, and apart from the Police Band, which consists of a bandmaster and 30 bandsmen, a band styled the " Alliance Musicale " and comprising about 25 units was established in 1933.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent. The Institute has a collection of pictures presented by Mr. Rochecouste but there is no other art gallery.

Occasional dramatic performances are given by amateurs, but no permanent society has been formed. In better times the Municipality of Port Louis subsidizes a theatrical company from France, which plays in the theatre at Port Louis. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town, to which companies come from China when conditions are prosperous.

There exists a Royal Society of Arts and Sciences which was founded in 1829 under the title of Société d'Histoire Naturelle and was granted a Royal Charter in 1846. It interests itself in most branches of science and arts, especially those relating to questions of agriculture and the natural history of the Colony. The Society was incorporated with the Mauritius Institute in 1906 and its library will be transferred to the Institute.

X.—COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT.

Roads and Road Transport.

The Colony is well served with 500 miles of main roads maintained by Government and 188 miles of branch roads maintained by the District Boards. All roads are metalled, and 160 miles of the main roads have been covered with bitumen.

The number of motor vehicles in actual use at the end of 1934 was as follows:—

Private motor cars	1,546
Motor cycles	193
Motor lorries...	311
Motor cabs	304
Motor omnibuses	117
	2,471

On account of the hilly nature of the country, the travelling public has in the past shown a preference for American cars of high horse-power, but during the last two or three years the number of cars of English manufacture registered has increased very considerably, and during the year under review 221 motor vehicles of English make were imported, including three 3-wheel runabouts and five Diesel lorries, the latter being the first of this type of vehicle to appear in the Colony. The total number of all makes imported during 1934 amounted to 320.

A fleet of 120 buses owned by small proprietors ply for hire throughout the Colony. These vehicles are built locally on the lines of the single decker buses approved by the Minister of Transport in England, and provide a comfortable and convenient form of transport to members of the public not living near railway stations. These vehicles carry a daily average of 3,700 passengers in and out of Port Louis at a cost varying from 2 to 5 cents per passenger mile. All bus routes and the number of buses allotted to each route are controlled by the Transport Control Board, but so far no attempt has been made to regulate the fares nor to introduce time-tables.

The number of motor vehicles registered has not increased to any considerable extent during the past ten years, but from sales of fuel there appears to have been a very considerable increase in the mileage covered by them, and in the year under review the 2,471 motor vehicles are estimated to have covered nearly 25,000,000 miles.

Petrol is usually sold by retail in cases containing 8 gallons of spirit, and is the principal fuel in use. During the year its price fell from Rs.12.60 to Rs.10.00 per case, or an equivalent of about 2s. 4½d. to 1s. 10½d. per gallon. In addition to a few Diesel lorries imported during the year which burn oil fuel, there are also a small number of vehicles fitted with charcoal generators and working on suction gas. Industrial alcohol, a produce distilled from sugar-cane mixed with ether, is also used as motor spirit in some commercial vehicles, but although the mixture is about 30 per cent. cheaper than petrol, on account of its lower efficiency it has not yet found any appreciable market, and its use is confined chiefly to a few heavy vehicles working on level ground.

The annual tax payable in respect of motor vehicles is Rs.4 per horse-power in respect of motor cycles and Rs.5 per horse-power in respect of other classes of vehicles. Lorries pay an additional tax of Rs.40 per ton of gross weight and motor buses a licence duty varying from Rs.200 to Rs.500 per annum in accordance with their seating capacity. Motor lorries plying for hire pay a further licence of Rs.200 per annum. Motor cabs pay a licence duty of Rs.30.

Certificates of competency to drive are issued by the Police Department. Applicants who have not previously held driving licences have to undergo a test. The cost of the first issue of a certificate of competency and driving licence for one year is Rs.7 and for every subsequent renewal Rs.5 is charged. Cars of visitors are accepted in the Colony at any time, and are subject to a tax at the rate of Rs.5 a month.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways, not including 13⅓ miles of 75 cm. gauge track, known as the Bois Cheri Light Railway, are of the British standard 4 feet 8½ inches gauge and comprise 110¾ miles of main line, 30 miles of station lay-outs and Government sidings, as well as 16 miles of other sidings maintained by the Railway Department for planters and sugar estates. The Railway is exceptional on account of its comparatively short length and very heavy gradients, much of it being 1 in 26. The most important section, the midland line, 35½ miles long, rises to 1,800 feet above the terminals, which are at Port Louis, the capital, on the north-west and Mahebourg, the old port, on the south-east coasts of the Island. A branch from Rose Belle on the midland line, 870 feet above sea-level, to the little creek and town of Souillac is 11 miles long. The north line from Port Louis to Grand River South-East, 33½ miles long, is fairly level. The Moka branch, from Rose Hill on the midland line, 950 feet above sea-level, to Montagne Blanche, is 14¾ miles long and rises on this length to 1,500 feet. The Black River branch, from Richelieu on the midland line to Tamarin, is 12½ miles long, and the Montagne Longue branch, from Terre Rouge on the north line to Montagne Longue, is 3½ miles long. There are no heavy gradients on either of these lines.

An excess of expenditure over revenue of Rs.40,544 was forecast for the financial year beginning on the 1st July, 1933, and ending on the 30th June, 1934. In actual fact the year closed with an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs.139,832 as shown below. In view of the urgent necessity for economy renewal expenditure amounted to Rs.22,103 only, although it is estimated that depreciation on a conservative basis amounts to Rs.300,000 per annum :—

		Revenue		*Increase or Decrease of 1933–34 over 1932–33.*
	1931–32.	*1932–33.*	*1933–34.*	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers	**434,325**	**419,181**	**524,818**	**+ 105,637**
Parcels	**63,466**	**62,163**	**65,776**	**+ 3,613**
General Goods ...	**817,077**	**1,174,046**	**1,255,729**	**+ 81,683**
Miscellaneous	**70,875**	**57,412**	**53,809**	**— 3,603**
Net Revenue	**187,938**	**63,554**	**36,738**	**— 26,816**
Total	**1,573,681**	**1,776,356**	**1,936,870**	**+ 160,514**
Goods Tonnage ...	**254,139**	**362,642**	**385,541**	

		Expenditure		*Increase or Decrease of 1933–34 over 1932–33.*
	1931–32.	*1932–33.*	*1933–34.*	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Working expenditure including renewals.	**1,945,113**	**1,516,631**	**1,606,730**	**+ 90,099**
Net revenue expenditure	**642,785**	**260,955**	**190,308**	**— 70,647**
Total	**2,587,898**	**1,777,586**	**1,797,038**	**+ 19,452**
Capital Expenditure ...	**20,226**	**304**	**—**	**— 304**
	2,608,124	**1,777,890**	**1,797,038**	**+ 19,148**

The passenger revenue, which in the year 1932-33 was the lowest ever recorded since Railway statistics have been kept, has shown a definite increase during the year 1933-34. This satisfactory result is chiefly due to the extended application of special cheap concession fares put into force between the more heavily populated areas and Port Louis. Passengers have increased in the year under review by 871,826 (36 per cent.), i.e., to 3,287,714 journeys, the number of journeys in 1932-33 being 2,415,888. This increased travelling has involved some increased services. Passenger train miles have in consequence risen to 345,291 from 299,298 miles in 1932-33, i.e., by 15·37 per cent., with a corresponding increase in operating expenditure (which also covers a considerable additional goods traffic not anticipated) of 5·2 per cent. It is significant to note that bus traffic shows a decrease this year from 2,972,195 passengers in 1933 to 2,700,048 passengers in 1934.

The goods traffic, which represents the largest item of the Railway revenue, showed an increase over the previous year of Rs.81,683. The increase is chiefly due to the heavy sugar crop harvested in July-December, 1933, which, although estimated at 230,000 tons, actually amounted to 261,460 thousand tons. There is an increase in the general goods revenue (other than sugar and cane) again this year, and a considerable tonnage has been won back from the road transport carriers to the railway chiefly by means of the door-to-door rail and road service commenced last year.

Tramways.

In relation to the tramway lines established on sugar estates since 1901, no important change took place during the year. The total extent of line approximated to 1,740 kilometres. There were 224 locomotives and about 7,500 trucks. Farm tractors in operation on estates were reduced from 100 in 1933 to 81 this year, possibly owing to the cheaper human labour available.

Posts and Telegraphs.

Inland communication by posts and telegraphs is satisfactory. There are 52 post and telegraph offices, four offices doing only postal work, one parcels office at Port Louis which is also a parcels exchange office, and the General Post Office; there is also a postal exchange office. Outlying offices anl localities far from railway stations are served by postmen on bicycles. Mails for the Black River District are conveyed by a motor-car contractor.

Mails from America, Europe, North Africa, Asia via Aden, and East Africa are received by the Messageries Maritimes Steamers regularly every 14 days. European and American mails are also received from South Africa, conveyed by vessels of the Dutch K.P.M. Company, which call regularly once a month, and also by occasional steamers from Durban. The average time taken for European mails via Marseilles during the year 1934 was 34·19 days, as compared with 34·2 days via the Union of South Africa.

Advantage is taken of three routes for the Air Mail Service, viz.: (1) via Tananarive, connecting with the Imperial Airways at Broken Hill; time taken in transit for letters to England, 13 to 14 days; (2) via Johannesburg by the Imperial Airways, from 15 to 26 days; (3) via Nairobi by the Imperial Airways, 26 to 28 days.

The postal parcels service shows a marked improvement. The "cash on delivery" service with Great Britain has increased considerably this last year. There is also a "cash on delivery" service with France.

The telephone service is performed by the Oriental Telephone Company, which serves the towns and districts. The Government offices are linked together by a Government owned telephone system, which is connected with the Oriental Telephone Company's lines.

Telegraphic communication is provided by cable and is maintained by the Eastern and South African Telegraphic Company, whose local station is in Port Louis. Cablegrams from and to the rural districts are transmitted over the Government land telegraphs. The Company maintains a station also at Port Mathurin, in Rodrigues. All classes of traffic are accepted. There is a wireless station at Rose Belle which maintains a twenty-four hour service, and works mainly with ships at sea and with Reunion Island. The wireless station was built by the Admiralty in 1915 for communication with ships at sea and with the various naval bases in the Indian Ocean, and was taken over by the Mauritius Government in June, 1923.

During the cyclonic season from 1st November to 15th May, a detailed weather report including observations made at Seychelles, Rodrigues, Madagascar and Reunion is broadcast daily to all stations and ships within range. When a cyclone is in the vicinity, the Government tug *Maurice*, stationed in the harbour at Port Louis, is manned and inland weather reports are transmitted by wireless telegraphy from the tug to all vessels in port, for the guidance of their masters. The wireless apparatus in the *Maurice* also acts as a stand-by in the event of accident to the aerial system at the main wireless telegraphy station at Rose Belle.

Harbour.

Port Louis, the capital of the Colony, possesses the only navigable harbour for ocean-going ships, which is picturesquely situated on the north-west coast. A wide break in the ring of coral reefs surrounding the Island, caused by the meeting of several rivers and streams, the Latanier, La Paix, Le Pouce, and Creole, gives access to the harbour, which has been dredged so as to provide deep-water accommodation for ten ships lying at berths in the channel and drawing from 24 to 31 feet of water. The harbour is flanked on the north by Fort George, a military post, and on the south by Fort William, which is abandoned. The mountains of the range behind Port Louis, including the Pouce, 2,661 feet, and Pietor Both, 2,690 feet, are guiding beacons to ships by day. The lighthouses of Flat Island, the Colony's quarantine station six miles north of Mauritius, and Caves Point, five miles south of Port Louis on the cliff's edge, and the gas buoy to the north of the outer harbour entrance, direct ships approaching Port Louis by night. A tide gauge has been in operation for four years. The maximum rise of tide at ordinary springs is three feet, which diminishes to two or three inches at ordinary neaps. Dredging of the berths and channel by the Government plant is continuously in progress.

The Government of Mauritius is the Harbour Authority. The Government has from time to time sold or let to two lighterage companies various areas of land bordering the harbour. These two companies, the New Mauritius Dock Company and the Albion Dock Company, each own about 45 lighters with the necessary tugs, and undertake all the storage and lighterage of sugar. The British India Steam Navigation Company also own 30 lighters and two tugs. This Company mainly handles grain from the East, the rest of the general cargo being shared fairly evenly between the British India Company and the other two lighterage companies.

Five years ago the Government built a deep-water quay, 500 feet long, with 32 feet of water alongside, which is able to deal with 100,000 tons of cargo per annum. Actually only 40,000 to 50,000 tons, chiefly petroleum products, Government coal, etc. are discharged annually at the quay.

A Government granary, capable of storing 300,000 bags of rice, was completed four years ago as a protection against the spread of plague in the Colony, and is now working satisfactorily.

Shipping.

There are two regular lines of passenger steamers connecting Mauritius with the United Kingdom. There is a fortnightly service between Marseilles and Mauritius maintained by the Messageries Maritimes Company; the average journey takes about six weeks and involves a stay of five or six days at Reunion either on the outward or inward journey.

Vessels of the K.P.M. (Dutch) Line leave Mauritius once a month for Durban and Cape ports and once a month for Mombasa via Beira. A vessel also leaves Durban once a month direct for Mauritius. The K.P.M. Line has a working arrangement with the Union Castle Line of steamers and the voyage to England via the K.P.M. and Union Castle Lines averages about 32 days. Occasional vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company take passengers to Colombo, and the journey to England by this means takes from 28 to 35 days. Cheap passages to the United Kingdom can occasionally be secured during the sugar shipping season, October to March, on cargo steamers. The voyage averages 40 days.

It is interesting, but regrettable, to note that passenger facilities between Mauritius and the United Kingdom were far better twenty years ago than they are to-day. The vessels of the Messageries Maritimes Company used to perform the voyage in 31 to 33 days, against an average of 36 days at present, and the Union Castle Company and the British India Company used to make regular monthly calls. Passenger fares have also increased, in so far as voyages via South Africa are concerned, by over 100 per cent.

The number of vessels and total tonnage entering and leaving Port Louis during the past three years were as follows :—

INWARDS.

		1932.		*1933.*		*1934.*	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	175	547,874	202	622,772	207	641,389
	Sailing Ships	9	5,473	2	426	2	345
		184	553,347	204	623,198	209	641,734
Coasting	Steamers ...	6	2,961	7	2,376	6	5,274
	Sailing Ships	12	2,657	15	3,385	20	3,837
		18	5,618	18	5,761	26	9,111

OUTWARDS.

		1932.		*1933.*		*1934.*	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	173	546,307	204	627,638	207	643,543
	Sailing Ships	8	5,473	2	426	1	40
		181	551,780	206	628,064	208	643,583
Coasting	Steamers ...	6	2,961	6	2,839	6	5,274
	Sailing Ships	7	2,111	14	3,743	21	4,142
		13	5,072	20	6,582	27	9,416

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are three private banks in the Colony, viz. :—

(*a*) The Mauritius Commercial Bank ;

(*b*) The Mercantile Bank of India, and

(*c*) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838, and has a paid up capital of Rs.2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs.200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1934, was Rs.6,612,718·52. The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1934, amounted to Rs.3,628,000. Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local bank on 31st December, 1934, amounted to Rs.3,229,897. This bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank, Limited, was founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836) and the National Bank of South Africa Limited. A branch of the last named bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts, with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1934, was 38,322, as against 38,093 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs.5,401,710·09 as against Rs.5,379,006·44. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

Currency.

In March, 1934, an Ordinance was enacted "to make provision with respect to the currency notes of the Colony and to place the issue of such Currency Notes upon a permanent basis". By this Ordinance the Currency Commissioners are required to issue, on demand, currency notes in exchange for sterling lodged with the Crown Agents in London, and to pay, on demand, sterling in London in exchange for currency notes lodged with them. The rate at which these exchanges are to be made is fixed at one rupee for one shilling and sixpence sterling, and the minimum transaction is £5,000 or its equivalent.

The Currency Commissioners are entitled to charge commission not exceeding one and three-quarters per centum in addition to the cost of any telegrams sent in connexion with any transfer.

The effect has been to substitute for the Indian rupee a new paper rupee based on sterling and to limit official exchange fluctuations to a maximum spread of three and a-half per centum.

At the time the Ordinance was introduced the rate was Rs.13.70 for £1 by telegraphic transfer, or approximately one rupee for one shilling and fivepence-halfpenny sterling. With a view to avoiding any sudden fluctuation in the actual rate of exchange, the commission which the Currency Commissioners were authorized to charge when selling sterling was fixed, in the first instance, at the maximum of one and three-quarters per cent., making the effective official exchange rate Rs.13.57 for £1 in respect of amounts of £5,000 or over. The rate charged by the Currency Commissioners when buying sterling has been fixed at one-quarter per cent.

The value of the currency is maintained by a Note Security Fund held by the Crown Agents and invested in Government securities (other than those of the Colony). Profits arising from the currency transactions and income from the investments of the Note Security Fund must be applied in the first instance to maintaining the Security Fund at a value equal to the face value of currency notes in circulation. If the value of the Note Security Fund reaches one hundred and ten per cent. of the face value of notes in circulation, all profits then accrue to the revenue of the Colony.

Subsidiary silver coinage was introduced under an Ordinance passed in September, 1934. The coins are not normally redeemable but the seigniorage on the issue is similarly invested.

The value of currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1934, was Rs.7,922,045 and that of Mauritius silver coins on the same date Rs.1,130,000.

Weights and Measures.

The Metric System is in general use; the following special French and local measures are, however, still to be found:—

Measures of length and area:—

1 ligne Française = 2·258 millimetres or 0·088 inch.
12 lignes = 1 French inch.
12 French inches = 1 French foot.
1 French foot = 1·06 English feet.
1 lieue = 2½ English miles (approx.).
1 gaulette = 10 French feet.
1 arpent = 40,000 square French feet or 1·04 acres.
1 toise = 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches.
1 aune or ell = 1 yard 11 inches.

Measures of capacity:—

1 barrique = 50 gallons (cane juice, etc.).
1 tiercon = 190 to 192 litres (molasses).
1 velte = 7·45 litres (coconut oil).
1 bouteille = 800 cubic centimetres (liquid).
1 chopine = ½ bouteille.
1 corde = 80 French cubic feet or 96·82 English cubic feet (firewood).

Measures of weight:—

1 gamelle = 5·250 kilogrammes.
1 livre = 500 grammes or 1·10 English pounds.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Government buildings, the sewerage of Port Louis, roads and bridges, the survey of Crown Land, water-supplies, and state irrigation.

Buildings.—Some of these, such as a time-ball tower in the Port Office, are of historical interest, dating from the time of the French Governor, Mahé de Labourdonnais, in 1740. Government House in Port Louis was then in project and was built between 1740 and 1767. Apart from the addition of a second storey, it now stands exactly as it was originally constructed. It contains the Governor's offices, in which are to be found the table on which the capitulation of the Island was signed in 1810, a throne room, a council room, the council offices, a library, and quarters for the Governor and officials. The former and present residences of the Governors at " Mon Plaisir ", Pamplemousses, and " Le Reduit ", Moka, also date back to the French occupation. The value of the Government buildings is approximately 15 million rupees.

There are in the Island one mental and nine general hospitals. And old hospital, the Grand River North West Hospital, built in 1769 for seamen, is used when necessary as a quarantine station for plague.

Severe cyclones, which happily are not frequent, are responsible for a good deal of damage to water-works, roads, and buildings.

Sewerage works of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922, the scheme was revised by Messrs. Mansergh and Sons and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connexions, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

Bridges.—There exist 335 bridges on main and branch roads, the longest having spans of 150 feet. The old timber bridges are being gradually replaced by ferro-concrete structures. Fifty-nine remain to be reconstructed.

Water works.—The water supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from the Grand River North West at a distance of about four miles from the town at a level of 250 feet. This supply was handed over by the Municipality to the Public Works Department in 1922. The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated. The capacity of the mains leading to the filters is 5 million gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of 2 million gallons.

The water-supply of the towns of Plaines Wilhems and of parts of Moka and Black River districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare aux Vacoas, at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons. The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands. The whole of this water-supply is filtered through sand filters at " La Marie ", about two miles below the reservoir, whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being 5½ million gallons. The population served by this supply is approximately 90,000 and the average daily consumption 3½ million gallons. The Mare aux Vacoas water supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. The supply is limited to 900,000 gallons per day. In this connexion a covered service reservoir at Petite Rivière of 750,000 gallons was completed and put into operation in 1931.

At the beginning of 1934 a Committee was appointed to report on the quality of the water of the Mare aux Vacoas supply, and on measures that could be adopted to improve the quality. The report was received in June, 1934, and it concluded as follows:—

> "The purification of the Mare aux Vacoas waters by means of existing slow sand filtration is inefficacious and defective and does not constitute an adequate safeguard in the event, however unlikely, of harmful contamination of the raw water."

The main recommendations of the Committee were to the effect that (i) the raw water should be taken from the lake as near as possible from the surface (ii) the water should be aerated before the filters and (iii) the water be chlorinated after filtration.

The water supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from twenty-seven different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest. The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000, and is comprised mostly of the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains.

Irrigation works.—Government storage irrigation works were begun in 1914 according to plans made by Mr. C. M. Harriott, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Central Provinces, India, and Consulting Engineer for Irrigation Works to the Government of Mauritius. The La Ferme scheme for the irrigation of the south-west of the island, between Grand River North West and River Dragon, has been finished, and the Nicolière scheme to irrigate land in the north, was started in 1918. These two schemes cover 18,700 acres in the area below the level which enjoys 60 inches of rain and cannot be cultivated to the best advantage without irrigation water. The La Ferme scheme is dependent on a low-level reservoir of 2,500 million gallons, which was completed in 1918 and now irrigates 3,700 acres of land under sugar-cane plantation. The plans for the Nicolière scheme include a high-level storage reservoir at 1,300 feet altitude at Midlands, of 4,400 million gallons capacity, intended to fill a low-level reservoir at Nicolière of a capacity of about 250 million gallons.

Owing to financial conditions the plans were first curtailed and the works afterwards suspended. The Feeder Channel which measures 16¾ miles from Midlands to Nicolière and which had been completed by the end of 1931 with a reduced section has now been built up to its full section and concreted. The area covered by the existing curtailed plan is only 11,000 as compared with 15,000 acres in the original plan.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Following immediately upon the capitulation of the island in the year 1810, a Proclamation issued in the name of His Majesty King George III guaranteed to its inhabitants the preservation of their existing laws and customs. Apart from certain local enactments the laws then in force were those embodied in the Code Napoleon and the French Codes of Commerce and Civil Procedure. These continue to constitute the main body of law applicable in the Colony, as modified, amended or added to by subsequent legislation.

The Supreme Court of Mauritius (which superseded the former "Cour d'Appel") was constituted in the year 1850, and invested with "all the powers, authority and jurisdiction possessed and exercised by the Court of Queen's Bench". It is also a Court of Equity, and exercises jurisdiction in Admiralty, Bankruptcy and Matrimonial Causes.

The Supreme Court sits in the capital (Port Louis), and consists of a Chief Judge and two or more Puisne Judges. Matrimonial Causes and Civil actions where the amount involved does not exceed the value of Rs.3,000 are heard before a single judge; where the amount exceeds this figure, before two judges; or when some point of law of exceptional difficulty arises the case is heard either by two judges or by the Full Bench. Where the sum involved is of the amount of Rs.10,000 or upwards an appeal lies of right from the decisions of the Supreme Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and in other cases by leave of the Supreme Court.

The Bankruptcy Division of the Court is usually presided over by the Master and Registrar sitting as Judge in Bankruptcy, from whose decisions an appeal lies (subject to certain limitations) to the judges of the Civil Division.

Criminal Assizes are held four times a year, and are presided over by a single judge who is empowered to reserve any question of law arising at the trial or as to which he subsequently entertains any doubt as to the correctness of his original decision, for argument before the Full Bench. Criminal cases are conducted before a jury of nine male persons, and a majority verdict of not less than seven is sufficient (even in capital cases) to support a conviction.

The Supreme Court of Mauritius entertains appeals not only from the inferior tribunals of the Colony, both in civil and criminal matters, but also from the decisions of the Supreme Court of Seychelles.

Since the year 1847 English has been the official language of the Court.

Magistracies.—There is a Magistrate's Court in each of the nine districts, the Courts in Port Louis and in Plaines Wilhems each sitting in two divisions. A magistrate has jurisdiction in nearly all civil matters involving not more than Rs.1,000 and in all criminal matters with power to inflict not more than one year's imprisonment and Rs.1,000 fine. A Bench of three magistrates may be instituted by law for the trial of certain offences and also at the request of the Procureur General for nearly all offences, with jurisdiction extending to three years' penal servitude or imprisonment and fine possibly of Rs.3,000. An appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court within the limits stated above, both in fact and law, the several modes of reviewing the decisions being the same as in English Law. There is no system similar to the French Assistance Judiciaire but facilities are given to very poor litigants both before the Supreme and the Inferior Courts to obtain leave to sue *in forma pauperis*. In Supreme Court cases, counsel are ever ready to accept a pauper brief at the request of the Chief Judge, while in Assize cases counsel is always appointed without fee, for undefended prisoners. The Dependencies are visited periodically by one of two magistrates supernumerary to the District Magistrates, whose services are also available in Mauritius.

The Dependency of Rodrigues is administered by a magistrate who has the same jurisdiction in Rodrigues as a District Magistrate in Mauritius and whose duties are to a considerable extent administrative.

The magistrates heard 10,187 civil cases and 12,516 ordinary criminal cases and petty offences, and held :—

126 coroners' inquests ;

21 preliminary inquiries into crimes and serious misdemeanours.

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force is organized mainly on the lines of a " Civil " as distinct from a " Military " Police Force although all recruits receive a certain amount of instructon in the use of the rifle, and an Armed Detachment of 1 Officer and 46 Other Ranks is maintained at Headquarters in case of emergency. Two Lewis Gun Sections are also given an annual course of training and those members of the Force who are fully trained in musketry fire a complete course each year.

Training in military subjects is controlled by officers and other ranks who have previously served in the Army, there being 8 Gazetted Officers and 44 other ranks in the Mauritius Police who were on active service during the war of 1914-18.

The majority of the officers of the Force have been promoted from the ranks, but direct appointments and transfers from other Colonies are made when necessary.

Recruits are obtained entirely from local sources and there is at present an ample supply of excellent candidates.

Distribution.—The establishment of 20 Officers and 595 other ranks is divided into Headquarters Staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Revenue and Motor Vehicle Control Branch, Training Depot, Harbour Police, District Police, Railway Police, Rodrigues Police and Band.

The District Police are distributed in Magisterial Districts as follows :—

District.	*Number of Stations.*	*Number of Personnel.*
Port Louis	8	219
Plaines Wilhems	5	79
Black River	4	14
Curepipe	5	47
Grand Port	6	44
Savanne	5	23
Pamplemousses	6	31
Riviere du Rempart	5	20
Moka	5	34
Flacq	5	35

The Rodrigues and Railway Police are detailed from the trained establishment of the General Police and are under the independent control of the Resident Magistrate of Rodrigues and the General Manager of Railways respectively.

The Band is under the control of an European Bandmaster holding the rank of Inspector and has an establishment of 30 other ranks.

Crime.—The total number of offences of all kinds reported to the Police during the year 1934 was 24,281, which shows an increase on the figure for 1933 which was 23,502, and an increase on the average of 20.647 for the past three years.

It should be noted that this marked increase is entirely due to the continuous improvement in the Police control of various revenue-producing duties and is not in any way caused by an increase of crime. This is made clear by the following explanatory statement as regards offences against persons and property during 1933 and 1934 :—

A.—There has been a decrease in offences against the person : 8,065 in 1934 as against 8,492 in 1933 ;

B.—There has also been a decrease in offences against property : 3,060 in 1934 as against 3,275 in 1933.

The number of persons prosecuted in connexion with these 24,281 offences was 11,471, of whom 10,519 were convicted, 600 otherwise disposed of, and 352 were still awaiting trial at the end of the year. Corresponding figures for the previous year were :— 11,647 persons prosecuted, of whom 10,364 were convicted, 658 otherwise disposed of, and 625 awaiting trial at the end of the year.

Prisons.

Organization.—The Prison Department of Mauritius is placed under the charge of the Inspector-General of Police who is responsible for the control of penal institutions as Superintendent of Prisons. Four senior Officers, in addition to the Superintendent, are drawn from British Army, Police or Prison Services and the remaining staff of 108 is recruited from local sources.

Establishments.—The penal institutions are Port Louis Central Prison and Beau Bassin Prison. Port Louis Prison provides separate cell accommodation for 154 male prisoners and association cells for 40 women. It also contains the offices of the Department and quarters for two senior Officers and two Wardresses. This prison serves as the centre for classification of convicted prisoners and for treatment of special and difficult cases. All juvenile adults and selected first offenders serve their sentences in this institution and all waiting-trial prisoners are housed here in separate accommodation in convenient proximity to the Courts. Every convicted prisoner undergoes examination and treatment for prevalent diseases while detained in this prison and before transfer to Beau Bassin.

Beau Bassin Prison is a comparatively modern type convict prison providing single cell accommodation for 756 male prisoners. Bungalow type quarters for the Superintendent and two chief Officers are located in the surrounding grounds.

Classification.—Convicted prisoners are classified as (*a*) Penal servitude, (*b*) Hard labour, (*c*) Misdemeanants, (*d*) First offenders, (*e*) Juvenile adults and (*f*) Special.

Classes (*a*) and (*b*) serve their sentences at Beau Bassin Prison and the remainder at Port Louis where, so far as existing accommodation permits, they are kept apart and receive modified treatment.

Labour.—The principle governing the employment of all prisoners is that they shall be put to such remunerative work as lies within their physical capacity and past experience, and that all long-sentence prisoners who are not tradesmen before conviction shall be taught a trade during their period of imprisonment. The normal labour for male prisoners at Port Louis is carpentry, stone-breaking, cutting fire-wood, carting stores and cleaning Government buildings and grounds. Women prisoners are employed on laundry work and sewing clothing and bedding. At Beau Bassin Prison prisoners with long sentences are taught a trade, while those serving shorter sentences are principally employed on agricultural work in the prison gardens. The trades taught in the prison workshops comprise tailoring, boot, sail, and mattress making; tin-smith work and black-smithing; carpentry and cabinet making; blind, mat, and basket making. Instruction in baking is given in the prison bakery which produces about 1,400 lb. of bread daily and numerous prisoners are trained as stone masons in the quarries and neighbouring grounds.

Population.—The number of persons admitted to Port Louis Prison during the year was 2,939, which is 271 less than in the previous year and 714 less than in 1932. Of these 2,939 persons 1,899 were convicted, and of these 1,233 were sentenced to imprisonment for one month or less. The convicted prisoners comprise

1,839 men and 60 women. The daily average population was 458·05 compared with 500·44 in 1933, and the number of persons in prison on 31st December, 1934, was 424, compared with 381 in 1933 and 503 in 1932. Of the 424 persons in prison 396 were serving sentences and comprised 387 men and 9 women. The number of persons who served sentences of imprisonment in lieu of paying fines was 916, including 7 women.

Health.—The Prison Medical Officer reports that the health of the prisoners has been satisfactory and the sanitary conditions good. Deaths in hospital during the year numbered five, compared with seven in 1933, twenty-two in 1932 and thirty-three in 1931. There were two cases of suicide by hanging.

Industrial School.—The Barkly Industrial School for male juvenile offenders, which was until 1st July, 1934, administered as a unit of the Prisons Department, has been entirely removed from Prison control and is now a separate institution under the supervision of the Inspector-General of Police.

The number of boys in the School at the end of the year was 54, compared with 46 in 1933 and 47 in 1932. There were 28 admissions and 20 discharges during the year.

The ordinary primary school education of the inmates is undertaken by officers of the Schools Department, while the manual instruction in agriculture and certain trades is given by Instructors and Assistant Instructors borne on the establishment of the Industrial School.

The health of the boys is uniformly excellent and their physical reformation is remarkable.

The After-care Committee, which was appointed in 1932 to look after the question of the employment of the boys on discharge, has done excellent work and has recently developed into a Visiting Committee with wide powers of inspection and advice which are being employed with great advantage to the School and its inmates.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

A list of the more important Ordinances passed during the year under review is given in Appendix I to this Report.

Certain Ordinances of rather domestic concern were passed dealing with speed of motor vehicles, road traffic, net-fishing, and penalizing the possession of raw sugar for purposes other than exportation, authorizing a special marriage and a burial, reducing the duration of labour contracts and the age for dispensing with parents' consent to the marriage of their sons, preventing the employment of females at night in factories, consolidating education laws, and regulating probation of offences.

Others attempt to work for economic organization and progress; the more important being :—(i) the imposition of a so-called " poll tax " graduated according to the income of individuals and companies with increasing fixed amounts for the several steps in the ladder of incomes between Rs.5,000 and Rs.70,000, the tax being the same for all incomes beyond Rs.70,000 (Ordinance No. 32); (ii) two Ordinances establishing a new paper and silver currency (Nos. 13 and 39 respectively), the new notes being no longer compulsorily payable in silver, the coins being special to Mauritius but of the same silver standard composition as the Indian Rupees, which are not redeemable in new coins and will soon cease to be legal tender; (iii) a comprehensive radio-communication Ordinance (No. 36) facilitating the use of wireless apparatus and regulating all cognate matters in a line with recent international arrangements; (iv) the creation of a Mauritius Local Defence Force on the lines of the English Territorial Forces legislation and regulations (No. 19).

Social progress is also achieved, in accordance with international ideals, in the matters following :—

Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children—(No. 37), an Ordinance making operative in this Colony the International Labour Conventions regulating :—(1) The admission of children to industrial employment; (2) The night work of young persons in industry; (3) The night work of women in industry; (4) The admission of children to employment at sea.

Minimum Wages—(No. 41), another Ordinance applying to Mauritius the International Labour Convention concerning the creation of machinery for the fixing of minimum wages, whenever necessary, in respect of any trade or occupation.

Dangerous Drugs—(No. 5), an Ordinance regulating the importation and sale of opium and other drugs.

Certain import duties were altered in amending Customs Tariff Ordinances, with a view to increasing Imperial Preference on the articles concerned, and special Ordinances regulating the importation of textiles of foreign origin were readily accepted by the Council of Government in furtherance of the policy of imperial solidarity.

Lastly, both in the interest of labour and to minimize chances of accidents to workmen, as well as again to favour British manufacture, an important consolidated and amending Ordinance provides comprehensively for the control of boilers, their use and inspection, and cognate matters, while it imposes the gradual replacing of existing engines and pipes by material of standard British specification.

XV.—FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1934, amounted to Rs.16,567,110.18, being Rs.1,414,129.18 above the Estimates and Rs.13,633,308.12 below the Revenue of the previous year, which was Rs.30,200,418.30. The Revenue normally becoming due and collected during the previous year was Rs.14,503,504, and the increase in the amount shown for that year was due to special adjustments comprising, *inter alia*, the following transfers to Revenue :—

	Rs.
Widows' and Orphans' Fund	5,032,347.84
Government Scholarship Fund	539,769.17
Improvement and Development Fund ...	6,317,717.98
Mauritius Loan, 1922	1,362,678.99
Unexpected balance, Sugar Industry Loan, 1929...	7,315.90
	13,259,829.88

The Expenditure for the financial year 1933-34 amounted to Rs.14,634,338.98, being Rs.161,876.98 above the Estimates and Rs.823,749.71 above the Expenditure for the previous year.

The Revenue during the financial year 1933-34 exceeded the Expenditure by Rs.1,932,771.20, and the surplus balance on 30th June, 1934, amounted to Rs.14,876,571.13.

Of the Expenditure for 1933-34, Rs.4,906,498.89 were spent on "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.9,727,840.09 on "Other Charges." The corresponding figures for 1932-33 were Rs.4,741,399.51 for "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.9,069,189.76 on "Other Charges."

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.
1929-30	14,483,467	15,575,001
1930-31	11,552,210	16,092,073
1931-32	12,160,278	17,704,574
1932-33	30,200,418	13,810,589
1933-34	16,567,110	14,634,339

The Colonial Government pays a Military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its Revenue (total Revenue exclusive of land sales, Irrigation—Mare aux Vacoas and other water works—revenue, contribution towards Loan 1922 charges and special export duty on sugar) as a contribution to the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

The annual contribution was reduced to £15,000 for the two years 1932-33 and 1933-34, and the amount paid for the year ended 30th June, 1934, was Rs.229,944.81.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 30th June, 1934, was £3,246,994 7s. 7d. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £1,699,669 11s. 1d., as compared with £1,652,076 7s. 8d. on 30th June, 1933.

Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets and Liabilities at the end of the year amounted to Rs.26,451,557.23 and Rs.11,574,986.10 showing a surplus of Rs.14,876,571.13.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1934.

Liabilities.	Rs. cs.	*Assets.*	Rs. cs.
Other Colonial Governments	16,143.94	Cash Balances	4,027,705.09
Deposits	2,160,586.84	Remittances in transit ...	31,939.81
Loan Funds unexpended ...	561,498.14	Surplus Funds No. 1 invested	2,413,804.15
Appropriated Funds ...	8,836,757.18	1922 Loan Funds invested	200,000.00
Balance: Surplus of Assets over Liabilities at 30th June, 1934.	14,876,571.13	1931 Loan Funds invested	249,968.67
		Other Colonial Governments.	12,207.12
		Advances	10,216,553.76
		Unallocated Stores ...	502,853.11
		Appropriated Funds invested.	8,793,525.52
	Rs. 26,451,557.23		Rs.26,451,557.23

Description of the Main Heads of Taxation and their Yield.

The main heads of taxation with their yield for the current year as compared with the preceding year are the following:—

	1932–33	*1933–34*
	Rs. cs.	Rs. cs.
Customs—Import duties	4,423,265.79	5,049,417.16
„ —Export duties*	906,251.76	978,443.38
Excise duty on rum issued for Home consumption	1,632,897.07	1,761,248.78
Licence duty	1,112,698.23	1,126,758.62
Tobacco excise	1,335,297.07	1,175,639.20
Taxes on vehicles and animals ...	371,992.07	402,866.01
House Tax	403,293.43	304,396.26

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* Includes special export duty on sugar.

Customs Duties.

The revenue from Customs duties for the year 1934 was Rs.4,899,209 for imports and Rs.738,624 for exports. (Excluding amount levied on exports for specific purposes.)

The figures for the previous years were:—

	Import duty.	*Export duty.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1933	4,689,026	863,472
1932	3,935,135	752,832

Customs Tariff (Summarized).

The following shows the rates of duty on the principal imports and exports on the 31st December, 1934 :—

Imports.

Rice	R.0·63 per 100 kilos.	Wines in casks up to 14°.	Rs.22·00 per hectolitre.
Dholl	Rs.1·14 per 100 kilos.	Wines in cases up to 14° (still)	R.0·33 per litre.
Flour	R.0·94 per 100 kilos.	Spirits (proof) ...	Rs.6·87 per litre.
Fertilizers ...	R.0·11 to Rs.1·10 per 100 kilos.	Tobacco, manufactured.	Rs.15·00 per kilo.
Petroleum oil ...	Rs.5·28 per hectolitre.	Tobacco, cigarettes.	Rs.16·50 per kilo.
Petroleum spirits	Rs.14·00 per hectolitre.	Vegetable oil, other than olive.	Rs.5·50 to Rs. 9·00 per 100 kilos.
Soap, common ...	Rs.1·93 per 100 kilos.	Most manufactured articles.	5·5 to 55 per cent. *ad valorem.*

Exports.

*Sugar	R.0·46 per 100 kilos.	*Aloe fibre ...	Rs.4·0 per 1,000 kilos.

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* NOTE—The duty on sugar is only for special purposes as under :—

R.0·03 per cent. kilos for destruction of *Phytalus Smithi ;*
0·03 ,, ,, ,, ,, College of Agriculture ;
0·04 ,, ,, ,, ,, Sugar Industry Reserve Fund ;
0·36 ,, ,, ,, ,, in refund of loans.

The duty on aloe fibre includes Rs.3 per 1,000 kilos in refund of loan to the hemp industry.

Principal preferential rates on imports.

	Preferential.	*General.*
Motor vehicles of all kinds, including tyres and tubes therefor.	5·5 per cent. *ad valorem*	36⅔ per cent. *ad valorem*
Silk manufactures (including art silk).	16·5 ,, ,, ,, ,, or R.0·55 per kilo	55 ,, ,, ,, ,, or R.1·75 per kilo
	whichever is the higher	
Indigo	R.1·10 per kilo.	Rs.2·75 per kilo.
Cement	R.0·30 per 100 kilos.	R 1·00 per 100 kilos.
Cinema films ...	Free	R.0·04 per metre.
Machinery, industrial	R.1·45 per 100 kilos.	5·5 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Cotton manufactures	13 per cent. *ad valorem.*	26 per cent. *ad valorem.*
	and also specific rates in certain cases.	
Hardware	11 per cent. *ad valorem.*	22 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Coal	R.0·8 per 100 kil.	R.0·42 per 100 kilos.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

The duty on rum for home consumption is Rs.2.75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for heating and lighting purposes is 4 cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 4 cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier.

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for use as motor fuel is 4 cents per litre or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier.

The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of " Alcoolats " in accordance with the formulae laid down in the British Pharmacopoeia or the French Codes or any other medicinal tinctures and drugs as notified in the Gazette is Rs.2.50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier, with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

The duty on vinegar is Rs.1.70 per hectolitre on vinegar not exceeding 8 degrees of strength and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8 degrees.

According to the Excise figures the number of litres of spirits distilled in 1933-1934 (July to June) was 1,126,437 litres as compared with an average of 900,332 litres for the past five years.

The duty on wine and other liquor (excepting rum and compounded rum) manufactured in the Colony which contain more than 4 degrees of alcohol according to Gay Lussac's alcoholometer is as follows :—

(i) on all such liquor not exceeding 14 degrees by Gay Lussac's alcoholometer, a duty of 15 cents per litre ;

(ii) on all such liquor exceeding 14 degrees a duty at the same rate and on the same scale as the Customs duty on wines payable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

An excise duty of Rs.4 per kilog. is charged on leaf tobacco used for the manufacture of tobacco for local consumption.

According to the official figures the quantity of tobacco manufactured in the year 1934 was 337,673.100 kilos as compared with 321,931.100 in 1933.

The excise duty collected on tobacco during the last two financial and calendar years respectively is given below :—

	Rs.
Financial year 1932-33	1,335,332.45
Financial year 1933-34	1,175,639.20
Calendar year 1933	1,182,074.35
Calendar year 1934	1,219,407.20

The Stamp Laws were amended and consolidated by the passing on 23rd November, 1926, of Ordinance 22 of 1926. This Ordinance was put into force on 23rd July, 1927, by Proclamation No. 32 of 1927.

Stamp duties are of three kinds :—

(1) A duty in proportion to the size of the paper used ;

(2) a fixed duty ; and

(3) an *ad valorem* duty.

The Stamp Ordinance No. 22 of 1926 was amended in 1932 by the passing of Ordinance No. 26 of 1932 to provide for the increase from 4 to 10 cents of the stamp duty on cheques drawn on banks in and out of the Colony and on receipts as defined in Article 2 (5) of the Stamp (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1926.

House Tax.

Rates.—1 per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs.500.

Yield.—The amount collected during the financial year 1933-34 was Rs.304,396.26.

Method of Assessment.—Any building liable to the house tax is assessed according to its full and fair value. In assessing the full and fair value, the valuer takes into consideration the actual or possible rent a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for such building. This applies only to buildings whose basic value is above Rs.500 and on which the annual tax is 1 per cent. on the value.

Method of Collection.—For the purpose of collecting the house tax when the assessment arrived at is final for the year notices for payment are served upon owners of buildings and the tax is paid to the Cashier of the district in which it is levied or to the Chief Cashier, Treasury.

Graduated Poll Tax.

As from 1st July, 1931, a poll tax, graduated according to the taxpayer's income, was imposed in this Colony. The tax applies to persons resident in the Colony and also to non-residents, in respect of all income accruing in, derived from, or received in the Colony, the basis of assessment being the income of the year preceding the year of assessment. There are certain features which distinguish the tax very definitely from a normal income tax :—

(*a*) Tax is payable in two instalments, on 31st October and 30th April in the year of assessment, in accordance with a simple form of return consisting of a single total of income without any details whatever. Not later that 31st October, any taxpayer whose income exceeds Rs.5,000 is required to make his return and to pay the first instalment without any assessment being made upon him. Thereafter the Commissioner of Poll Tax has the right to refuse to accept the return and to make an estimated assessment. He also has the right to demand detailed returns from any person who has not already made a return and paid tax and to make estimated assessments upon such persons.

(*b*) Tax is imposed by reference to a graduated scale which applies to incomes exceeding Rs.5,000. There is no standard rate of tax, incomes being classified in categories to which fixed amounts of tax apply, the maximum tax being Rs.6,150 which applies to all incomes exceeding Rs.70,000.

(*c*) No personal allowances of any kind are in force.

(*d*) Depreciation is not allowed as a deduction.

(*e*) There is no provision for any carry forward of losses but as the tax is levied on aggregate income from all sources, a loss in any one year is set off against income of the same year.

(*f*) There is no deduction of tax at the source and with certain minor exceptions dividends and interest are allowable as deductions in computing taxable income.

In two respects the tax is noticeably different from the poll taxes levied in Kenya and Tanganyika :—

(*a*) Persons taxable include artificial legal entities as well as individuals.

(*b*) A consideration of the taxpayer's residence or ordinary residence is irrelevant as a test of liability to tax.

The tax is unique and is the result of local conditions peculiar to this Colony.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

A critical situation arose during the latter part of the year owing to low prices and the large reduction of the 1934 sugar crop consequent on the severe drought which prevailed during the period November, 1933, to April, 1934.

The sugar production was only 178·86 thousand tons for the year under review against 261·46 thousand tons for the previous year and an average of 235·53 thousand tons in respect of the years 1927-32, exclusive of 1931 when on account of a severe hurricane the output was reduced to 164·01 thousand tons.

This reduction in the sugar crop of 1934 and the low prices fetched for sugar caused a considerable depletion of the sterling usually available in London for the financing of the 1935-36 crop and, in response to representations made that financial assistance was urgently required, the Government agreed to guarantee the repayment up to a maximum of £450,000 to the London banks which would open credit by overdrafts to the local banks repayable after the sale of the 1935 crop.

The Colony continued to enjoy the benefit of the General Imperial Preference amounting to about 3s. 9d. per cwt. on all Colonial sugars consigned to the United Kingdom. Important changes were however introduced during the year in the system of special preference given in 1932 and instead of the special preference of 1s. 0d. per cwt. on the total crop exported and an additional preference of 1s. 0d. per cwt. on a prescribed quota, amounting to 104,000 tons in the case of Mauritius, it was decided by His Majesty's Government to grant a special preference of 3s. 0d. per cwt. on a quantity of Colonial sugars limited to 360,000 tons, the quota of Mauritius sugar entitled to such preference being fixed at 112,400 tons.

A certain proportion of the 1933 crop, amounting to 89,530 tons of sugar, which was still unsold or had been sold on the basis of the existing preference, was due to arrive in England after the date of announcement of the introduction of the new system of preference and, on representations made by the local producers that this state of things would result in severe losses and would nullify the benefit of the special quota for 1933, His Majesty's Government agreed, as a special case, that the quota allotted to Mauritius in respect of the year 1934 should be increased by 15,000 tons, equivalent in cash value to £45,000.

With a total production of about 179,000 tons of sugar for the year, the value of the preference amounted to roughly £1,100,000 in respect of the 1934-35 crop.

The Colony's contribution towards Imperial Funds in respect of military expenditure, which had been reduced to £15,000 a year for the financial years 1932-33 and 1933-34 with a view to assisting in the recovery of financial equilibrium, was fixed at £44,000 (Rs.586,520) during the year 1934-35 representing the actual cost of the garrison. Calculated on the statutory basis of 5½ per cent. of the revenue of the Colony liable to Military contribution, the amount to be paid to Imperial funds would have stood at about Rs.725,000, or a benefit of about Rs.140,000 to the Colony.

During the year 1934 radical changes were effected in the monetary system of the Colony comprising (*a*) the calling in of the Currency Notes in circulation and the issue of new Currency Notes by the enactment of Ordinance No. 13 of 1934, and (*b*) the abandonment of the Indian rupee, half-rupee and quarter-rupee silver coins, and their replacement by a silver rupee and its subdivisions of the Government of Mauritius (Ordinance No. 39 of 1934). The new coins were put into circulation during the year while the domonetization of the Indian rupee and its sub-divisions was postponed to a later date.

It was decided not to enforce the Ordinance which was passed in 1932 for the imposition of an income tax and provision was made by the enactment of Ordinance No. 32 of 1934 for the imposition of a so-called "poll tax" graduated according to the income of individuals and companies with increasing fixed amounts of tax for the several steps in the ladder of incomes between Rs.5,000 and Rs.70,000. In June, 1934, the Secretary of State for the Colonies granted an interview to three delegates chosen by a number of taxpayers of the Colony to proceed to England and protest against the imposition of this tax. After discussion the decision to introduce some measure of direct taxation in the form of the so-called " poll tax " was finally maintained by the Secretary of State.

In July, 1934, the Governor appointed a Committee to examine the extent and character of permanent unemployment in the Colony and to report whether any steps were practicable to mitigate the immediate effects thereof and whether any measures could be devised to deal with conditions which tend towards the increase of permanent unemployment.

The number of persons whose registration as unemployed was accepted by the Committee was 3,603. They were grouped into the following categories :—

Unskilled labour	909
Skilled labour	1,846
Clerks	848
Total	3,603

On the recommendation of the Committee steps were taken to put in hand various works of public utility calculated to give employment to as many persons as possible who were out of work.

A local Defence Force styled " The Mauritius Territorial Force " was established during the year by the enactment of Ordinance No. 19 of 1934. The Force is raised and maintained by the Governor and the whole of the expenditure on its maintenance is defrayed by the Revenues of the Colony. It is under the command of the Senior Military Officer Commanding the Regular Forces in the Colony.

The Island was visited in June, 1934, by H.M.S. *Hawkins* flying the flag of Vice-Admiral M. E. Dunbar Nasmith, V.C., C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station, and in July, 1934, by the French war vessel *Bougainville*.

APPENDIX I.

Forty-eight Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1934. Amongst them the following may be noted.

No.	*Title.*
13	**An Ordinance to make provision with respect to the Currency Notes of the Colony and to place the issue of such Currency Notes upon a permanent basis. (Mauritius Currency Notes.)**
19	**An Ordinance to provide for the establishment and regulation of a Local Defence Force in Mauritius (Mauritius Territorial Force).**
25	**An Ordinance to regulate the importation of textiles (Importation of Textiles (Quotas)).**
32	**An Ordinance to authorize the levy of a poll tax graduated according to the taxpayer's income (Graduated Poll Tax).**
39	**An Ordinance to provide for the issue and currency of Mauritius silver coins (Coinage).**

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MAURITIUS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	*Agents for Sale.*	*Price.*
T'Eylandt Mauritius: Esquisses Historiques, 1698–1710.*	Out of print	
L'Ile de France: Esquisses Historiques, 1715–1833. By Albert Pitot.*	ditto	
Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1886). By Baron d'Unienville.*	ditto	
Le Folk-lore Mauricien (Maison-neuve, Paris, 1888).	ditto	
Le Patois Creole Mauricien (Mauritius, 1880). By Charles Baissac.	ditto	
Renseignements pour servir a l'histoire de l'Ile de France et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1890). By Adrien d'Epinay.	ditto	
Mauritius Illustrated. By A. MacMillan*	ditto	
Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of Mauritius.*	His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.	2s. (approx.)
Financial situation of Mauritius, Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931.*	ditto	4s. 6d.
Mauritius Blue Book *	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	Rs.5·84
A School History of Mauritius. By W. H. Ingrams.*	MacMillan & Co., London	2s. 6d.
Report on the Anophelinae of Mauritius and on certain aspects of Malaria in the Colony. By Malcolm E. MacGregor.*	Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius.	Rs.10
Report on Medical and Sanitary matters in Mauritius by Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H.*	ditto	Rs.15
Mauritius Almanach and Commercial Handbook. By Andre Bax.*	The General Printing and Stationery Co. Ltd., Mauritius.	Rs.10
L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921). By W. Edward Hart.*	ditto	Rs.3
Island of Mauritius. By Raymond Philogene.*	ditto	
Ile de France-Documents pour son Histoire Civile et Militaire. By Saint Elme le Duc.*	Government Printing Office, Mauritius.	Rs.10
Sea Fights and Corsairs of the Indian Ocean. By H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E.	Mauritius	Rs.50

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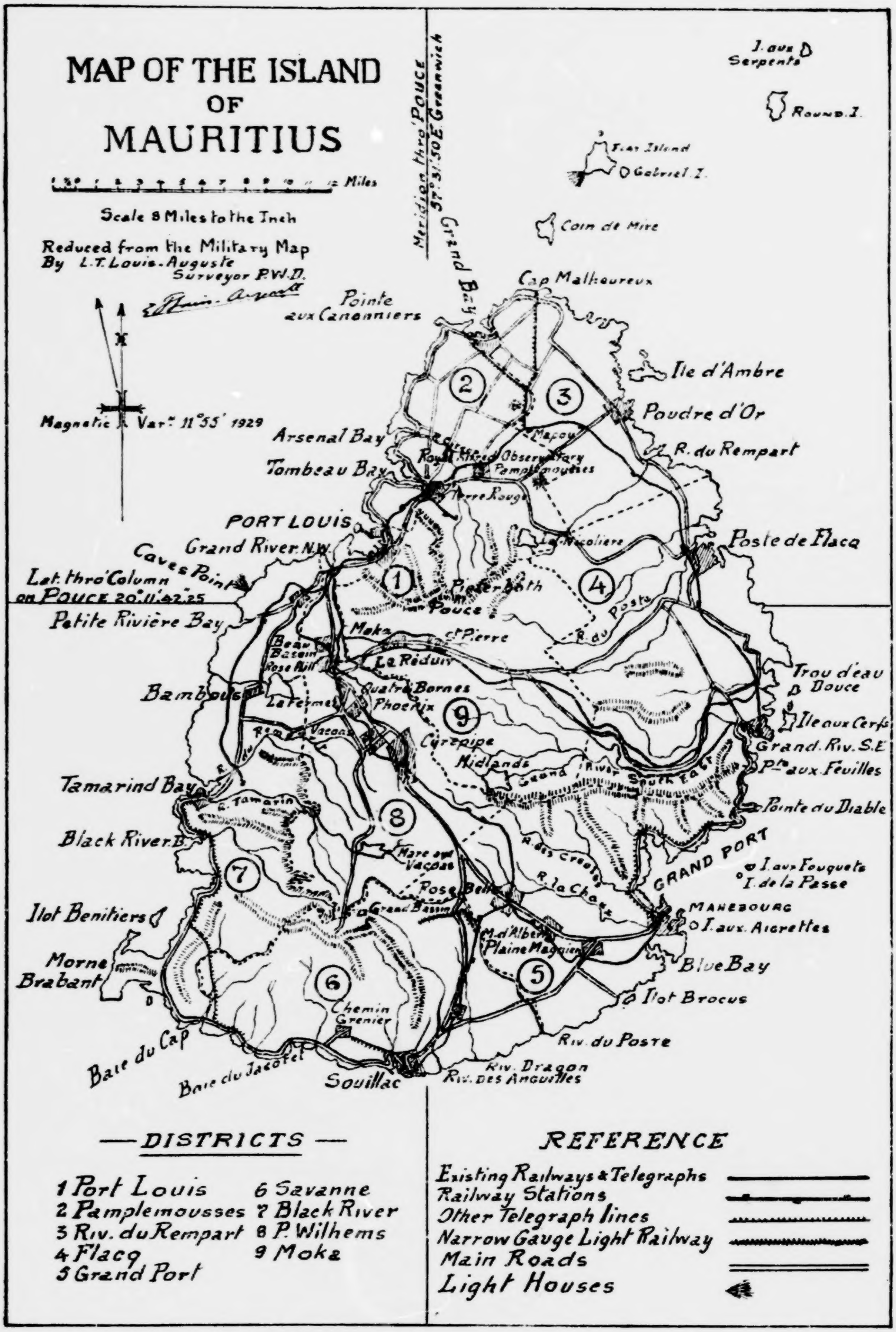
* May be consulted in the Colonial Office Library.



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS
1 ½ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Miles
Scale 8 Miles to the Inch
Reduced from the Military Map By L.T. Louis-Auguste Surveyor P.W.D.
Magnetic Varn. 11°55' 1929
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°31'50"E Greenwich
Lat. thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42".25
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Grand Bay
Cap Malheureux
Pointe aux Canonniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
La Nicolière
Poste de Flacq
Pieter Both
Pouce
R. du Poste
Petite Rivière Bay
Moka
St Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Réduit
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Bambous
La Ferme
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
Vacoas
Curepipe
Midlands
Grand River South East
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pte aux Feuilles
Tamarind Bay
R. Tamarin
Pointe du Diable
Black River B.
Mare aux Vacoas
R. des Creoles
R. la Chaux
GRAND PORT
I. aux Fouquets
I. de la Passe
Rose Belle
Grand Bassin
MAHEBOURG
I. aux Aigrettes
Ilot Benitiers
M. d'Albert
Plaine Magnien
Blue Bay
Morne Brabant
Ilot Brocus
Chemin Grenier
Riv. du Poste
Baie du Cap
Baie du Jacotet
Souillac
Riv. Dragon
Riv. des Anguilles
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
— DISTRICTS —
1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka
REFERENCE
Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railway
Main Roads
Light Houses

(32205—18) Wt. 1983—3502 625 12/35 P.St. G. 377/7

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.

Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.)

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 11*d*.).

Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s*. (5*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s*. (4*s*. 4*d*.).

Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).

Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 7*d*.).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 8*d*.).

East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933-34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 9*d*.).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

SEYCHELLES.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s*. 3*d*. (1*s*. 5*d*.).

MAURITIUS.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.).

WEST INDIES.

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MAURITIUS

REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1935

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. It is situated in the South Indian Ocean at about 1,400 miles from the east coast of Africa and lies between 19° 50′ and 20° 35′ S. latitude and between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ E. longitude. The greatest length from north to south is nearly 39 miles and the widest breadth from east to west is 29 miles. The area of the island is about 716 square miles, exclusive of that of several small islets round the coast which measure about four square miles.

The dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, had a population estimated at 9,425 on 31st December, 1935. The estimated population of the lesser dependencies on that date was 1,328.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used Mauritius as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer, and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar-cane, but were frustrated by rats. Although they denuded the forests of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called Maroons were formed. The combination of the rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin uncontrolled by any tribal or political system proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population, apart from Maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de Labourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Port Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops and barracks. Labourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755, large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and when in 1825 the duty of ten shillings a hundredweight, levied on Mauritius sugar entering England (in order to protect the West Indian sugar), was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 pounds the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 pounds in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842, Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who to-day own and cultivate more than two-fifths of the whole area under sugar-cane. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artisan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle *Phytalus smithi* was discovered in the sugar-canes and more than 300 millions of these insects are now destroyed every year.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water-supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the maintenance of many works undertaken in better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve his recommendation that a subsidy should be given to sugar to supplement the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

The position became worse in 1931 owing to a cyclone which caused considerable damage to property and reduced the year's output of sugar by about 33 per cent. The Imperial Government guaranteed a loan of £750,000 for planters, house owners, and repairs to Government property, on condition that a Financial Commission should visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget. The Commission's report was published at the beginning of 1932 and immediate steps were taken to carry out measures of retrenchment and economy. As a result it has been possible to balance the budgets for subsequent years.

The situation again became critical in 1934 after a severe drought which reduced the sugar crop by over 20 per cent. below its normal figure. This reduction of the crop coupled with the low prices fetched for sugar resulted in a considerable depletion of the sterling usually available in London for financing the following crop. To assist the sugar industry the Government decided to guarantee the repayment up to £450,000 to the London banks which agreed to open credit by overdrafts to the local banks repayable after the sale of the 1935 crop.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. The next year the Constitution was amended and a Council, including unofficial members, was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, was composed of the Governor, eight *ex-officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor and 10 members elected by the population: of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represent the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who are to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect is made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions. The new Letters Patent, however, provide that the Governor shall have power to enact legislation considered by him to be essential in the interests of good government. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four *ex-officio* members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing two unofficial members to the Council was revived.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1935, was 9,459. Every male person who is qualified as follows is entitled to be registered as a voter:—

(1) has attained the age of 21 years;

(2) is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights;

(3) is a British subject by birth or naturalization;

(4) has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications:—

(*a*) is the owner of an immovable property of the annual value of Rs.300;

(*b*) is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs.25 a month;

(*c*) is the owner of movable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs.300;

(*d*) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications;

(*e*) is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs.600 or of a monthly salary of at least Rs.50; and

(*f*) is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs.200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called " Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis " and was instituted, as were other local Municipalities by the " Assemblée Coloniale." These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the " Assemblée Coloniale," on 21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the " Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis " and were denominated the " Conseil des Notables." The " Conseil des Notables " was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the " Conseil des Communes " and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1850, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge " La Triple Esperance " from 21st to 23rd February in that year. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered to take measures within the prescribed limits of the townships for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility, for the prevention of fires, and for the proper paving and lighting of the town, etc.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These Boards are empowered to pass regulations for the making, maintenance, and improvement of branch roads and footpaths, and for the levying of taxes in the extra urban areas.

III.—POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into (1) the general population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans and people of African, Chinese and mixed origin, and (2) the Indian population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants.

The estimated population of the island and its dependencies on the 31st December, 1935, was 407,020 showing an increase of 2,830, the rate of increase being 7·0 per 1,000 living.

The geographical distribution of the population is shown in the following table :—

Districts.	*Area in Square Miles.*	*Census Population, 26th April, 1931.*			*Population on 31st December, 1935.*		
		General population.	*Indian population.*	*Total.*	*General population.*	*Indian population.*	*Total.*
Port Louis...	16½	29,832	24,603	54,435	30,895	24,299	55,194
Pamplemousses	69	6,847	30,000	36,847	6,599	28,789	35,388
Riviere du Rempart ...	57	5,518	25,274	30,792	5,813	26,050	31,863
Flacq	115	10,438	42,202	52,640	10,710	40,659	51,369
Grand Port	100½	12,484	36,135	48,619	12,826	35,005	47,831
Savanne	94½	6,645	24,456	31,101	6,741	23,653	30,394
Plaines Wilhems	78½	41,866	53,392	95,258	44,957	56,198	101,155
Moka	89	5,522	23,761	29,283	5,780	23,878	29,658
Black River	100	5,437	8,826	14,263	5,401	8,014	13,415
Total—Mauritius ...	720	124,589	268,649	393,238	129,722	266,545	396,267
Rodrigues	40	8,084	118	8,202	9,190	235	9,425
Minor Dependencies ...	47	1,354	103	1,457	1,243	85	1,328
Grand Total—Dependencies	87	9,438	221	9,659	10,433	320	10,753
GRAND TOTAL—Mauritius and Dependencies	—	134,027	268,870	402,897	140,155	266,865	407,020

The preponderance of males in the Indian population and that of females in the general population is shown in the following figures :—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Mauritius—General Population	63,515	66,207	129,722
,, Indian ,, ...	137,574	128,971	266,545
Rodrigues—General ,, ...	4,486	4,704	9,190
Indian ,, ...	156	79	235
Minor Dependencies—General ,, ...	701	542	1,243
,, Indian ,, ...	61	24	85
Total	206,493	200,527	407,020

The year was marked by an increase in the number of deaths of infants under one year.

The figures for births, deaths and still births for the last three years were :—

Births.

	Number of births.			*Rate per 1,000 of population.*		
	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
General Population ...	4,570	4,609	4,498	36·3	36·1	34·9
Indian Population ...	8,909	8,907	8,748	33·9	33·7	32·9
Whole Population ...	13,479	13,516	13,246	34·7	34·5	33·6

Deaths.

	Number of deaths.			*Rate per 1,000 of population.*		
	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
General Population ...	3,102	2,987	2,954	24·6	23·3	22·9
Indian Population ...	7,513	7,082	7,491	28·6	26·8	28·2
Whole Population ...	10,615	10,069	10,445	27·3	25·7	26·5

Still Births.

	Number of still-births.			*Rate per 100 births.*		
	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
General Population ...	267	282	297	5·8	6·1	6·6
Indian Population ...	978	1,025	1,004	10·9	11·5	11·5
Whole Population ...	1,245	1,307	1,301	9·2	9·2	9·8

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 1,847. The infantile mortality rate was 139·4 per thousand live births registered during the year as compared with 129·7 and 131·5 for 1934 and 1933 respectively.

The marriages during the year numbered 1,651 as compared with 1,767 in 1934. The marriage rate or number of persons married to every thousand of the entire population was 8·4 against 9·0 in 1934.

The departures exceeded the arrivals by 267.

IV.—HEALTH.

The present constitution of the Medical and Health Department dates back to 1895 when under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894-5 the powers vested in the General Board of Health were transferred to the Director, Medical and Health Department.

The headquarters staff of the Department consists of the Director, the Deputy Director and the clerical and accounting staffs of the correspondence, financial and storekeeping branches.

The administrative unit of Government is the district which is the political unit as well. Every district with the exception of Black River is provided with a hospital for the reception and treatment of the sick poor. Patients from the Black River district are treated in the Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes, or the Civil Hospital, Port Louis. The medical and sanitary administration of each of the rural districts is entrusted to a Government Medical Officer who is in charge of the district hospital and dispensaries and who is also the Health Officer for the district. To assist him, he has a number of subordinate officers; dispensers and sanitary officers and the staff necessary for the care of the patients in the hospital. In addition to his medical and sanitary duties he has also statutory duties of a medical or sanitary nature which he carries out on behalf of the Police and Poor Law Departments. The district dispensaries are visited at regular intervals by the Government Medical Officer.

The hospitals of the Colony are divided into two groups :—

(i) General hospitals, namely :—Civil, Victoria and Moka, totalling 637 beds, which are fully equipped for X-ray and major operative work ; and

(ii) district hospitals where only medical and midwifery cases are admitted and where minor surgery is carried out to a certain extent.

Patients who apply to the latter hospitals and require special treatment, surgical or other, are conveyed to the nearest general hospital by motor ambulance. A mental hospital and a leper hospital are also administered by the Department.

The general health of the population during 1935 has been reasonably good. There was an exceptionally good crop leading to a consequent increase in the amount of money circulating in the Colony. There has been no scarcity of food and the general economic condition of the people, though low, has not been bad.

The principal diseases affecting the population are hookworm disease and malaria.

The prevention of hookworm disease has ceased to be a matter in which the central government can usefully intervene. With the abolition of the system of preparing for agricultural use manure whose chief constituent was human excrement, the widespread infection with hookworm of the canefields ceased. Naturally, some years were required for the cleansing of the soil but it may now be safely presumed that hookworm disease is seldom contracted in the canefields. The problem has become one of personal hygiene, dependent upon a radical change in the personal habits of a very conservative and still ignorant people. The influence of education and propaganda on an agricultural population whose standard of living is definitely low is practically negligible. It is only when a man becomes fairly prosperous that he feels the need to modify his habits according to the new standards of living to which his increased prosperity has raised him. Thus, though the majority of the rural inhabitants have provided their premises with latrines the proper use of which would undoubtedly prevent hookworm infection, they have not yet habituated themselves to their use.

But though the prevention of the disease is now in the ineffectual hands of the rural population, the Government can still institute measures for its control. By the frequent and extensive treatment of the rural population with appropriate drugs the Government ensures that a large percentage of them are periodically released of the infestation to which their blind adherence to custom makes them liable. The hookworm-malaria branch of the Department undertakes mass treatment of the rural population and in this way ensures for those who are willing to take the treatment a certain degree of relief from the consequences of their hygienic shortcomings. Concurrently with the administration of treatment, the staff of the branch hammer home the principles of prevention, but this part of the campaign shows little sign of being effective so long as the general economic level of the population is low.

During the year 115,554 treatments were given.

Malaria.—In 1932 the malaria situation in the Colony was reviewed in the light of past colonial experience and of the new information which had become available through the labours of the Malaria Committee of the League of Nations in Europe. As a result of this review it became evident that much energy was being dissipated by the institution of inappropriate measures and the maintenance of old drainage works whose usefulness had disappeared, either on account of their having been established in areas where such treatment was uneconomic or inappropriate or because subsequent events had nullified their effectiveness. It was accordingly decided to apply to the different regions of the Colony the measures which in the light of the new experience were likely to produce the most effective return for the energy expended. In practice this has meant the virtual abandonment of anti-mosquito measures throughout the greater part of the rural areas lying below 600 feet altitude. Here the object of the Government is to make totaquina as widely available as possible so that sufferers may be able to obtain the treatment which they need. In a few populous places old drainage works of known effectiveness are maintained, but no new works are being undertaken in the meantime.

In most of the region lying higher than 600 feet anti-mosquito work is feasible, on account of the density of the population and of the effects of the cool season in restricting to practical numbers the permanent mosquito nurseries in the area. This area has now been the subject of close study for the past three years and it has been found that most of the mosquito nuisances are not such as require extensive permanent drainage works for their abatement. The problem on the central plateau is not the abolition or the treatment of large natural mosquito-breeding places but the abolition of innumerable small nuisances created and maintained by human agency. The area is strewn with gardens and small holdings on each of which there are maintained collections of water in the shape of watering tubs, barrels, tanks or pits. Of these the pits of the market gardens are the worst offenders as they have been repeatedly found to contain larvae of *A. Costalis.* Water receptacles of this kind are quite unnecessary in this area because practically every house or garden has a piped water supply. In fact most of the storage receptacles are filled from the pipe. The hookworm-malaria branch has been fully occupied in attempting to deal with this nuisance, but progress must necessarily be slow. Nevertheless control of such water collections is essential for control of malaria in this locality.

V.—HOUSING

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories: (*a*) housing on estates, (*b*) housing in rural areas not estates, and (*c*) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are, for the most part, adequately housed. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts, constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs more commonly of thatch, but frequently of corrugated iron. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult. The lines must be kept clear of weeds, and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least 10 feet round them. Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes. As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. Lighting is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

The housing in rural areas other than estates is fairly satisfactory. The Indian labourer can himself with the aid of his friends construct a satisfactory hut. He generally owns the piece of land on which he builds his hut and what is not occupied by the hut is planted with sugar cane or other agricultural produce, while room is also found for a primitive byre or a shelter for goats. The amenities of life are few, and a locality settled by a number of such persons bristles with sanitary problems arising out of poverty. Fortunately, most of them are now on a pipe-line so that their water supply gives little cause for anxiety, though they may have to carry their water several hundred yards from the nearest public fountain.

In the towns and townships conditions vary. There are areas of overcrowding with its consequent insanitary conditions. Too many persons live in one room, though the climate is such as to obviate many of the evils attendant upon this practice.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Meteorological Conditions and Sugar Production.

In so far as weather conditions have been concerned, the year 1935 was an exceptionally favourable one for the sugar industry of Mauritius. Temperature was generally above normal while rainfall was copious and well distributed. Two cyclones threatened danger: one, on 27th January and the other on 28th February; but, in both cases, these disturbances passed at a safe distance from the island and no winds of destructive violence were experienced.

As a result of the unusually propitious weather, the sugar outturn attained the record figure of 280,500 metric tons of sugar extracted from 2,501,529 metric tons of cane. The next best figure was recorded in 1914, with 277,300 metric tons of sugar extracted from 2,577,140 metric tons of cane. In view of the fact that the area under cane was, in 1935, about 20 per cent. below the area cultivated in 1914, the figure realized indicates a high standard of efficiency both in the field and in the factory.

The following table exhibits the comparative production for the past seven years:

Yields of Sugar in Thousand Metric Tons.

Districts.	*1935.*	*1934.*	*1933.*	*1932.*	*1931.*	*1930.*	*1929*
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart.	69·97	30·13	57·77	62·73	41·81	43·00	54·68
Flacq...	44·15	30·87	41·37	35·97	27·91	37·81	38·91
Moka	35·76	29·30	40.08	34·12	20·83	32·10	35·97
Plaines Wilhems ...	20·62	11·54	18·22	17·05	11.64	14·62	15·66
Black River... ...	11·28	5·99	8·88	9·06	6·29	9·81	9·22
Grand Port ...	53·38	38·37	50·66	46·66	28·52	46·53	47·18
Savanne	45·34	32·66	44·48	41·63	27·01	37·09	36·41
Total	280·50	178.86	261·46	247·22	164·01	220·96	238·03

The figure for 1931 evinces a reduction, estimated at 34 per cent. due to a severe cyclone. In 1932, a moderate cyclone, passing centrally over the island, caused a reduction estimated at 7 per cent. In 1934, there was a severe drought.

Grades of Sugar.—The proportion of raws was, this year, 85·03 per cent. of the total sugar production; vesous (plantation white) were 14·63 per cent., while low sugars approximated to 0·34 per cent. Corresponding figures for 1934 were as follows: Raws 78·76 per cent.; vesous, 20·56 per cent. and lows, 0·68 per cent.

Area under Sugar Cane.—At the beginning of 1935, the area under cane was estimated at 138,309 acres—a figure practically the same as the one for the year previous. Estates with factory cultivated 61,190 acres; estates without factory, 36,789 acres, giving a total estate cultivation of 97,979 acres or 293 acres above last year's figure. The balance of 40,330 acres was cultivated mostly by Indian peasant proprietors.

Sugar Market.—The average net price for the crop reaped in 1934 approximated to Rs.6·06 per 50 kilos, including extra colonial preference. For 1935, the average net price realized so far (February, 1936), is about Rs. 5·82 per 50 kilos.

Owing to the slump in the sugar market, the Secretary of State for the Colonies consented to a partial remission of loan repayments for this year, so long as the average sale price did not exceed 10s. 6d. c.i.f. London.

Disposal of the 1934-5 Sugars.—The total quantity of sugar exported during the 1934-5 year (1st August, 1934 to 31st July, 1935) was 166,040 metric tons, distributed as follows:

	Metric tons.
Great Britain	158,726
Canada	6,401
Hong Kong	681
Other places	232
Total	166,040

The exportation for 1935-6, up to the end of December, 1935, was as follows:—

	Metric tons.
Great Britain	93,253
Canada	31,531
Hong Kong	51
Other places	118
Total	124,953

or more than twice the amount for the corresponding period last year.

The local consumption of sugar for the 1934-5 year was 11,211 metric tons, as against 10,381 for the year previous and 9,111 for 1932-3.

Labour.—No special difficulties were experienced during the year in regard to labour, although the harvested crop was the heaviest on record.

Sugar Machinery.—Machinery to the value of Rs.438,588 was imported during the year, as against Rs.397,700 last year. Tramway material to the value of Rs.194,666 was imported in 1935 as compared with Rs.280,557 in 1934.

Fertilizers.—The importation of fertilisers in 1935 totalled 15,589,852 kilos valued at Rs.1,754,425 as compared with 14,970,515 kilos valued at Rs.1,807,097 in 1934.

Pests and Diseases of the Sugar-Cane.—With regard to *Phytalus Smithi* Arrow, the major enemy of sugar-cane plantation in Mauritius, no new centre of infestation was recorded though, in certain localities, the general spread of the pest proceeds. The Phytalus Investigation Officer, Mr. W. F. Jepson, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., journeyed during the course of the year to Java, the Malay States and the Philippines and made a thorough investigation of the possibilities of supplying fresh enemies for Phytalus. In all, 14 new species of parasites were shipped and liberated. Of these, four species have already established themselves in Mauritius.

Minor Agricultural Industries.

Tobacco.—A reduction of the planted area to 404 acres, as compared with 1,080 for the previous year, was rendered necessary by the accumulated stocks of unsold leaf at the Government tobacco warehouse. On the whole, conditions were generally favourable but late rains caused secondary growth in late plantations and, whilst increasing yields, the quality suffered. The amount of leaf purchased by the Warehouse during 1935 was 275,710 kilos, of a value of Rs.268,321, as compared with 461,881 kilos of a value of Rs.541,403 in the previous year.

Attention is still being directed towards the possibility of establishing an export trade. The flue-cured and air-cured leaf shipped to London in 1934 was returned as unsuitable for the home market as regards flavour. Notwithstanding, enquiries were received as to whether Mauritius leaf could be obtained in commercial quantities and a small shipment is to be forwarded to England in 1936, for which sale is guaranteed.

Aloe Fibre.—Market conditions remained very poor throughout the year. The total export in 1935 was 446 metric tons as against 670 in 1934.

During the early months of the year, the factory of the Mauritius Spinning and Weaving Co. closed its doors and, at the present time, there is no particular prospect of the manufacture of fibre bags being resumed.

Pineapple.—There was a small extension of the area under cultivation. The canning factory is still, however, far from being able to work on full load, although prospects appear somewhat better; the production in 1934-5 was 2,188 cases of canned fruit and it is hoped to reach about 5,000 cases for the year 1935-6.

Tea.—Efforts to further progress in this industry are being maintained. The total production of the two principal tea gardens reached 40,480·5 kilos for 1935.

Coconut Industry.—The export of copra during the year 1935 amounted to 1,746 tons of a value of Rs.217,985 as against 1,565 tons of a value of Rs.161,687 in 1934. The export of coconut oil during the year was 2,652 litres valued at Rs.906 as compared with 15,324 litres valued at Rs.3,653 in 1934.

Alcohol.—The total quantity of alcohol distilled for human consumption amounted to 539,[illegible] litres, as against 510,232 litres during the previous year. The quantity distilled for industrial purposes was 360,670 litres as against 441,620 litres in 1934. The exportation of rum during the year was 18,155 litres, valued at Rs.5,299, as against 35,325 litres valued at Rs.10,177 in 1934.

Veterinary and Livestock.—Interest in cattle breeding and management continues to awaken but there is still plenty of room for further development. At the beginning of 1935, the horned cattle on estates totalled 14,615 head as compared with 14,247 at the beginning of 1934. This increase was confined entirely to milch cattle or cattle in herds (as opposed to draught oxen); motor transport continues to expand, and by doing so automatically decreases the number of burden cattle. Cattle importation from Madagascar and other places amounted to 4,406 head; of these, 4,403 were imported from Madagascar for beef and three from elsewhere for other purposes.

Other Manufacturing Industries.

Activity was well maintained in the subsidiary industries of the Colony. Engineering workshops numbered 47, employing about 500 people. During the year, there were in operation 75 bakeries, 40 lime kilns, nine cigarette factories, six distilleries, three hydro-electrical plants (for light and power), four salt-making establishments, four docks (landing, etc.) employing in all over 2,000 persons.

Cabinet-making firms numbered 130. In addition, leather tanning, boot and shoe making, aerated water works, ice works, etc., etc., provided means of livelihood to a large number of people and contributed, to a certain extent, in making the Colony more self-supporting.

Fisheries.

The island of Mauritius is almost entirely encircled by a coral reef the distance of which from the beach varies considerably. Between the reef and the shore lie the comparatively shallow waters of the lagoon in which many varieties of valuable fish are to be found.

These fish are caught principally by means of a locally made basket-trap known as " Casier ", but some varieties are taken regularly by professional and amateur fishermen on hook and line.

Outside the lagoon the professional concentrates on basket-trap fishing close to the reef and deep-sea hand-line fishing from sailing craft, while the amateur, with a motor boat at his disposal, "trails" for tunny, marlin, baracuda and other large surface-feeders which are taken in considerable numbers at certain seasons of the year.

In 1926, Mr. J. Hornell, F.L.S., F.R.A.I., formerly Director of Fisheries in Madras, visited the Colony and made a most valuable report upon the whole question of fisheries in Mauritius and his recommendations have as far as possible been given effect to during the past nine years by a Fisheries Advisory Committee and the local Government.

The most important matters that have been considered are the questions of net fishing and the salt fish trade, the Committee advocating the suppression of nets and increased protection for the local industry of preserving fish by drying and salting.

Fishing with large nets has been prohibited since 1st October, 1934, without prejudice to the quantity, quality or price of fish in the markets.

River fishing, which is strictly preserved, is confined to a sporting type of carp which takes a fly and a fish known as "Chite" which resembles a mullet and is found in the estuaries of the few local rivers.

The enforcement of the Fisheries Laws is carried out by the Fishery Control Sections of the Police Force who concentrate upon the prohibition of net fishing by patrols afloat and ashore and supervision of fish transport and markets.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Mauritius produces barely one-tenth of the foodstuffs required for its inhabitants, and imports practically all articles of food and drink (except sugar) and manufactured goods of all descriptions. The principal item of the Colony's export trade is sugar, though aloe fibre, copra, raw hides, etc., are also exported.

In 1935 economic conditions showed an improvement on 1934 but, on balance, imports exceeded exports by Rs.1,241,905. This situation was caused not by the smallness of the sugar crop but was solely due to the low price realized.

The total values of imports and exports for the last five years were :—

	Imports. *Rupees (c.i.f.)*	*Exports.* *Rupees (f.o.b.)*
1935	**29,891,160**	**28,649,255**
1934	**29,680,346**	**26,136,140**
1933	**29,035,237**	**32,176,743**
1932	**26,992,760**	**27,662,851**
1931	**32,064,074**	**23,829,884**

The declared value of exports in 1935 does not include the value of sugar quota certificates which in this year may amount to about Rs.4,858,000. The actual value of exports in 1935 may therefore be placed at Rs.33,507,255.

Imports of Merchandise.

Rice, which is the staple food of the population represented about 22 per cent. of the total imports in 1935 against 20 per cent. in 1934. The total quantity of rice and flour imported was equal to the annual average of normal years.

As a result of quotas imposed in 1934 on cotton and artificial silk piece-goods, the bulk of the trade in these goods which was shifting to Japan has reverted partially to the United Kingdom; India, however, has gained a large share of the importations of cheap grey and printed cottons. No quota has yet been imposed on the importations of woollen piece-goods and Japan continues to gain considerable increases in this line.

Previous to 1932 the greater proportion of manufactured tobacco and cigarettes consumed locally was imported, but, as a result of the increase of Customs duties combined with technical advice and control by the Agricultural Department, importations have decreased and a greater proportion of the tobacco consumed is now produced in the island.

The trade returns indicate a similar trend for wines, matches, salt and maize and there are indications that the local manufacture of common soap will increase.

The trade in edible oils which was formerly chiefly with India and China now shows an increase in favour of the United Kingdom, owing to the superior quality of the soya oil there obtained.

In addition to the above the Colony is also a large importer of chemical fertilizers for the cane fields; coal and motor spirits for rail and motor transport; machinery for sugar estates; vehicles of all description; bullocks for food and gunny bags for packing sugar. Other considerable items of importation are wearing apparel, drugs, provisions, timber, etc.

The following table shows some of the principal articles imported during the last two years :—

		Quantity.		*Value in Rupees (c.i.f.)*	
		1935.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1934.*
Rice	kilos	60,589,845	59,872,476	6,585,730	5,916,026
Flour	„	9,625,013	14,796,214	1,000,061	1,340,935
Coals	„	36,861,763	35,546,079	439,048	469,362
Timber		—	—	260,489	446,045
Apparel		—	—	524,350	632,542
Gunny bags ...	number	3,251,800	3,800,400	974,600	1,116,914
Cotton, grey or white.	metres	4,702,085	3,016,894	862,859	575,432
„ **coloured**	„	5,749,678	4,068,131	1,374,683	1,049,457
Silk		—	—	541,430	396,108
Machinery ...		—	—	575,964	612,474
Motor-cars ...	number	291	246	641,167	553,817
Petrol	hectolitres	54,170	55,788	696,481	754,821
Saltpetre ...	kilos	4,846,508	3,533,177	694,957	664,763
Sulphate of Ammonia.	„	9,819,471	7,396,528	885,677	732,290
Soap	„	1,171,323	1,625,744	456,343	649,941

The proportion of food, drink and tobacco to manufactured articles imported is shown below :—

	Food, drink and tobacco. *Rs.*	*Manufactured articles.* *Rs.*	*Total imports including other articles.* *Rs.*
1935	12.900,047	14,745,275	29,891,160
1934	12,010,600	15,231,749	29,680,346

The figures indicate inability on the part of the consumer to purchase manufactured articles, but the higher price of most of the principal essential foodstuffs increased the total imports to slightly more than in 1934. On the other hand certain luxury articles such as silk and motor cars show increases.

Exports of Merchandise.

The sugar exports for the last two years were :—

	Metric tons.	*Value in Rupees f.o.b.*
1935	233,202	26,895,460
1934	185,616	24,510,185

Practically all sugar exported is consigned to the United Kingdom.

Apart from sugar other exports are comparatively insignificant in value. They are chiefly :—aloe fibre (445 tons valued Rs.83.141) ; copra and poonac (1,746 tons valued Rs.217,985) ; rum (182 hectolitres valued Rs.5,299) ; coconut oil (2,652 litres valued at Rs.906).

Domestic exports in 1935 amounted to Rs.28,008,615 and re-exports to Rs.640,640.

The re-exports are chiefly lentils, gunny bags, salted fish, old metals, etc., to the neighbouring islands of Reunion and Madagascar and also the Union of South Africa.

Bullion and Specie.

Apart from the trade in merchandise, bullion and specie were imported and exported to the total value of Rs.36,866 and Rs.1,275,622 respectively in 1935 against Rs.2,182,000 and Rs.2,419,834 in 1934.

Distribution of Imports.

The import trade is mainly from the United Kingdom (30⅓ per cent.) and India (36¾ per cent.). The United Kingdom is the source of most of the manufactured articles and India of grain, spices and gunny bags.

Other sources of supply are Australia (5 per cent.), France (3¾ per cent.), Japan (3⅓ per cent.), United States of America (3¼ per cent.).

Australia is the principal source of supply for flour and butter. Importations from France and Japan are declining. The United States and the Dutch East Indies are the principal sources of petroleum products.

Course of Prices of Imports.

It is to be deplored that the average price of rice was higher in 1935 than in 1934 and was nearing 11 cents per kilo c.i.f. The price of flour and of other essential foodstuffs also tended to increase. The price of petrol however decreased.

Development of Empire Trade.

Since 1924 the Colony has accorded preference to United Kingdom goods. This preferential tariff was extended from year to year and assumed in 1933 an Imperial character. As from 1934, quotas were imposed on artificial silk and cotton piece-goods and as a result both the United Kingdom and India benefited.

These factors caused the import trade from the Empire to increase from Rs.19,052,690 in 1932 to Rs.23,460,095 in 1935, whereas the imports from foreign countries fell from Rs.7,811,096 to Rs.6,358,009.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

No marked change was in evidence during the year. Labourers under monthly contract received, in cash, Rs.10 per month, with rations, free lodging, free medical help, etc., in all equivalent to Rs.18 to 20 per month.

Male day labourers received R.0·50 to R.0·60 per daily task, according to locality, during the intercrop season but, while the harvest is in progress, wages are about double these figures. Females, as a rule, receive half the wages of males.

Remuneration for piece-work was, on the average, as follows:—

	Per acre. *Rs.*
Clearing land	30–40
Digging cane holes	18–20
Manuring	15
Weeding	8
Cutting canes (20 tons/acre)	10–12

The wages of artizans were between Rs.1 and 2 per day according to nature of work, while those paid monthly received between Rs.35 and 75 according to circumstances.

The supply of domestic servants is abundant; but such servant may not always be efficient. Butlers, cooks, gardeners and other servants receive between Rs.10 and Rs.35 per month. Chauffeurs get, on the average, Rs.35 per month. Owing to better general conditions, labour is more abundant in the central districts than elsewhere.

No very great change occurred in rates of salaries in 1935. The following table indicates, in a general way, the ruling rates during the year :—

	Rs. per annum.
Managers of sugar estates and senior Government officials	8,000—13,000
Government, bank and commercial clerks (higher grade)	4,000— 7,000
Clerks and employees on sugar estates	1,500— 3,000
Junior clerks and employees	720— 1,500

In spite of occasional fluctuations, the cost of living in 1935 was perceptibly higher than during the year previous. Rice, the staple food of the population, was indexed at 72, as compared with 66 last year (and 100 in 1914). Other grains oscillated between 78 and 84. Flour rose from 35 during the first quarter to 63 during the last. Edible oils were between 78 and 85, while lard rose from 56 in the first quarter to 75 in the last. Tea and coffee remained about stationary: the former at 107 and the latter at 75. Articles of clothing oscillated between 158 and 139. The quarterly weighted index for the total cost of living (28 items) in 1935 was as follows (100 being the index for 1914) :

First quarter	114·5
Second „	119·2
Third „	117·2
Fourth „	112·7

The mean for the year was 115·9 as compared with 112·8 in 1934. As regards the labouring classes, the following table indicates the purchasing power of wages, in terms of rice, since 1927 :—

Year.	*Average daily wages of male labourer.*	*Average price of fair quality rice per lb.*	*Purchasing power of wages expressed in lb. of rice.*
	Rs.	Rs.	lb.
1927	1·25	0·13	9½
1928	1·25	0·10	12½
1929	1·00	0·10	10
1930	0·80	0·09	9
1931	0·75	0·08	9
1932	0·45	0·05½	8
1933	0·45	0·06	7½
1934	0·45	0·06	7½
1935	0·55	0·07	8

The official index numbers do not take into consideration the altered standard of living since 1914 nor those items such as housing, lighting, tuition of children, taxes, etc., which have either not been reduced or else actually increased. In consequence, the cost of living for Europeans and people living in European style is, in fact, higher than the official index would lead one to suppose.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Primary.—Primary education is not compulsory, but it is given free through Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony. The following table shows the number of primary schools, the number of pupils on roll, and the staff of teachers during the year 1935:—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Government	50	387	14,975	10,720
Aided	76	603	24,506	17,279
Total	126	990	39,481	27,999

State-aided schools are under the control of a Manager, and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Pupils must be at least five years old and must have been successfully vaccinated in order to be allowed admission to a primary school; when they are under five they undergo a preliminary training before being promoted to the lowest form.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French and arithmetic. In the higher classes elementary history and geography are taught and girls study needlework. Regular instruction is also given in physical drill, nature study, hygiene and elementary principles of agriculture.

There are six primary school standards or classes, viz.:—

Standard I with pupils from 5 to 6 years of age.
Standard II with pupils from 6 to 7 years of age.
Standard III with pupils from 7 to 8 years of age.
Standard IV with pupils from 8 to 10 years of age.
Standard V with pupils from 9 to 11 years of age.
Standard VI with pupils from 10 to 12 years of age.

There are no fixed age limits for the different standards but no pupil may be entered on the attendance register who is under five years of age, and no pupil may be retained on the register after the annual examination which follows his or her fourteenth birthday, exception being made for pupils following the scholarship classes.

Examinations which were formerly held for all the classes are now limited to Standards V and VI. The new system allows educational officers to devote more time to inspection work proper with the result that teaching methods are gradually improving.

Fourteen apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicraft. Twenty-six scholarships and exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools are awarded every year, through competitive examinations, to the best pupils attending primary schools.

There are thirty gardens attached to the primary schools and they are cultivated by the pupils of Standards III to VI. These gardens are regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation.

Secondary.—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz. :—(1) Secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (2) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by Government.

(1) *Secondary aided schools.*—Government grants to secondary aided schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as in the case of primary aided schools, with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

The following table shows the number of institutions, the number of pupils on roll and in average attendance, and the staff of teachers during the year 1935 :—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupil in average attendance.*
Aided	9	132	1,556	1,374

These schools provide not only for elementary education such as given in primary schools, but also for higher education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate and the London Matriculation.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale.

These schools are visited periodically by the Superintendent of Schools, who examines the lower forms. The middle and higher forms are examined partly by local examiners and partly through examinations conducted by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools extend, as a general rule, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. no provision being made for evening classes.

(2) *Royal College.*—The Royal College is a Government School for the secondary and higher education of boys up to a standard equivalent to that of the Higher Certificate examinations conducted by Oxford and Cambridge Universities. It comprises two schools under the management of the Rector, the Royal College proper in Curepipe and the Royal College School in Port Louis, where pupils who live in or near the capital are educated on the same lines as in Curepipe up to School Certificate Standard. At the Royal College the teaching staff consists of the Rector, 12 Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, 11 Assistant Masters appointed locally, and a Physical Training and Gymnastic Instructor (who also attends once weekly at the school

to take classes); and at the Royal College School, of the Headmaster, one Master and eight Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped libraries and chemical, physical, and biological laboratories; almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies. The subjects taught are English, French, mathematics, Latin, Greek, chemistry, physics, biology, geography and history; and classes are held during school hours in physical training and gymnastics. Admission to the College and School is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning one of the 20 Annual Primary Schools Scholarships and Exhibitions or one of the two Secondary Schools Scholarships awarded annually. The boys are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from 10 to 20 years. The fees are from Rs.96 to Rs.192 per annum, and pupils may travel at quarter rate on the Government railways. About six scholarships and exhibitions tenable at the College are awarded annually to College and School pupils, besides four scholarships and four exhibitions open to other secondary schools as well, and also a Classical and a Modern Scholarship of the present value of £1,300 each (with first-class passage to and from England) tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom. Besides the winners of these two scholarships, a few boys whose parents can afford it go to England or France to study for a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practise. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects. Specialization begins at the Entrance class, and the division into modern and classical sides becomes complete in the Upper Middle class. At the School, pupils may undergo commercial training in place of classics or science.

Classes are held between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on five days weekly. In addition to the ordinary classes there are Saturday extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public science examinations are helped in their studies. The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1935, was 325, and of the School, 156. The average attendance at the College was 273 and at the School, 124. (The number of College pupils on the roll in May, 1935, after the publication of the School Certificate results, was 307.) One hundred and one pupils sat in December, 1934, for the Cambridge School Certificate, of whom 48 obtained certificates. In May, 1935, the number of pupils who had passed this examination and proceeded to the highest class of the College was 43.

Besides the regular Physical Training Classes encouragement is given to rugby and association football, hockey, boxing and gymnastics and athletics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high. As the pupils are all day-boys it is difficult to obtain much support for other social activities, but a school magazine is published thrice yearly.

Welfare Institutions.

There are six Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women, and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy; also an orphanage for boys and one for girls under the control and management of the Church of England, and one "home" for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland. These institutions receive from the Government a maintenance fee for each pauper maintained therein.

Under Ordinance No. 44 of 1932, subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 21 of 1934, a home, styled the Austin Wilson Home, has been instituted and incorporated to provide accommodation and subsistence for aged gentlefolk. The funds for the establishment of this home have been generously contributed by Mr. G. J. Wilson in memory of his son, the late Austin Wilson.

A Mohammedan orphanage was also established in Port Louis in 1932 for the maintenance and education of orphans of the Mohammedan creed. Funds for running the institution are obtained from voluntary subscriptions among the Mohammedans.

Outdoor assistance to paupers was being granted by the Poor Law Department partly in cash and partly in food provisions until the 31st of October, 1935, when the grant of relief in kind was discontinued.

Several private religious societies for the distribution of assistance in food and medical care are also in existence. The Société Française d'Assistance chiefly assists French nationals.

The Child Welfare Committee and the Oeuvre Pasteur de la Goutte de Lait, two philanthrophic Institutions in receipt of Government grants, deal especially with expectant and nursing mothers and their babies.

The Workmen Compensation Ordinance provides for the grant of compensation by employers to workmen who are injured in the course of their work.

Recreation, Music, Art and Drama.

Association football is the most popular form of sport. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and rugby footfall are played mostly by the wealthier classes. The Mauritius Turf Club and the Mauritius Jockey Club hold race meetings from May to September at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis and at Floreal in the district of Plaines Wilhems; and regattas are held by the Yacht clubs of Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay. "La Chasse" or the shooting of driven deer is a favourite sport of Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies; the latter are known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy Scouts have not been so successful as the Girl Guides, but efforts are being made to encourage the movement.

There is not much encouragement for any of the arts. Music is fostered principally by the parish churches whose amateur singers frequently give concerts. The Christian Brothers also provide musical training, and apart from the Police Band, which consists of a bandmaster and 30 bandsmen, a band styled the " Alliance Musicale " and comprising about 25 units was established in 1933.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent. The Institute has a collection of pictures presented by Mr. Rochecouste but there is no other art gallery.

Occasional dramatic performances are given by amateurs, but no permanent society has been formed. In better times the Municipality of Port Louis subsidizes a theatrical company from France, which plays in the theatre at Port Louis. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town, to which companies come from China when conditions are prosperous.

There exists a Royal Society of Arts and Sciences which was founded in 1829 under the title of Société d'Histoire Naturelle and was granted a Royal Charter in 1846. It interests itself in most branches of science and arts, especially those relating to questions of agriculture and the natural history of the Colony. The Society was incorporated with the Mauritius Institute in 1906 and its library has been transferred to the Institute.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads and Road Transport.

The Colony is well served with 500 miles of main roads maintained by Government and 188 miles of branch roads maintained by the District Boards. All roads are metalled and 165 miles of the main roads have been covered with bitumen.

Every visitor to Mauritius remarks upon the excellent roads which enable every point of interest in the Colony to be reached quickly and in comfort. The surfaces of all the main roads are tarred and a policy of systematic widening and improvement of bends and gradients has been steadily pursued for the past ten or more years with remarkable success.

At the close of the year 1935 there were 2,656 motor vehicles in use classified as under :—

Private cars	1,622
Taxi Cabs	364
Lorries	338
Motor Cycles	210
Omnibuses	122

Motor vehicles imported during the year totalled 332, of which 232 were of English make.

The general type and condition of motor cabs for hire in Port Louis and the townships is very good and fares are normally fixed at Rs.0.25 per mile for short distances while special terms can be arranged for long journeys or hire by the day.

The local motor bus carries from 20 to 26 passengers at fares averaging from 2 to 5 cents per mile and operates on all the main roads with considerable benefit to the travelling public. The retail price of petrol is usually Rs.10·00 per eight gallon case which is equivalent to about 1s. 10½d. per gallon.

The annual tax payable in respect of motor vehicles is Rs.4 per horse-power in respect of motor cycles and Rs.5 per horse-power in respect of other classes of vehicles. Lorries pay an additional tax of Rs.40 per ton gross weight and motor buses a licence duty varying from Rs.200 to Rs.500 per annum in accordance with their seating capacity. Motor lorries plying for hire pay a further licence of Rs.200 per annum. Motor cabs pay a licence duty of Rs. 30 per annum and the cost of a driving licence is Rs.5 a year.

Cars of visitors are subject to a tax at the rate of Rs.5 a month.

Railways.

The figures and remarks given in this report are for the financial year from 1st July, 1934, to 30th June, 1935.

The Mauritius Government Railways, not including 13⅓ miles of 75 cm. gauge track, known as the Bois Cheri Light Railway, are of the British standard 4 feet 8½ inch gauge, and comprise 110½ miles of main line, 30 miles of station lay-outs and Government sidings, as well as 15¼ miles of other sidings maintained by the Railway Department for planters and sugar estates. The railway is exceptional on account of its comparatively short length and very heavy gradients, much of it being 1 in 26. The most important section, the Midland Line, 35¼ miles long, rises to 1,800 feet above the terminals at Port Louis, the capital, on the north-west and Mahebourg, the old port, on the south-east coast of the island. A branch from Rose Belle on the Midland Line, 870 feet above sea-level, to the little creek and town of Souillac is 11 miles long. The North Line from Port Louis to Grand River south-east, 33½ miles long, is fairly level. The Moka Branch, from Rose Hill, on the Midland Line, 950 feet above sea-level, to Montagne Blanche, is 14¾ miles long and rises on this length to 1,500 feet. The Black River Branch, from Richelieu on the Midland Line to Tamarin, is 12½ miles long and the Montagne Longue Branch, from Terre Rouge on the North Line to Montagne Longue, is 3½ miles long. There are no heavy gradients on either of these lines.

The Railway Estimates for 1934-5 envisaged excess of expenditure over revenue of Rs.197,203. The year actually closed with an excess of expenditure over revenue of Rs.435,034 as shown below. This sum includes Rs.300,000 set aside for depreciation of wasting assets, the amount actually spent being Rs.59,558 for the year.

	Revenue				*Increase or Decrease of 1934-35 over 1933-34.*
	1931-32.	*1932-33.*	*1933-34.*	*1934-35.*	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers ...	434,325	419,181	524,818	510,728	— 14,090
Parcels	63,466	62,163	65,776	61,019	— 4,757
General Goods ...	817,077	1,174,046	1,255,729	928,850	— 326,879
Miscellaneous ...	70,875	57,412	53,809	52,102	— 1,707
Net Revenue ...	187,938	63,554	36,738	43,809	+ 7,071
Total ...	1,573,681	1,776,356	1,936,870	1,596,508	— 340,362
Goods Tonnage	254,139	362,642	385,541	279,646	

	Expenditure				*Increase or Decrease of 1934-35 over 1933-34.*
	1931-32.	*1932-33.*	*1933-34.*	*1934-35*	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Working expenditure including renewals	1,945,113	1,516,631	1,606,730	1,808,354	+ 201,624
Net revenue expenditure	642,785	260,955	190,308	223,162	+ 32,854
Total ...	2,587,898	1,777,586	1,797,038	2,031,516	+ 234,478
Capital Expenditure	20,226	304	—	26	+ 26
	2,608,124	1,777,890	1,797,038	2,031,542	+ 234,504

The revenue of the railway varies annually in proportion to the volume of the sugar traffic. The estimates for the year were based on a crop of 230,000 tons, of which as in the previous year, it was assumed that 15·75 per cent. would be carried by road or by coasters. Unfortunately a drought prevailed so that the crop only amounted to 178,000 tons, and of this quantity, 25,039 tons or 14·07 per cent. were carried by road or by sea.

Passenger revenue, depending as it does in Mauritius upon the spending power of the public, shows a decrease of Rs.14,091 on last year's figure. This result is indirectly due to the failure of the sugar crop and not to any growing popularity of the rival road traffic. Railway passengers have decreased in the year under review by 87,596 (2·7 per cent.), i.e., to 3,200,118 journeys, the corresponding number of journeys in 1933-4 being 3,287,714.

Goods revenue, which again largely depends upon goods sent up country to sugar estates, shows a reduction of Rs.45,788 for the year.

Tramways.

In relation to the tramway lines established on sugar estates since 1901, it would seem that motor traffic is tending to bring about a reduction. During the year, the total extent of line approximated to 1,680 against 1,740 kilometres in 1934. The number of locomotives was reduced from 224 in 1934 to 214 in 1935 and the number of trucks from 7,500 to 7,400. Farm tractors numbered 80 in 1935 against 81 in 1934.

Post and Telegraphs.

The usual post office facilities in regard to correspondence, parcels and remittances are available in Mauritius. The island is served by 52 offices and postal agencies of which 47 are also telegraph offices where inland telegrams, cablegrams and radiograms are accepted for despatch and are received for delivery. With the exception of a few outposts in outlying localities, the offices are on the railway lines. The outlying offices and localities far from the railway stations are served by postmen or by mail contractors.

Oversea mails are received and despatched regularly twice every month by the French Messageries Maritimes steamers via Suez and twice in transit through South Africa by the Dutch K.P.M. steamers. The outward mails include correspondence for transmission by air via four routes: Johannesburg, Nairobi, Tananarive and Batavia. The time taken by these partial air mails varies between 16 and 28 days: via Johannesburg, 16-21 days; via Nairobi, 24-27 days; via Tananarive, 16-21 days; via Batavia, 23-28 days.

Mails to and from India, Ceylon, the far East and Australia are usually received and forwarded by the Messageries Maritimes steamers via Mombasa and Aden and by the Dutch K.P.M. steamers via Singapore or Batavia. There are also occasional opportunities for direct communication with Ceylon, India and Australia.

English parcel mails are not usually despatched through South Africa and are therefore less frequent than letter mails; the regular route is via Marseilles by the Messageries Maritimes steamers, and the irregular, direct route via the Cape by a Clan line or other steamer.

There is a regular monthly service by the Dutch K.P.M. steamers with Rodrigues, the largest dependency of Mauritius, and a regular four-monthly steamer service with the other dependencies. Occasional communications by sailing vessels are also available.

Remittances may be made by both money orders and postal orders. There are direct exchanges with the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Ceylon, Mozambique, Australia, Seychelles and Hong Kong; and through the intermediary of these offices, remittances may be made to almost any place. Remittances may also be made by telegraph to the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Mozambique and Seychelles.

The telephone service is managed by the Oriental Telephone Company whose main office is in Port Louis with which the rural districts are connected. Government offices are linked together by a Government owned telephone system which is connected with the Oriental Telephone Company's lines. Telegraphic communication is provided by cable and is maintained by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company whose local station is in Port Louis. Cablegrams from and to the rural districts are transmitted over the Government lines. The Company maintains a station also at Port Mathurin in Rodrigues. All classes of traffic are accepted.

Communication with the outer world is also maintained by a wireless station. The station works mainly with ships at sea, but there is also a service with Reunion Island. The wireless station was built by the Admiralty in 1915 for communication with ships at sea and with the various naval bases in the Indian Ocean. It was closed for a short period in 1922-3 and was taken over by the Mauritius Government in June, 1923. There has been a 24 hour service since October, 1928.

During the cyclonic season from 1st November to 15th May, a detailed weather report including observations made at Seychelles, Rodrigues and Reunion is transmitted to all ships and stations within range at 0845 G.M.T. daily. The average yearly number of weather reports intercepted from ships at sea is 2,500. When a cyclone is in the vicinity, the Government tug *Maurice* stationed in the harbour at Port Louis is manned and inland weather reports are transmitted by wireless telegraphy from the tug to all vessels in port, for the guidance of their masters. The wireless apparatus in the *Maurice* also acts as a stand-by in the event of accident to the aerial system at the main wireless telegraphy station at Rose Belle. In June, 1935, the 3 kw. spark transmitter which had been in operation since the re-opening of the station in 1923 was dismantled and was replaced in conformity with the Telecommunication Convention by a modern valve set. The range of the station is now 1,000 miles.

There is a privately owned local broadcasting station licensed by Government. The station transmits on 952 K/cs. The programme consists mainly of reproductions of gramophone records.

Harbour.

Port Louis, the capital of the Colony, possesses the only navigable harbour for ocean-going ships, which is picturesquely situated on the north-west coast. A wide break in the ring of coral reefs surrounding the island, caused by the meeting of several rivers and streams, the Latanier, La Paix, Le Pouce, and Creole, gives access to the harbour, which had been dredged so as to provide deep-water accommodation for ten ships lying at berths in the channel and drawing from 24 to 31 feet of water. The harbour is flanked on the north by Fort George, a military post, and on the south by Fort William, which is abandoned. The mountains of the range behind Port Louis, including the Pouce, 2,661 feet, and Pieter Both, 2,690 feet, are guiding beacons to ships by day. The lighthouses of Flat Island, the Colony's quarantine station six miles north of Mauritius, and Caves Point, five miles south of Port Louis on the cliff's edge, and the gas buoy to the north of the outer harbour entrance, direct ships approaching Port Louis by night. A tide gauge has been in operation for four years. The maximum rise of tide at ordinary springs is three feet, which diminishes to two or three inches at ordinary neaps. Dredging of the berths and channel by the Government plant is continuously in progress.

The Government of Mauritius is the Harbour Authority. The Government has from time to time sold or let to two lighterage companies various areas of land bordering the harbour. These two companies, the New Mauritius Dock Company and the Albion Dock Company, each own about 45 lighters with the necessary tugs, and undertake all the storage and lighterage of sugar. The British India Steam Navigation Company also own 30 lighters and two tugs. This Company mainly handles grain from the East, the rest of the general cargo being shared fairly evenly between the British India Company and the other two lighterage companies. Five years ago the Government built a deep-water quay, 500 feet long, with 32 feet of water alongside, which is able to deal with 100,000 tons of cargo per annum. Actually only 40,000 to 50,000 tons, chiefly petroleum products, Government coal, etc., are discharged annually at the quay.

A Government granary, capable of storing 300,000 bags of rice, was completed five years ago as a protection against the spread of plague in the Colony, and is now working satisfactorily.

Shipping.

There are now three regular lines of passenger steamers connecting Mauritius with the United Kingdom.

The service between Marseilles and Mauritius, performed by the Messageries Maritimes Company has been reduced to a three weekly service for four months of the year and a fortnightly service for the remainder of the year; the average voyage takes from four to five weeks and includes a stay of about a week at Reunion either on the outward or homeward voyage.

Vessels of the K.P.M. (Dutch Line) leave Mauritius monthly from Durban and Cape Ports connecting with the Royal Mail steamers from the United Kingdom; and once a month for Mombasa via Beira. A vessel also leaves Durban once a month direct for Mauritius.

The K.P.M. Company proposes to put three new motor vessels of about 16,000 tons gross and a speed of about 17½ knots on the Java-Mauritius-Africa line. The voyage to England via K.P.M. and Union Castle lines averages 32 days. The same voyage by the British India Line via Colombo would take from 28 to 35 days.

Vessels of the Bullard King Company call occasionally from the United Kingdom via Durban and Cape Ports, with tourists.

Cheap passages to the United Kingdom can, as usual, be secured during the sugar shipping season—October to March—the voyage averaging 40 days.

The fares from Mauritius to England vary as follows :—

(i) per Messageries Maritimes steamers, from £92 to £38.

(ii) per Union Castle Intermediate steamers from £89 to £36.

(iii) per K.P.M. with transhipment at Durban from £117 and £92 to £48 and £46.

(iv) per Bullard King & Co.'s steamers from £53 to £43 according to classes and types of steamers.

Government servants are allowed a rebate of from 15 to 20 per cent. by all the above Companies.

The number of vessels and total tonnage entering and leaving the port during the past three years were as follows :—

INWARDS.

		1933.		1934.		1935.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Foreign	Steamers ...	202	622,772	207	641,389	200	625,175
	Sailing Ships	2	426	2	345	—	—
		204	623,198	209	641,734	200	625,175
Coasting	Steamers ...	5	2,376	6	5,274	11	8,197
	Sailing Ships	13	3,385	20	3,837	15	2,413
		18	5,761	26	9,111	26	10,610

OUTWARDS.

		1933.		1934.		1935.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Foreign	Steamers ...	204	627,638	207	643,543	201	622,274
	Sailing Ships	2	426	1	40	—	—
		206	628,064	208	643,583	201	622,274
Coasting	Steamers ...	6	2,839	6	5,274	10	8,166
	Sailing Ships	14	3,743	21	4,142	15	2,402
		20	6,582	27	9,416	25	10,568

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are three private banks in the Colony, viz. :—

(a) The Mauritius Commercial Bank,

(b) The Mercantile Bank of India, and

(c) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838, and has a paid up capital of Rs.2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs.200 each. The total amount of deposits at 31st December, 1935, was Rs.7,452,573.

The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1935, amounted to Rs.2,898,067.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local bank at 31st December, 1935, amounted to Rs.3,618,206. This bank which is affiliated with Barclays Bank, Limited, was founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836), and the National Bank of South Africa, Limited. A branch of the last named bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1935, was 38,533 compared with 38,322 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs.6,236,739 as against Rs.5,401,710. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

Currency.

In March, 1934, an Ordinance was enacted " to make provision with respect to the currency notes of the Colony and to place the issue of such Currency Notes upon a permanent basis ". By this Ordinance the Currency Commissioners are required to issue, on demand, currency notes in exchange for sterling lodged with the Crown Agents in London, and to pay on demand sterling in London in exchange for Currency Notes lodged with them. The rate at which these exchanges are to be made is fixed at one rupee for one shilling and sixpence sterling, and the minimum transaction is £5,000 or its equivalent.

The Currency Commissioners are entitled to charge commission not exceeding one and three-quarters per centum in addition to the cost of any telegram sent in connection with any transfer.

The effect has been to substitute for the Indian rupee a new paper rupee based on sterling and to limit official exchange fluctuations to a maximum spread of three and a-half per centum.

Local commercial practice is such that the effective rate of exchange is the rate at which the banks sell sterling and not the mean between the buying and selling rates. At the time the Ordinance was introduced the rate was Rs.13.70 for £1 by telegraphic transfer, or approximately one rupee for one shilling and fivepence halfpenny sterling. With a view to avoiding any sudden fluctuation in the actual rate of exchange, the commission which the Currency Commissioners were authorized to charge when selling sterling was fixed, in the first instance, at the maximum of one and three-quarters per cent., making the effective official exchange rate Rs.13.57 for £1 in respect of amounts of £5,000 or over.

The rate charged by the Currency Commissioners when buying sterling has been fixed at one-quarter per cent.

The value of the currency is maintained by a Note Security Fund held by the Crown Agents and invested in Government Securities (other than those of the Colony). Profits arising from currency transactions and income from the investments of the Note Security Fund must be applied in the first instance to maintaining the Security Fund at a value equal to the face value of currency notes in circulation. If the value of the Note Security Fund reaches one hundred and ten per cent. of the face value of notes in circulation, all profits then accrue to the revenue of the Colony.

Subsidiary silver coinage was introduced under an Ordinance passed in September, 1934. The coins are not normally redeemable but the seignorage on the issue is similarly invested.

The value of currency notes, which are of ten rupees and five rupees denominations, in circulation on 31st December, 1935, was Rs.8,182,500 and that of Mauritius silver coins on the same date Rs.1,700,000.

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius rupee, equivalent to 1s. 6d. sterling, divided into 100 cents.

The coinage in circulation is the silver rupee, half rupee, quarter rupee, and 20 cent and 10 cent pieces and the bronze 5 cent, 2 cent and 1 cent pieces.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use; the following special French and local measures are, however, still to be found:—

Measures of length and area:—

1 ligne Francaise = 2·258 millimetres or 0·088 inch.
12 lignes = 1 French inch.
12 French inches = 1 French foot.
1 French foot = 1·06 English feet.
1 lieue = 2½ English miles (approx.).
1 gaulette = 10 French feet.
1 arpent = 40,000 square French feet or 1·04 acres.
1 toise = 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches.

Measures of capacity:—

1 barrique = 50 gallons (cane juice, etc.).
1 tiercon = 190 to 192 litres (molasses).
1 velte = 7·45 litres (coconut oil).
1 bouteille = 800 cubic centimetres (liquid).
1 chopine = ½ bouteille.
1 corde = 80 French cubic feet or 96·82 English cubic feet (firewood).

Measures of weight:—

1 Gamelle = 5·250 kilogrammes.
1 livre = 500 grammes or 1·10 English pounds.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Government buildings, the sewerage of Port Louis, roads and bridges, the survey of Crown Lands, water-supplies, and state irrigation.

Buildings.—Some of these, such as a time-ball tower in the Port Office, are of historical interest, dating from the time of the French Governor, Mahé de Labourdonnais, in 1740. Government House in Port Louis was then in project and was built between 1740 and 1767. Apart from the addition of a second storey, it now stands exactly as it was originally constructed. It contains the Governor's offices, in which are to be found the table on which the capitulation of the island was signed in 1810, a throne room, a council room, the council offices, a library, and quarters for the Governor and officials. The former and present residences of the Governors at "Mon Plaisir", Pamplemousses, and "Le Reduit", Moka respectively, also date back to the French occupation. The value of the Government buildings is approximately 15 million rupees.

There are in the island one mental and nine general hospitals. An old hospital, the Grand River North West Hospital, built in 1769 for seamen, is used when necessary as a quarantine station for plague.

Severe cyclones, which happily are not frequent, are responsible for a good deal of damage to water-works, roads and buildings.

Sewerage Works of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922, the scheme was revised by Messrs Mansergh and Sons and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connexions, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

Bridges.—There exist 335 bridges on main and branch roads, the longest having spans of 150 feet. Only a few timber bridges remain and these are being gradually replaced by ferro concrete structures for double line of traffic and heavy loading.

Water Works.—The water supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from the Grand River North West at a distance of about four miles from the town at a level of 250 feet. This supply was handed over by the Municipality to the Public Works Department in 1922. The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated. The capacity of the mains leading to the filters is five million gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of two million gallons.

The water supply of Plaines Wilhems and of parts of Moka and Black River districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare aux Vacoas, at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons. The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands. The whole of this water-supply is filtered through sand filters at " La Marie ", about two miles below the reservoir, whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being 5½ million gallons. the population served by this supply is approximately 90,000 and the average daily consumption 3½ million gallons. The Mare aux Vacoas water supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. The supply is limited to 900,000 gallons per day. In this connexion a covered service reservoir at Petite Riviere of 750,000 gallons was completed and put into operation in 1931.

At the beginning of 1934, a Committee was appointed to report on the quality of the water of the Mare aux Vacoas supply, and on measures that could be adopted to improve the quality. The report was received in June, 1934, and it concluded as follows :—

> " The purification of the Mare aux Vacoas waters by means of existing slow sand filtration is inefficacious and defective and does not constitute an adequate safeguard in the event, however unlikely, of harmful contamination of the raw water."

The main recommendations of the Committee were to the effect that (i) the raw water should be taken from the lake as near as possible from the surface (ii) the water should be aerated before the filters and (iii) the water chlorinated after filtration.

The works recommended by the Committee for the purification of the Mare aux Vacoas water have been proceeded with and at the end of 1935 were nearing completion.

The water supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from twenty-seven different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest. The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000, and is comprised mostly of the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains.

Irrigation Works.—Government storage irrigation works were begun in 1914 according to plans made by Mr. C. M. Harriott, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.Inst.C.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Central Provinces, India, and Consulting Engineer for Irrigation Works to the Government of Mauritius. The La Ferme scheme for the irrigation of the south-west of the island, between Grand River North West and River Dragon, has been completed, and the Nicoliere scheme to irrigate land in the north, was started in 1918. These two schemes cover 18,700 acres in the area below the level which enjoys 60 inches of rain and cannot be cultivated to the best advantage without irrigation water. The La Ferme scheme is dependent on a low-level reservoir of 2,500 million gallons, which was completed in 1918 and now irrigates 3,700 acres of land under sugar-cane plantation. The plans for the Nicoliere scheme include a high-level storage reservoir at 1,300 feet altitude at Midlands, of 4,400 million gallons capacity, intended to fill a low-level reservoir at Nicoliere of a capacity of about 250 million gallons.

Owing to financial conditions the plans were first curtailed and the works afterwards suspended. The Feeder Channel which measures 16¾ miles from Midlands to Nicoliere and which had been completed by the end of 1931 with a reduced section has now been built up to its full section and concreted. The area covered by the existing curtailed plan is only 11,000 as compared with 15,000 acres in the original plan.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Justice is administered in Mauritius by the Supreme Court and ten District Magistracies.

Supreme Court.—The Supreme Court sits in the capital (Port Louis) and is presided over by one Chief Judge and two Puisne Judges. It has jurisdiction in Civil and Criminal matters and also as a Court of Admiralty; it also decides appeals from the Supreme Court of Seychelles and the Inferior Courts of Mauritius. There is a Bankruptcy Division presided over by one of the Judges or by the Master and Registrar sitting as Judge in Bankruptcy. In 1935 the Supreme Court dealt with 238 civil matters out of 298 which were brought before it, as against 258 out of 308 in the year before. In 1935 twenty-four persons were brought before this Court and tried on criminal charges and of these seventeen were convicted. Criminal cases are tried by a Judge and a Jury. Divorce cases, bankruptcy matters, and civil actions in which the sum involved is less than Rs.3,000 are heard by one Judge. Civil actions in respect of claims over Rs.3,000 are heard by two Judges. Where, however, the magnitude of the interests at stake or the importance of the question of fact or law involved makes it desirable, a case is heard by three Judges.

Magistrates.—There is a Magistrate's Court in each of the nine districts, the Courts in Port Louis and in Plaines Wilhems each sitting in two divisions. A Magistrate has jurisdiction in nearly all civil matters involving not more than Rs.1,000 and in all criminal matters with power to inflict not more than one year's imprisonment and Rs.1,000 fine. A Bench of three Magistrates may be instituted by law for the trial of certain offences and also at the request of the Procureur General for nearly all offences, with jurisdiction extending to three years' penal servitude or imprisonment and fine possibly of Rs.3,000. An appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court within the limits stated above, both in fact and law, the several modes of reviewing the decisions being the same as in English Law. There is no system similar to the French Assistance Judiciaire but facilities are given to very poor litigants both before the Supreme and the Inferior Courts to obtain leave to sue *in forma pauperis*. In Supreme Court cases, counsel are ever ready to accept a pauper brief at the request of the Chief Judge, while in Assize cases counsel is always appointed without fee, for undefended prisoners. The dependencies are visited periodically by one of two Magistrates supernumerary to the District Magistrates, whose services are also available in Mauritius.

The dependency of Rodrigues is administered by a Magistrate who has the same jurisdiction in Rodrigues as a District Magistrate in Mauritius and whose duties are to a considerable extent administrative.

The Magistrates heard 10,502 civil cases and 11,848 ordinary criminal cases and petty offences, and held :—

141 coroners' inquests;

26 preliminary inquiries into crimes and serious misdemeanours.

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force has an establishment of 20 Gazetted Officers and 595 other ranks. The personnel of the Force is almost entirely recruited locally, there being at present only 14 Officers and Warrant Officers classified as " Home-born " who were posted from England or transferred from other Forces.

The Force is organized mainly as a " Civil " as distinct from a " Military " Police Force but recruits are instructed in the use of the rifle, an Armed Detachment is maintained at headquarters and those who have qualified in preliminary tests fire a musketry course every year.

The establishment is divided into Headquarters Staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Revenue and Motor Vehicle Control Branch, Training Depot, Harbour Police, District Police, Railway Police, Rodrigues Police and the Police Band.

Police Headquarters is situated in the historic Line Barracks of Port Louis and the District Police are distributed in 54 stations of varying size and importance.

Crime.—The total number of offences of all kinds reported to the Police during the year 1935 was 24,216 which shows a slight decrease on the figure for 1934 which was 24,281 and an increase on the average of 22,676 for the past three years.

More than half of these offences are of a minor character and refer to Statutory and Revenue contraventions.

The more serious offences are classified as follows :—

Offences against the person	—8,442 in 1935.
	—8,065 in 1934.
Offences against property	—2,929 in 1935.
	—3,060 in 1934.

The number of persons prosecuted in connexion with these 24,216 offences was 10,589 of whom 9,525 were convicted, 537 otherwise disposed of and 527 pending trial at the end of the year.

Corresponding figures for the previous year were 11,471 persons prosecuted, 10,519 convicted, 600 otherwise disposed of and 352 pending trial at the end of the year.

Prisons.

Organization.—The Mauritius Prisons Department has an establishment of four Gazetted Officers, who are appointed from England, and 108 other ranks recruited locally.

The Department is placed under the charge of the Inspector-General of Police, who holds the appointment of Superintendent of Prisons, and is responsible for the management and control of the two penal institutions of the Colony, Port Louis and Beau Bassin Prisons.

Port Louis Prison provides separate cell accommodation for 154 male prisoners, association cells for 40 women in a special block, and contains the offices of the Department and quarters for two Chief Officers and two matrons.

Every male convicted prisoner is sent to this prison and on admission is classified as (1) Adult Felon (2) Adult Hard Labour (3) Adult Misdemeanant (4) Juvenile Felon or Hard Labour (5) Juvenile Misdemeanant or (6) Special.

Felons are prisoners sentenced to Penal Servitude and Misdemeanants are those sentenced to imprisonment without hard labour or for failing to pay fines.

Groups 1, 2 and 4 are sub-divided into First Offenders and Recidivists.

Prisoners classified in Group (1) and recidivists of Group (2) sentenced to 14 days and upwards normally serve their sentences at Beau Bassin which contains 756 separate cells for males only while all misdemeanants, Special Class and well-conducted Adult and Juvenile First Offenders are accommodated at Port Louis.

Debtors, Women and Waiting Trial Prisoners are also given separate accommodation at Port Louis Prison.

Labour.—Hard labour consists of quarrying, stone breaking, cutting firewood, and agricultural work outside the prisons, and tailoring, boot, sail and mattress making, tin-smith work and blacksmithing, carpentry and cabinet making, blind, mat and basket making and baking inside the prisons workshops.

Population.—The number of persons admitted to Port Louis Prison during the year was 2,923 which is 13 less than in the previous year and 508 less than the average for the preceding five years.

Of the 2,923 persons, 1,850 were convicted, of whom 1,261 were sentenced to imprisonment for one month or less. The convicted prisoners comprised 1,781 men and 69 women. The daily average population was 444·89 compared with 458·05 in 1934 and the number of persons in prison on 31st December, 1935, was 417 compared with 424 in 1934 and 381 in 1933.

Of the 417 persons in prison 402 were serving sentences and comprised 390 men and 12 women.

The number of persons who served sentences of imprisonment in lieu of paying fines was 952, including 39 women.

Health.—There were 13 deaths in hospital, one suicide and two executions, during the year.

Industrial School.—The Barkly Industrial School for Boys is an institution for the training of juvenile offenders and vagrants, boys living in criminal surroundings, and those who cannot be controlled at home or in orphanages, etc.

The School, which is under the supervision of the Inspector-General of Police, and has a resident staff of a Chief Officer and 11 Instructors and Assistants, is located in a group of buildings formerly used as a hospital and is surrounded by large grounds which are fully cultivated as gardens, etc.

The number of boys in the School at the end of the year was 77, compared with 54 in 1934 and 46 in 1933. There were 32 admissions and 14 discharges during the year.

The increase in the school population is due to the improved care and interest taken in the treatment of young delinquents by the Magistrate of the recently established Juvenile Court which is located in the School buildings and is organized and conducted in accordance with modern principles.

The general welfare of the boys is looked after by a Visiting Committee, whose work and influence has proved most valuable.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

A list of the more important Ordinances passed during the year under review is given in Appendix I to this Report. The following Social legislation may be noted :—

Industrial Schools.—(No. 8) provides for the establishment of schools for the detention and reformation of young offenders, who will receive therein ordinary and industrial education during their period of detention.

Sentence of Death passed on Expectant Mother.—(No. 9) brings the local law into line with the English law by prohibiting the passing of sentence of death on pregnant women.

Killing of Newly-born Children.—(No. 10) amends the Local Penal Code by importing into it the provisions of the English law in regard to offences connected with the killing of a newly-born child.

Juvenile Offenders.—(No. 11) institutes special Courts for the hearing of charges brought against juvenile offenders, defines the jurisdiction of such Courts and provides for the procedure in connexion with such charges.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the year ended 30th June, 1935, amounted to Rs.22,964,245, including special revenue amounting to Rs.7,882,381, being Rs.427,096 below the Estimate and Rs.6,397,135 above that of the previous year.

The revenue classified as special included the surplus funds of the Commissioners of Currency consequent upon the legislation in 1934, amounting to Rs.3,398,185, and a sum of Rs.3,821,043 representing expenditure incurred on behalf of the Sugar Industry and charged to an advance account for recovery by an export tax on sugar.

The expenditure for the same period was Rs.20,650,954, including special expenditure amounting to Rs.5,422,165, being Rs.236,134 above the Estimate and Rs.6,016,617 above that of the previous year.

Special expenditure included Rs.3,821,043 for the redemption of the Sugar Industry Loan, 1927, after applying the proceeds of the sinking fund.

The revenue during the financial year 1934-35 exceeded the expenditure by Rs.2,313,291, and the surplus balance on 30th June, 1935, amounted to Rs.17,189,861.

Of the expenditure for 1934-35, Rs.4,934,509 were spent on " Personal Emoluments " and Rs.15,716,445 on " Other Charges." The corresponding figures for 1933-34 were Rs.4,906,499 for " Personal Emoluments " and Rs. 9,727,840 on " Other Charges."

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.* *Rs.*	*Expenditure.* *Rs.*
1930–31	11,552,211	16,092,073
1931–32	12,160,279	17,704,574
1932–33	30,200,418	13,810,589
1933–34	16,567,110	14,634,339
1934–35	22,964,245	20,650,954

The revenue normally becoming due and collected during the year 1932-3 was Rs.14,503,504, and the increase in the amount shown for that year was due to special adjustments comprising, *inter alia*, the following transfers to Revenue :—

	Rs.
Widows' and Orphans' Fund	5,032,347·84
Government Scholarship Fund	539,769·17
Improvement and Development Fund	6,317,717·98
Mauritius Loan, 1922	1,362,678·99
Unexpended balance, Sugar Industry Loan, 1929 ...	7,315·90
	13,259,829·88

The Colonial Government pays a Military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its revenue (total revenue exclusive of land sales, irrigation, Mare aux Vacoas and other works revenue, contribution towards loan 1922 charges and special export duty on sugar) as a contribution towards the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

The contribution was reduced to £44,000 for the year 1934-5 and the amount paid was Rs.586,667.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 30th June, 1935, was £2,878,995. Against this liability, there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £1,743,372 4s. 11d., as compared with £1,699,669 11s. 1d., on 30th June, 1934.

Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets and Liabilities at the end of the year amounted to Rs.27,952,178 and Rs.10,762,317 showing a surplus of Rs.17,189,861.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1935.

Liabilities.	Rs.	*Assets.*	Rs.
Other Colonial Governments	7,537	Cash Balances	5,699,045
Deposits	633,138	1922 Loan Funds invested	200,000
Loan Funds unexpended	421,757	Other Colonial Governments.	962
Appropriated Funds	9,699,885	Advances	12,683,469
Balance: Surplus of Assets over Liabilities at 30th June, 1935.	17,189,861	Unallocated Stores	416,786
		Appropriated Funds invested.	8,951,916
	Rs. 27,952,178		Rs.27,952,178

Description of the Main Heads of Taxation and Their Yield.

The main heads of taxation with their yield for the current year as compared with the preceding year are the following :—

	1933–34 Rs.	*1934–35* Rs.
Customs—Import duties	5,049,417	4,422,207
„ —Export duties	978,443	648,314
Excise duty on rum issued for home consumption	1,761,249	1,590,107
Licence duty	1,126,759	1,111,627
Tobacco excise	1,175,639	1,200,427
Taxes on vehicles and animals	402,866	399,313
House Tax	304,396	225,425
Graduated personal tax	—	540,978

Customs Duties.

The revenue from Customs duties for the year 1935 was Rs.4,559,348 for imports and Rs.816,385 for exports.

The figures for the previous years were :—

	Import duty. *Rs.*	*Export duty.* *Rs.*
1934	4,899,209	738,624
1933	4,689,026	863,472

Customs Tariff (Summarized).

The following shows the rates of duty on the principal imports and exports on the 31st of December, 1935 :—

Imports.

Rice	R.0.63 per 100 kilos.	Wines in casks up to 14°.	Rs.22.00 per hectolitre.
Dholl	Rs.1.14 per 100 kilos.	Wines in cases up to 14° (still).	R.0.33 per litre.
Flour	R.0.94 per 100 kilos.	Spirits (proof) ...	Rs.6.87 per litre.
Fertilizers ...	R.0.11 to Rs.1.10 per 100 kilos.	Tobacco, manufactured.	Rs.15.00 per kilo.
Petroleum oil ...	Rs.5.28 per hectolitre.	Tobacco, cigarettes.	Rs.16.50 per kilo.
Petroleum spirits	Rs.14.00 per hectolitre.	Vegetable oil, other than olive.	Rs.5.50 to Rs. 9.00 per 100 kilos.
Soap, common ...	Rs.1.93 per 100 kilos.	Most manufactured articles.	5 to 55 per cent. *ad valorem*, with an average of about 15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Exports.

*Sugar	R.0.10 per 100 kilos.	†Aloe fibre ...	Rs.4.0 per 1,000 kilos.

NOTE—* The duty on sugar is only for special purposes as under :—

R.0.03 per cent. kilos for destruction of *Phytalus Smithi;*
0.03 ,, ,, ,, ,, College of Agriculture;
0.04 ,, ,, ,, ,, Sugar Industry Reserve Fund;

† The duty on aloe fibre includes Rs.3 per 1,000 kilos in refund of loan to the hemp industry.

Principal Preferential Rates on Imports.

	Preferential.	*General.*
Motor vehicles of all kinds, including tyres and tubes	5.5 per cent. *ad valorem*	36⅔ per cent. *ad valorem*
Silk manufactures (including art silk).	16.5 ,, ,, ,, ,, or R.0.55 per kilo	55 ,, ,, ,, ,, or R.1.75 per kilo
	whichever is the higher	
Indigo	Rs.1.10 per kilo.	Rs.2.75 per kilo.
Cement	R.0.30 per 100 kilos.	R.1.00 per 100 kilos.
Cinema films ...	Free	R.0.04 per metre.
Machinery, industrial	Rs.1.45 per 100 kilos.	5.5 per cent. *ad valorem*.
Cotton manufactures	5 per cent. *ad valorem*.	26 per cent. *ad valorem*. and also specific rates in certain cases.
Hardware	11 per cent. *ad valorem*.	22 per cent. *ad valorem*.
Coal	8 cents per 100 kilos.	42 cents per 100 kilos.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

The duty on rum for home consumption for potable use is Rs.2·75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

Four distilleries worked periodically during 1935. Three of these stills form an annex to sugar mills. In all cases spirits are distilled from molasses and the strength of the spirits produced varies from 30° to 42° Cartier. The bulk is produced at 39° Cartier or below and when broken down to 23° Cartier, is consumed locally as potable rum, though it has the general characteristics of a rectified spirit.

The remainder of the spirits produced is used after denaturation or compounding for lighting, heating and power purposes; for the preparation of medicinal tinctures, drugs, perfumed spirits and for the manufacture of vinegar. Attempts have been made to find an export market for locally produced alcohol but with little success. The quantity exported was 28,732 litres for the period July, 1934, to June, 1935, as compared with 39,326 litres for the previous period.

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for heating and lighting purposes is 4 cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 4 cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier.

Owing to the quantity of electrical power available and the organization for its distribution, comparatively little use is made of locally produced alcohol for lighting purposes. Where electrical power is not available kerosene is a more popular illuminant. The poorest classes, who require little illumination since they mostly retire at nightfall, use coconut oil or similar local product. There is little call for artificial heating of houses and most cooking is done by locally produced wood charcoal on charcoal stoves. Locally produced alcohol might be used largely for cooking purposes were a satisfactory type of stove available. The import duty on denaturated or methylated alcohol is R.0.33 cts per litre.

The quantity of spirits denaturated for heating and lighting purposes during the last two years is shown below :—

1933–34.		*1934–35.*	
	Excise Duty.		*Excise Duty.*
Litres.	*Rs.*	*Litres.*	*Rs.*
105,450	4,321.06	138,250	5,663.62

The duty on spirits to be denatured for use as motor fuel is four cents per litre or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier. Attempts on a commercial scale to utilize locally produced alcohol in various forms for power purposes have been in progress for about eighteen years but have had little success. The increasing use of heavy fuel oil and compression ignition type engines make any further development in the use of the local alcohol improbable in present circumstances. Protection is given to the local industry by imposing a Customs duty on imported motor spirits of Rs.14.00 per hectolitre.

The following statement shows the quantity of spirits denatured during the last two years for use as industrial alcohol :—

1933–34.		*1934–35.*	
Quantity. *Litres.*	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*	*Quantity.* *Litres.*	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*
344,237	13,769.48	268.010	10,720.40

The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of "alcoolats" in accordance with the formulae laid down in the British Pharmacopoeia or the French Codex or any other medicinal tinctures and drugs as notified in *Gazette* is Rs.2·50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier, with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

With the exception of certain traditional local preparations, locally produced tinctures etc. have provided little competition to the imported articles which pay import duty at 13·2 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following table shows the quantity of alcohol used during the last two years for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs :—

1933–34.		*1934–35.*	
Quantity. *Litres.*	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*	*Quantity.* *Litres.*	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*
9,393	2,020.50	7,846	1,399.30

The duty on alcohol delivered for the manufacture of perfumed spirits is 50 cents per litre. The position as regards locally produced perfumed spirits is similar to that of medicinal tinctures. One or two preparations are in popular local demand but in spite of the fairly high protective import duty of 33 per cent. *ad valorem*, there is little demand for other products. Attempts have recently been made to find an export market by selling perfumery as ship's stores. It is too early yet to forecast whether this venture is likely to develop to any degree.

The quantity of spirits issued for the manufacture of perfumed spirits during the last two years was as follows :—

1933–34.		*1934–35.*	
Quantity. *Litres.*	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*	*Quantity.* *Litres.*	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*
8,539	4,269.50	3,966	7,932.00

The duty on vinegar is Rs.1.70 per hectolitre, on vinegar not exceeding 8° of strength by acidimeter and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8°.

Locally produced vinegar is manufactured exclusively by the slow oxidation of alcohol. This small industry gives indication of development. The production figures for the past two years were :—

	Litres.	*Amount of duty.* *Rs.*
July 1933 to June 1934	13,681	232.58
" 1934 " 1935	24,047	357.80

The corresponding import duty on vinegar is Rs.3.30 per hectolitre full rate and Rs.1.65 preferential rate.

According to the Excise figures the number of litres of spirits distilled in 1934-5 (July to June) was 864,397, as compared with an average of 891,623·85 litres for the past five years

The duty on wine and other liquor (excepting rum and compounded rum) manufactured in the Colony which contain more than 4° of alcohol according to Gay Lussac's alcoholometer is as follows :—

(i) on all such liquor not exceeding 14° by Gay Lussac's alcoholometer a duty of 15 cents per litre;

(ii) on all such liquor exceeding 14° duty, at the same rate and on the same scale as the Customs duty on wines payable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

Practically no grapes are grown in Mauritius and the local wine is produced from imported dried fruits, principally raisins, sugar and other ingredients. Attempts to produce wine from local fruits, such as pineapples, guavas, bananas, etc., have not been successful. There has been no development in the wine industry during the past year from the point of view of quantity but considerable research work has been done in the improvement of the quality of the produce and in studying the many variations in fermentation largely caused by differences in temperature, atmospheric humidity, etc.

Local wine produced :—

July, 1933, to June, 1934, was 273,988 litres.
July, 1934, to June, 1935, was 265,947 ,,

An excise duty of Rs.4 per kilog. is charged on leaf tobacco used for the manufacture of tobacco for local consumption.

According to the official figures the quantity of tobacco manufactured in the year 1935 was 337,378·975 kilos., compared with 337, 673·100 kilos. in 1934.

The excise duty collected on tobacco during the last two financial years is given below :—

	1933–34. *Rs.*	*1934–35.* *Rs.*
Tobacco	1,175,639.20	1,200,427.53

The figures for the calendar year were :—

	Year 1934. *Rs.*	*Year 1935.* *Rs.*
Tobacco excise	1,219,407.20	1,187,683.93

The Government tobacco warehouse, controlled by the Tobacco Board, has proved a most useful institution for the grading and general control of tobacco grown in the Colony. It ensures for the planters a ready market for their crop of graded leaf and for the manufacturers an assured source of supply at controlled prices. In spite of its efforts the Board has so far been unable to gain any export trade.

The Stamp Laws were amended and consolidated by the passing on 23rd November, 1926, of Ordinance 22 of 1926. This Ordinance was put into force on 23rd July, 1927, by Proclamation No. 32 of 1927.

Stamp duties are of three kinds :—

(1) A duty in proportion to the size of the paper used;
(2) A fixed duty; and
(3) An *ad valorem* duty.

The Stamp Ordinance No. 22 of 1926 was amended in 1932 by the passing of Ordinance No. 26 of 1932 to provide for the increase from 4 to 10 cents of the stamp duty on cheques drawn on banks in and out of the Colony and on receipts as defined in Article 2 (5) of the Stamp (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1926.

House Tax.

Rates.—1 per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs.500 up to 31st December, 1934, and 1 per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs.1,000 as from 1st January, 1935 (Ordinance No. 33 of 1934).

Yield.—The amount collected during the financial year 1934-35 was Rs.225,425.

Method of assessment.—Any building liable to the house tax is assessed according to its full and fair value. In assessing the full and fair value, the valuer takes into consideration the actual or possible rent a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for such building. This applies only to buildings whose basic value is above Rs.500 up to 31st December, 1934, and above Rs.1,000 as from 1st January, 1935 (Ordinance No. 33 of 1934), and on which the annual tax is 1 per cent. on the value.

Method of Collection.—For the purpose of collecting the house tax when the assessment arrived at is final for the year, notices for payment are served upon owners of buildings and the tax is paid to the Cashier of the district in which it is levied or to the Chief Cashier, Treasury.

Graduated Poll Tax.

A Graduated Poll Tax was imposed in 1934 on all taxable income accruing in, derived from, or received in the Colony during the year preceding the year of assessment, subject to specified exemptions.

The tax, which falls on residents and non-residents, is peculiar to Mauritius and payable in half-yearly instalments by persons (including legal entities) whose income exceeds Rs.5,000.

The tax scale rises from Rs.50 (with marginal relief) on incomes exceeding Rs.5,000 but not exceeding Rs.7,000 to Rs.5,150 on incomes exceeding Rs.60,000 but not exceeding Rs.70,000. The tax on incomes exceeding Rs.70,000 is Rs.6,150.

The tax must be tendered with a return from the taxpayer, but the Commissioner may refuse the return and raise an assessment subject to a right of objection and appeal to the High Court.

No provision exists for :

(*a*) Losses to be carried forward.

(*b*) Personal or depreciation allowances.

(*c*) Dominion Income Tax Relief.

(*d*) Deduction of tax at source.

The Main Ordinance was amended in 1935 chiefly to facilitate an equitable administration of the tax as regards allowances for interests paid, and to provide for the reciprocal exemption of profits from shipping.

The administration of the tax has given rise to no inconvenience to the public and no recourse has yet been had to an appeal to the High Court against assessments by the Commissioner.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The year 1935 was marked by the celebrations held on the occasion of His Late Majesty the King's Silver Jubilee on the 6th and 7th of May, and the commemoration, from the 19th August to the 8th September, of the Bicentenary Anniversary of the founding of the Town of Port Louis by the French Governor Mahé de Labourdonnais.

The programme of ceremonies for the King's Jubilee included thanksgiving services in the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals of Port Louis, a Levee and a State Banquet at Government House, Port Louis, a special race meeting at which a Gold Cup was presented by Government, fireworks, illuminations and sports meetings throughout the island, and a general distribution of Jubilee Medals and refreshments in which all school children took part. The Council of Government voted a sum of Rs.20,000 for expenditure in connexion with the celebrations.

The Bicentenary Anniversary festivities were organized by the Municipality of Port Louis. The chief feature was an Inter-Colonial Exhibition in which the neighbouring French Colonies of Madagascar and Reunion participated. Distinguished guests from these two Colonies, including the Governor of Reunion and Delegates of the Government of Madagascar, visited the island during the period of the Exhibition which lasted some twenty days. The celebrations also included a thanksgiving service and a special race meeting at the Champ de Mars, fireworks and illuminations in Port Louis, sports meetings in which athletes from the French Colonies took part, and a distribution of money to the poor of the Town. The cost of the celebrations was estimated at

Rs.100,000, of which Rs.50,000 was contributed by Government on the condition that half the gross proceeds of the Exhibition be paid into the Treasury.

The sugar crop reaped during the year 1935 was exceptionally good, the total sugar production for the year being about 280,500 tons against an average production of 242,000 tons for the years 1929 to 1934, exclusive of the years 1931 and 1934 when, on account of adverse climatic conditions, the crops were reduced to 164,010 and 178,860 tons respectively.

The price of sugar, however, continued to be extremely low, and in view of the heavy deficit from the reduced crop of the year 1934, and the extremely depressed market conditions which made it apparent that even the accounts of the year 1935 would not be balanced in spite of the large crop in prospect, the Home Government agreed to the postponement of the collection of a portion of the export duty on sugar of Rs.3.60 per ton levied in repayment of the Sugar Industry Loans referred to in Ordinance No. 15 of 1929. It was decided to collect only a fraction of that duty not exceeding Rs.367,000 which was necessary to cover the loan charges actually incurred by the Treasury in respect of the industry, and as the total yield of the tax on a crop of 280,500 tons would have amounted to roughly one million rupees, the concession offered to the Industry was about 643,000 rupees.

The Colony continued to enjoy the benefit of the General Imperial Preference amounting to about 3s. 9d. on all Colonial sugars entering the United Kingdom and of a special preference of 3s. per cwt. on a quantity of Colonial sugars limited to 360,000 tons, the quota of Mauritius sugars entitled to the latter preference being fixed at 112,400 tons. Sugars consigned to Canada also benefit by a preference which is at least as profitable to the producer as the general preference accorded by the United Kingdom.

As exports of sugar from Mauritius to countries other than the United Kingdom and Canada are insignificant and the quantity consumed locally is about 10 to 11 thousand tons annually, the portion of the 1935 crop available for export to the United Kingdom and Canada is about 269,000 tons. The total preference on this quantity of sugar, calculated at the rates given above, amounts to roughly £1,346,000.

On the recommendation of a Committee appointed by the Governor in 1934 to investigate the problem of unemployment in the Colony, various works of public utility were put in hand towards the end of that year in order to give employment to as many persons as possible who were then out of work.

Relief works continued in progress during the whole of the year 1935, chiefly in the districts of Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems where the pressure of unemployment is more severe. Towards the end of that year a scheme was drawn up and approved for the establishment of land allotments on a property owned by Government at Richelieu at a distance of four miles from Port Louis. The broad lines of the scheme are (1) the provision of accommodation on the spot for, and the partial maintenance of, a certain number of men willing to clear and cultivate with food crops about 2 acres of land each, and (2) the construction of houses, at a later stage, for the accommodation of the families of holders of allotments who have shown their suitability as settlers by satisfactory work.

The Island was visited in May by the Dutch submarine "K XVIII" of 777 tons register, and in June by the H.M.S. *Norfolk*, flying the flag of Rear-Admiral F. Forester Rose, C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Wilfrid E. F. Jackson visited the Dependency of Rodrigues from the 1st to the 28th September.

APPENDIX I.

Forty-six Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1935. Amongst them the following may be noted.

No.	*Title.*
2	To authorise the Governor to guarantee up to an aggregate amount of £450,000, credit obtained in London by Local Banks, for the purpose of financing the 1935-36 sugar crop.
8	To amend and consolidate the Laws relative to the establishment of Industrial Schools.
11	To make provisions for Proceedings in reference to Juvenile Offenders.
26	To amend the Co-operative Credit Societies Ordinance, 1913.
36	To amend the Graduated Poll Tax Ordinance, 1934.
37	To regulate the manufacture of perfumed spirits in the Colony.

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MAURITIUS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	Agents for Sale.	Price.
T'Eylandt Mauritius: Esquisses Historiques, 1698–1710.*	Out of print.	—
L'Ile de France: Esquisses Historiques 1715–1833. By Albert Pitot.*	ditto	—
Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1886). By Baron d'Unienville.*	ditto	—
Le Folk-lore Mauricien (Maison-neuve, Paris, 1888).	ditto	—
Le Patois Creole Mauricien (Mauritius, 1880). By Charles Baissac.	ditto	—
Renseignements pour servir a l'histoire de l'Ile de France et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1890). By Adrien d'Epinay.	ditto	—
Mauritius Illustrated. By A. MacMillan.*	ditto	—
Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of Mauritius.*	His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.	2s. (approx.).
Financial situation of Mauritius, Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931.*	ditto	4s. 6d.
Mauritius Blue Book.*	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	Rs.5·84.
A School History of Mauritius, by W. H. Ingrams.*	MacMillan & Co., London.	2s. 6d.
Report on the Anophelinae of Mauritius and on certain aspects of Malaria in the Colony. By Malcolm E. MacGregor.*	Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius.	Rs.10.
Report on Medical and Sanitary matters in Mauritius. By Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H.*	ditto	Rs.15.
Mauritius Almanach and Commercial Handbook. By Andre Bax.*	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd., Mauritius.	Rs.10.
L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921). By W. Edward Hart.*	ditto	Rs.3
Island of Mauritius Raymond Philogene.*	ditto	—
Ile de France—Documents pour son Histoire Civile et Militaire. By Saint Elme le Duc.*	Government Printing Office, Mauritius.	Rs.10
Sea Fights and Corsairs of the Indian Ocean. By H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E	Mauritius.	Rs.50
La pluie a l'Ile Maurice, Lat. 20° 5′ 39″ S., Long. 57° 33′ 18″ E. By Marc Herchenroder.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd.	Rs.5

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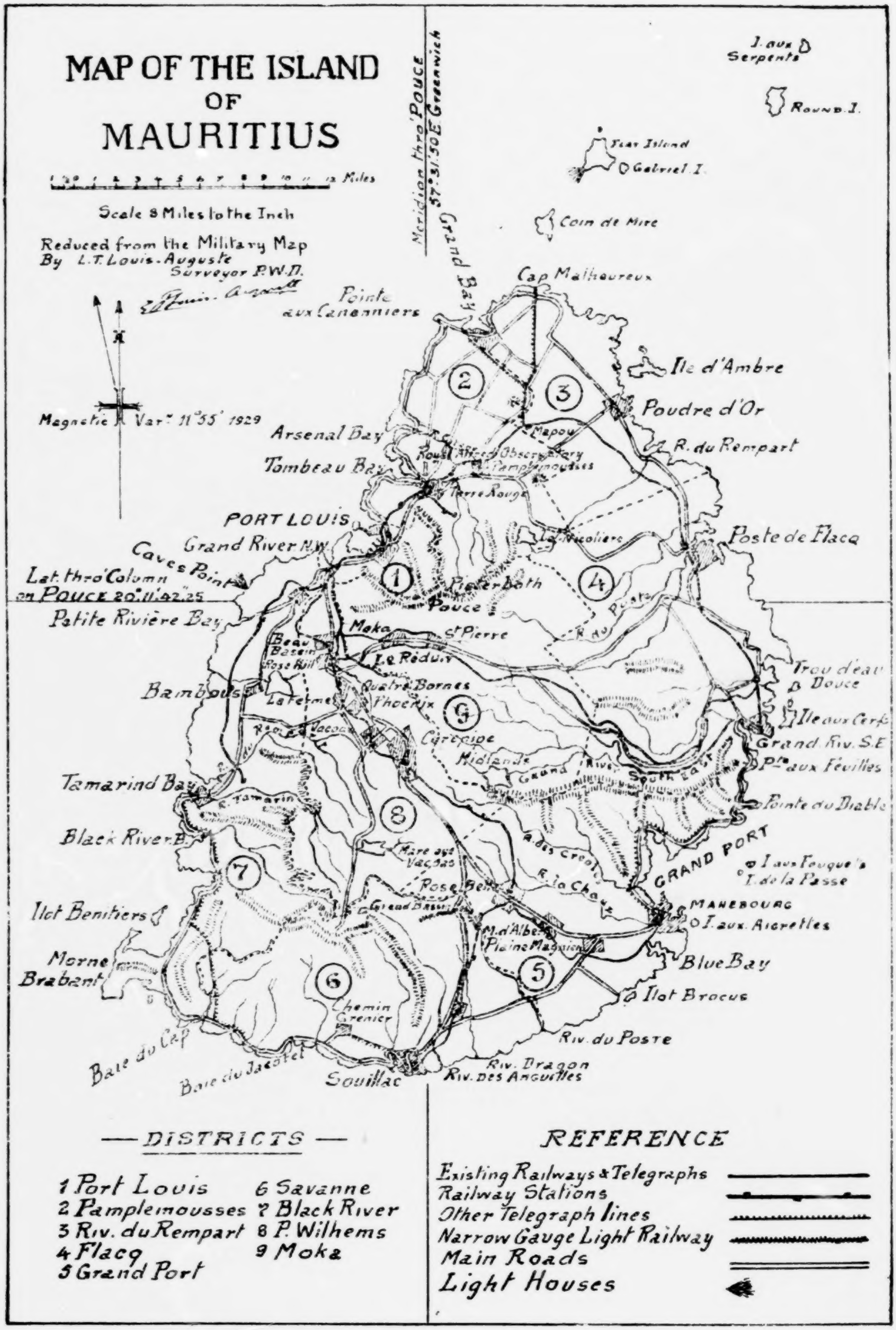
* May be consulted in the Colonial Office Library.


MAP OF THE ISLAND
OF
MAURITIUS
12 Miles
Scale 8 Miles to the Inch
Reduced from the Military Map
By L.T. Louis-Auguste
Surveyor P.W.D.
Magnetic Var. 11°55' 1929
Meridian thro' Pouce 57°31'30E Greenwich
Lat. thro' Column on Pouce 20°11'42"25
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
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Pointe aux Canonniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
Mapou
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Roubil
Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
PORT LOUIS
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7
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9
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Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.

Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.)

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 11*d*.).

Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s*. (5*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s*. (4*s*. 4*d*.).

Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).

Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 7*d*.).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 8*d*.).

East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 9*d*.).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

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Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s*. 3*d*. (1*s*. 5*d*.).

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Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.).

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Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.).

BRITISH GUIANA.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

PALESTINE.

Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 3*d*.).

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MAURITIUS

REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1936

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. It is situated in the South Indian Ocean at about 1,400 miles from the east coast of Africa and lies between 19° 50′ and 20° 35′ S. latitude and between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ E. longitude. The greatest length from north to south is nearly 39 miles and the widest breadth from east to west is 29 miles. The area of the island is about 716 square miles, exclusive of that of several small islets round the coast which measure about four square miles.

The dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, had a population estimated at 9,715 on 31st December, 1936. The estimated population of the lesser dependencies on that date was 1,327.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used Mauritius as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer, and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar-cane, but were frustrated by rats. Although they denuded the forest of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called Maroons were formed. The combination of rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin, uncontrolled by any tribal or political system, proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population, apart from Maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de Labourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Port Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops and barracks. Labourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755, large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and when in 1825 the duty of ten shillings a hundredweight, levied on Mauritius sugar entering England (in order to protect the West Indian sugar), was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 pounds the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 pounds in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842, Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who to-day own and cultivate more than two-fifths of the whole area under sugar-cane. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artizan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle *Phytalus smithi* was discovered in the sugar-canes and more than 300 millions of these insects are now destroyed every year.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water-supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the maintenance of many works undertaken in the better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve his recommendation that a subsidy should be given to sugar to supplement the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

The position became worse in 1931 owing to a cyclone which caused considerable damage to property and reduced the year's output of sugar by about 33 per cent. The Imperial Government guaranteed a loan of £750,000 for planters, house owners, and repairs to Government property, on condition that a Financial Commission should visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget. The Commission's report was published at the beginning of 1932 and immediate steps were taken to carry out measures of retrenchment and economy. The situation was again critical in 1934 owing to the effect of a severe drought on the sugar crop; but since then the Colony has had the benefit of a substantial crop in two successive years and the general situation and outlook have considerably improved.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. The next year the Constitution was amended and a Council, including unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, was composed of the Governor, eight *ex-officio members*, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the population: of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represent the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who are to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect is made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions. The new Letters Patent, however, provide that the Governor shall have power to enact legislation considered by him to be essential in the interests of good government. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four *ex-officio* members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing two unofficial members to the Council was revived.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1936, was 9,400. Every male person who is qualified as follows is entitled to be registered as a voter:—

(1) has attained the age of 21 years;

(2) is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights;

(3) is a British subject by birth or naturalization;

(4) has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications:—

(*a*) is the owner of an immoveable property of the annual value of Rs.300;

(*b*) is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs.25 a month;

(*c*) is the owner of moveable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs.300;

(*d*) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications;

(*e*) is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs.600 or of a monthly salary of at least Rs.50; and

(*f*) is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs.200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary. The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called " Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis " and was instituted, as were other local Municipalities, by the " Assemblée Coloniale ". These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the " Assemblée Coloniale ", on 21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis " and were denominated the " Conseil des Notables ". The " Conseil des Notables " was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the " Conseil des Communes " and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1850, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge " La Triple Esperance " from 21st to 23rd February in that year. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered to take measures within the prescribed limits of the townships for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility, for the prevention of fires, and for the proper paving and lighting of the town, etc.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These Boards are empowered to pass regulations for the making, maintenance, and improvement of branch roads and footpaths, and for the levying of taxes in the extra urban areas.

III.—POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into (1) the general population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans and people of African, Chinese and mixed origins, and (2) the Indian population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants.

The estimated population of the island and its dependencies on the 31st December, 1936, was 410,920, showing an increase of 3,900, the rate of increase being 9·6 per thousand.

The geographical distribution of the population is shown in the following table:—

Districts.	Area in square miles.	Census population, 26th April, 1931.			Population on 31st December, 1936.		
		General population.	Indian population.	Total.	General population.	Indian population.	Total.
Port Louis	16½	29,832	24,603	54,435	31,360	24,552	55,912
Pamplemousses	69	6,847	30,000	36,847	6,624	28,843	35,467
Riviere du Rempart	57	5,518	25,274	30,792	5,913	26,402	32,315
Flacq	115	10,438	42,202	52,640	10,783	40,449	51,232
Grand Port	100½	12,484	36,135	48,619	12,971	35,109	48,080
Savanne	94½	6,645	24,456	31,101	6,869	23,899	30,768
Plaines Wilhems	78½	41,866	53,392	95,258	45,802	57,213	103,015
Moka	89	5,522	23,761	29,283	5,875	23,873	29,748
Black River	100	5,437	8,836	14,263	5,470	7,871	13,341
Total—Mauritius	720	124,589	268,649	393,238	131,667	268,211	399,878
Rodrigues	40	8,084	118	8,202	9,475	240	9,715
Minor Dependencies	47	1,354	103	1,457	1,232	95	1,327
Grand Total—Dependencies ...	87	9,438	221	9,659	10,707	335	11,042
GRAND TOTAL—Mauritius and Dependencies	—	134,027	268,870	402,897	142,374	268,546	410,920

The preponderance of males in the Indian population and that of females in the general population is shown in the next table.

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Mauritius—General Population	64,532	67,135	131,667
Indian ,, ...	138,339	129,872	268,211
Rodrigues—General ,, ...	4,627	4,848	9,475
Indian ,, ...	156	84	240
Minor Dependencies—General Population ...	713	519	1,232
Indian ,, ...	71	24	95
Total	208,438	202,482	410,920

The following tables give the number of births, deaths and still births registered in Mauritius during the last three years.

BIRTHS.

	Number of births.			*Rate per 1,000 of population.*		
	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
General Population ...	4,609	4,498	4,758	36·1	34·9	36·4
Indian ,, ...	8,907	8,748	9,109	33·7	32·9	34·1
Whole Population ...	13,516	13,246	13,867	34·5	33·6	34·9

DEATHS.

	Number of deaths.			*Rate per 1,000 of population.*		
	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
General Population ...	2,987	2,954	3,039	23·3	22·9	23·3
Indian ,, ...	7,082	7,491	7,461	26·8	28·2	27·9
Whole Population ...	10,069	10,445	10,500	25·7	26·5	26·4

STILL BIRTHS.

	Number of still-births.			*Rate per 100 live births.*		
	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
General Population ...	282	297	300	6·1	6·6	6·3
Indian ,, ...	1,025	1,004	1,021	11·5	11·5	11·2
Whole Population ...	1,307	1,301	1,321	9·7	9·8	9·5

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 1,973. The infantile mortality rate was 142·3 per thousand live births registered during the year as compared with 139·4 and 129·7 for 1935 and 1934 respectively.

The marriages during the year numbered 1,991 as compared with 1,651 in 1935. The marriage rate or number of persons married to every thousand of the entire population was 10·0 against 8·4 in 1935.

The arrivals exceeded the departures by 244.

IV.—HEALTH.

The present constitution of the Medical and Health Department dates back to 1895 when under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894-5 the powers vested in the General Board of Health were transferred to the Director, Medical and Health Department.

The headquarters staff of the Department consists of the Director, the Deputy Director and the clerical and accounting staffs of the correspondence, financial and storekeeping branches.

The administrative unit of Government is the district which is the political unit as well. Every district with the exception of Black River is provided with a hospital for the reception and treatment of the sick poor. Patients from the Black River district are treated in the Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes, or the Civil Hospital, Port Louis. The medical and sanitary administration of each of the rural districts is entrusted to a Government Medical Officer who is in charge of the district hospital and dispensaries and who is also the Health Officer for the district. To assist him, he has a number of subordinate officers; dispensers and sanitary officers and the staff necessary for the care of the patients in the hospital. In addition to his medical and sanitary duties he has also statutory duties of a medical or sanitary nature which he carries out on behalf of the Police and Poor Law Departments. The district dispensaries are visited at regular intervals by the Government Medical Officer.

The hospitals of the Colony are divided into two groups:—

(i) General hospitals, namely:—Civil, Victoria and Moka, totalling 626 beds, which are fully equipped for X-ray and major operative work; and

(ii) district hospitals where only medical and midwifery cases are admitted and where minor surgery is carried out to a certain extent.

Patients who apply to the latter hospitals and require special treatment, surgical or other, are conveyed to the nearest general hospital by motor ambulance. A mental hospital and a leper hospital are also administered by the Department.

The general health of the population during 1936 has been reasonably good. There was an exceptionally good crop leading to a consequent increase in the amount of money circulating in the Colony. There has been no scarcity of food and the general economic condition of the people, though low, has not been bad.

The principal diseases affecting the population are hookworm disease and malaria.

The prevention of hookworm disease has ceased to be a matter in which the central government can usefully intervene. With the abolition of the system of preparing for agricultural use manure whose chief constituent was human excrement, the widespread infection with hookworm of the canefields ceased. Naturally, some years were required for the cleansing of the soil but it may now be safely presumed that hookworm disease is seldom contracted in the canefields. The problem has become one of personal hygiene, dependent upon a radical change in the personal habits of a very conservative and still ignorant people. The influence of education and propaganda on an agricultural population whose standard of living is definitely low is practically negligible. It is only when a man becomes fairly prosperous that he feels the need to modify his habits according to the new standards of living to which his increased prosperity has raised him. Thus, though the majority of the rural inhabitants have provided their premises with latrines the proper use of which would undoubtedly prevent hookworm infection, they have not yet habituated themselves to their use.

But though the prevention of the disease is now in the ineffectual hands of the rural population, the Government can still institute measures for its control. By the frequent and extensive treatment of the rural population with appropriate drugs the Government ensures that a large percentage of them are periodically released of the infestation to which their blind adherence to custom makes them liable. The hookworm-malaria branch of the Department undertakes mass treatment of the rural population and in this way ensures for those who are willing to take the treatment a certain degree of relief from the consequences of their hygienic shortcomings. Concurrently with the administration of treatment, the staff of the branch hammer home the principles of prevention, but this part of the campaign shows little sign of being effective so long as the general economic level of the population is low. During the year 84,683 treatments were given.

Malaria.—In 1932 the malaria situation in the Colony was reviewed in the light of past colonial experience and of the new information which had become available through the labours of the Malaria Committee of the League of Nations in Europe. As a result of this review it became evident that much energy was being dissipated by the institution of inappropriate measures and the maintenance of old drainage works whose usefulness had disappeared, either on account of their having been established in areas where such treatment was uneconomic or inappropriate or because subsequent events had nullified their effectiveness. It was accordingly decided to apply to the different regions of the Colony the measures which in the light of the new experience were likely to produce the most effective return for the energy expended. In practice this has meant the virtual abandonment of anti-mosquito measures throughout the greater part of the rural areas lying below 600 feet altitude. Here the object of the Government is to make totaquina as widely available as possible so that sufferers may be able to obtain the treatment which they need. In a few populous places old drainage works of known effectiveness are maintained, but no new works are being undertaken in the meantime.

In most of the region lying higher than 600 feet anti-mosquito work is feasible, on account of the density of the population and of the effects of the cool season in restricting to practical numbers the permanent mosquito nurseries in the area. This area has now been the subject of close study for the past three years and it has been found that most of the mosquito nuisances are not such as require extensive permanent drainage works for their abatement. The problem on the central plateau is not the abolition or the treatment of large natural mosquito-breeding places but the abolition of innumerable small nuisances created and maintained by human agency. The area is strewn with gardens and small holdings on each of which there are maintained collections of water in the shape of watering tubs, barrels, tanks or pits. Of these the pits of the market gardens are the worst offenders as they have been repeatedly found to contain larvae of *A. Costalis*. Water receptacles of this kind are quite unnecessary in this area because practically every house or garden has a piped water supply. In fact most of the storage receptacles are filled from the pipe. The hookworm-malaria branch has been fully occupied in attempting to deal with this nuisance, but progress must necessarily be slow. Nevertheless control of such water collections is essential for control of malaria in this locality.

V.—HOUSING.

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories: (*a*) housing on estates, (*b*) housing in rural areas not estates, and (*c*) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are, for the most part, adequately housed. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts, constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs more commonly of thatch, but frequently of corrugated iron. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult. The lines must be kept clear of weeds, and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least ten feet round them. Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes. As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. Lighting is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

The housing in rural areas other than estates is fairly satisfactory. The Indian labourer can himself with the aid of his friends construct a satisfactory hut. He generally owns the piece of land on which he builds his hut and what is not occupied by the hut is planted with sugar cane or other agricultural produce, while room is also found for a primitive byre or a shelter for goats. The amenities of life are few, and a locality settled by a number of such persons bristles with sanitary problems arising out of poverty. Fortunately, most of them are now on a pipe-line so that their water supply gives little cause for anxiety, though they may have to carry their water several hundred yards from the nearest public fountain.

In the towns and townships conditions vary. There are areas of overcrowding with its consequent insanitary conditions. Too many persons live in one room though the climate is such as to obviate many of the evils attendant upon this practice.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Meteorological Conditions and Sugar Production.

Weather conditions during the year were fairly satisfactory, except in the Northern districts, where a drought was in evidence from March till August. Nothing in the incidence of weather factors justified an expectation of the highest sugar production so far recorded in this Colony.

The total cane reaped approximated 2,547 thousand metric tons, in excess by 45 thousand tons on last year's production. The sucrose content of the cane surpassed all expectations, averaging 13·71, as compared with 13·14 in 1935 and 12·86 in 1934. The average extraction, for the whole Colony, reached 11·79 per cent., as against a previous maximum of 11·25 in 1933. As a result of the association of these two favourable factors, the output of sugar reached the record total of 300·34 thousand metric tons.

The following table exhibits the comparative production for the past seven years:—

YIELD OF SUGAR IN THOUSAND METRIC TONS.

Districts.	*1936.*	*1935.*	*1934.*	*1933.*	*1932.*	*1931.*	*1930.*
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart	63·97	69·97	30·13	57·77	62·73	41·81	43·00
Flacq	49·98	44·15	30·87	41·37	35·97	27·91	37·81
Moka	43·42	35·76	29·30	40·08	34·12	20·83	32·10
Plaines Wilhems ...	21·89	20·62	11·54	18·22	17·05	11·64	14·62
Black River ...	12·85	11·28	5·99	8·88	9·06	6·29	9·81
Grand Port ...	56·10	53·38	38·37	50·66	46·66	28·52	46·53
Savanne	52·13	45·34	32·66	44·48	41·63	27·01	37·09
Total ...	300·34	280·50	178·86	261·46	247·22	164·01	220·96

The figure for 1931 evinces a reduction, estimated at 34 per cent., due to a severe cyclone. In 1934, there was a severe drought.

The large output for 1936 is probably the result of a number of different factors operating in the same direction: the high sucrose content, responsible for 12,000 to 15,000 tons of sugar extra, is probably due in part to the cool and sunny weather which obtained during the ripening season and, in part, to a higher percentage of sweet canes reaped (BH 10(12)).

The heavy yields obtained in the Central and Southern districts appear to result from (*a*) increase in the area cultivated, (*b*) improved cane varieties, (*c*) superior cultivation and fertilization, (*d*) enhanced irrigation, (*e*) total absence of cyclones, the whole associated with an excellent start of the crop made in November and December, 1935.

Grades of Sugar.—The proportion of raws was, this year, 77·85 per cent. as against 87·10 per cent. last year; vesous were 21·68 per cent. as against 12·60 per cent. in 1935, while low sugars approximated 0·47 per cent. as compared with 0·30 last year.

Area under Sugar Cane.—At the beginning of 1936 the area under cane was estimated at 139,341 acres, in excess by 1,032 on the corresponding figure for the year previous. Estates with factory cultivated 59,914 acres, estates without factory, 37,697, giving a total estate cultivation of 97,611. The balance of 41,730 acres was cultivated by small planters mostly Indian peasant proprietors.

Number of Factories.—In 1936, two more factories were closed down, the number in operation being reduced to 40. Two more factories will be dismantled in 1937 so that, for the 1937 crop there will be only 38 factories. They numbered 54 in 1921.

Varieties of Sugar Cane.—During the year an enquiry was conducted regarding the relative amount of cultivation of BH 10(12) on estates.

The results are as follows:—

Districts.	*Per cent of Total in BH 10 (12).*
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart	32
Flacq	31
Moka	8
Plaines Wilhems	22
Black River	37
Grand Port	21
Savanne	29
Whole Island	26

It would thus appear that over one-fourth of the total estate cultivation or, approximately, 26,000 acres are, at present, under BH 10(12). As the richness of BH 10(12) markedly exceeds that of Tannas while, with favourable weather, the yield in the field of the first variety is generally in excess of that of the second, it would seem that, within the next few years, the Colony's output in sugar may be appreciably increased owing to the extension given to BH 10(12).

Sugar Market.—The market for sugar remained debased throughout the greater part of the year. By 31st December, the whole production had been disposed of at an average price approximating to Rs.5.50 net per 50 kilos on a basis of 99° of polarization and including the benefit of extra Colonial preference.

Disposal of the 1935-6 *Crop and Local Sugar Consumption.*—The total sugar exported from 1st August, 1935, to 31st July, 1936, was 273,898·6 metric tons distributed as follows:—

	Metric tons.
Great Britain	241,776·6
Canada	31,531·3
Hong Kong	355·6
Other places	235·1
Total	273,898·6

The exportation for the 1936-7 crop, up to December, 1936, was as follows:—

	Metric tons.
Great Britain	116,907·0
Canada	16,529·8
Other places	114·9
Total	133,551·7

The local consumption of sugar for 1935-6 was 9,327 metric tons, as compared with 11,211 for the year previous and 10,381 for 1933-4.

Sugar Machinery.—Machinery to the value of Rs.589,449 was imported during the year as against Rs.438,588 in 1935. Tramway material to the value of Rs.328,219 was imported as compared with Rs.194,666 the year previous.

Fertilizers.—The importation of chemical fertilizers in 1936 totalled 21,588 metric tons at Rs.2,078,332 as compared with 15,590 metric tons in 1935 valued at Rs.1,754,425.

Pests and Diseases of the Sugar Cane.—Conditions during the year were practically the same as during the year previous. Experiments have been started regarding the effect of hand collection of adults *Phytalus smithi* versus non collection. New parasites of the beetle have been introduced from Madagascar and Java and Porto Rico.

Minor Agricultural Industries.

Tobacco.—The area cultivated in 1936 was increased to 661 acres. Disease was little in evidence but weather conditions were not, upon the whole, entirely satisfactory.

The amount of leaf purchased by the warehouse during the year was 375,923 kilos of a value of Rs.475,326, as compared with 275,710 kilos and Rs.268,321 in 1935.

Fibre.—Conditions in 1936 were somewhat better. The total export was 1,213·8 metric tons as against 446 in 1935. Consideration is being given to the best means of furthering the interests of the fibre industry and, in particular, to the possibility of reopening the bag factory.

Pineapple.—Prospects are somewhat better as regards this industry. The Colonial Development Fund has sanctioned an advance of £2,000 to growers and a committee has been appointed for the control of the fund. The same fund has donated £1,000 for experiments in pineapple cultivation by the Department of Agriculture.

During the year 1935-36 the canning factory turned out 2,960 cases of canned fruit of a net total weight of 66,600 kilos.

Tea.—Progress is being maintained in this industry. The total production of the two principal tea gardens reached 31,250 kilos in 1936.

Coconut Industry.—The export of copra-produce of the dependencies of Mauritius amounted during the year to 1,331·5 tons valued at Rs.229,884 as against 1,746 tons, valued at Rs.217,985 in 1935. The export of coconut oil during the year was 7,113 litres valued at Rs.2,686.

Alcohol.—The total quantity of alcohol distilled for human consumption amounted to 651,727 litres as against 539,361 the year previous. The quantity distilled for industrial purposes was 453,820 litres as against 360,670 in 1935. The exportation of rum during the year was 39,619 litres, valued at Rs.8,776 as against 18,155 litres valued at Rs.5,299 in 1935.

Veterinary and Livestock.—Interest in cattle breeding and management was principally focused on the possibility of producing cattle for meat. The question of improving the quality of local pastures was investigated and Professor Lindsay Robb of Pretoria University, South Africa, has furnished a full report on this question.

At the beginning of the year, horned cattle on estates totalled 14,195 and the number of sheep was 1,961. Cattle importation from Madagascar amounted to 5,767 valued at Rs.362,000.

The question of cattle raising in certain dependencies of Mauritius received attention during the year and prospects are considered generally satisfactory. As regards sheep breeding, the introduction of black head Persian rams has met with great appreciation on the part of Mauritius breeders.

The pig industry has also received attention and some good quality boars have been introduced.

Other Manufacturing Industries.

There was no decline in the subsidiary industries during the year. The number of engineering establishments remained at 47, while bakeries rose to 75. The number of lime kilns licensed in 1936 was 32 and of cabinet makers 161. There were four docks (landing etc.), four distilleries, three hydro-electrical plants, eight cigarette factories, one match factory, four salt making establishments affording employment in all to about 2,000 people.

In addition, leather tanning, boot and shoe making, aerated water works, ice making, vinegar making, biscuit and jams etc., provided means of work to a large number of people and went some way towards rendering the Colony more self supporting.

Fisheries.

In 1926 the question of Fishery Control in Mauritius was thoroughly investigated by Mr. J. Hornell, F.L.S.,F.R.A.I., formerly Director of Fisheries in Madras, and his recommendations in the printed report on the subject have formed the basis of the work of the local Fisheries Advisory Committee formed in 1927. Special consideration has been given to the questions of control of net fishing, improvement of local methods of fish-curing, protection of the local dried fish trade against the imported article, and ensuring a plentiful supply of cheap fish in the markets without prejudice to the working fishermen. Careful study of the whole question led the Committee to recommend a suspension of the use of large nets in 1934 and this was approved and has been in force since 1st October of that year. The results have shown clearly that the experiment has been justified and steps are being taken to make the prohibition permanent.

The lagoons, between the coral reef surrounding the Island and the beach, are normally full of excellent fish of many varieties which are taken in large quantities by means of basket traps, cast net and line and in the open sea outside the reefs large fish can be taken at practically all times of the year by trolling or with deep sea lines.

All professional fishing is done from small sailing craft known as "peniches" and "pirogues" which are well built and sea-worthy but the business side of the industry is quite undeveloped owing to local preference for old-fashioned methods which ought to be replaced. Amateur fishermen are well supplied with locally built sea going motor boats which enable them to reach the remarkable fishing grounds round the rocky islets lying from two to fifteen miles off the northern coast of the Colony where good sport is certain at almost all seasons.

Fish-curing industries are established at Rodrigues and St. Brandon Islands and produce a considerable quantity of what is one of the staple foods of the poorer classes but the dried fish of South Africa and India still commands a large sale and is imported in increasing quantities at a very low price.

River fishing is confined to spinning for carp and chite—a fish very like a mullet—but fishing rights are strictly preserved and suitable stretches of water are scarce.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The value of the external trade of the Colony in Merchandise for the year 1936 was Rs.67,867,395, of which Rs.30,218,589 represented Imports and Rs.37,648,806 Exports. The balance in favour of Exports was therefore Rs.7,430,217. In comparison to that of recent years, the trade balance may be regarded as satisfactory. Economic conditions, on the whole, showed improvement over the preceding year.

The total values of Imports and Exports for the last five years were:—

	Imports. *Rupees (c.i.f.).*	*Exports.* *Rupees (f.o.b.).*
1936	30,218,589	37,648,806*
1935	29,891,160	28,649,255
1934	29,680,346	26,136,140
1933	29,035,237	32,176,743
1932	26,992,760	27,662,851

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* Including the estimated value of sugar quota certificates, not included in previous year's figures.

The declared value of Exports in 1936 includes the value of sugar quota certificates which may be estimated at Rs.4,858,000 for the year.

Imports of Merchandise.

Mauritius produces barely one-tenth of the foodstuffs required for its inhabitants and imports practically all articles of food and drink, sugar excepted, and manufactured goods of all descriptions.

Rice, which is the staple food of the people, represented about 20 per cent. of the total imports in 1936, against 22 per cent. in 1935. The fall in the importation of rice is due, mainly, to the fact that an unusually large quantity was received in the closing months of 1935.

There was a decline in the importation of other essential foodstuffs chiefly wheat, flour, dholl, lentils, edible oils, with a corresponding rise in the importation of manufactured goods.

The proportion of food, drink and tobacco to manufactured articles imported is shown below:—

	Food, drink, and tobacco. *Rs.*	*Manufactured articles.* *Rs.*	*Total imports including other articles.* *Rs.*
1936	11,616,296	16,250,800	30,218,589
1935	12,900,047	14,745,275	29,891,160

Increases are noted mainly in earthenware and glassware, machinery and millwork, metals and manufactures thereof, petroleum lamp oil, petroleum motor spirits and chemicals for the preparation of manures.

The quota allotted in respect of Japanese cotton and artificial silk piece goods was the same as for the previous year. However, the trade in these goods with the United Kingdom and India showed a decrease of 20 per cent. and 12 per cent. respectively in comparison with last year's importations.

Japan continues to maintain her position with respect to woollen piece goods upon which no restriction has as yet been imposed.

In 1935, an enactment, which came into force on the 1st January, 1936, was passed by the Legislative Council with a view to ensuring an additional measure of control over the importation of quota cotton and artificial silk textiles (piece goods) from the United Kingdom.

A certificate of origin certifying that the goods have been spun, woven and finished in the United Kingdom, endorsed by certain Chambers of Commerce, must henceforth be produced in respect of importations of such goods from the United Kingdom.

Previous to 1932 the greater proportion of manufactured tobacco and cigarettes consumed locally was imported, but, as a result of the increase of customs duties combined with technical advice and control by the Agricultural Department, importations have decreased and a greater proportion of the tobacco consumed is now produced in the Island.

The trade returns indicate a similar trend for wines, matches, salt and maize.

The trade in edible oils which was formerly chiefly with India and China now shows an increase in favour of the United Kingom, owing to the superior quality of the soya oil there manufactured.

In addition to the above, the Colony is also a large importer of chemical fertilizers for the cane fields, coal and motor spirits for rail and motor transport; machinery for sugar estates; vehicles of all descriptions; bullocks for food and gunny bags for packing sugar.

Other considerable items of importation are wearing apparel, drugs, timber, provisions, etc.

The following table shows some of the principal articles imported during the last two years:—

		Quantity.		*Value in Rupees (c.i.f.).*	
		1936.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1935.*
Rice...	kilos	54,482,152	60,589,845	6,035,237	6,585,730
Flour	,,	8,103,027	9,625,013	1,017,554	1,000,061
Coals	,,	40,261,876	36,861,763	463,615	439,048
Timber		—	—	464,801	260,489
Apparel		—	—	621,274	524,350
Gunny bags	number	4,004,610	3,251,800	1,129,275	974,600
Cotton, grey	metres	1,539,084	4,702,085	265,361	862,859
,, white	,,	1,017,102		202,024	
,, coloured	,,	6,289,553	5,749,678	1,335,413	1,374,683
Silk (including artificial silk).		—	—	487,880	541,430
Machinery and millwork.		—	—	693,339	575,964
Motor-cars...	number	205	291	446,828	641,167
Petrol					
Lamp oil...	hectolitres	27,823	23,950	323,137	296,012
"Motor spirits"		66,163	54,170	872,612	696,481
Saltpetre	kilos	3,760,273	4,846,508	582,222	694,957
Sulphate of ammonia	,,	13,689,573	9,819,471	1,238,995	885,677
Soap, common	,,	1,558,929	1,171,323	530,669	456,343
Metals (iron and steel.		—	—	1,081,718	826,175
Metals (non-ferrous)		—	—	242,327	220,220

Exports of Merchandise.

Mauritius is almost entirely dependent on one industry—the sugar industry—and so long as efforts made to develop other industries do not meet with success the economic position will continue to be more or less insecure, especially on account of cyclones. The sugar exports in 1936 represented about 98 per cent. of the domestic exports. For the last two years they were:—

	Metric tons.	Value in Rupees. f.o.b.
1936	279,194	31,149,370*
1935	232,202	26,895,460

* Values of sugar quota certificates not included.

All sugar exported is consigned to the United Kingdom or Canada. Exports in 1936 were:—

	Tons.	Value in Rupees. f.o.b.
United Kingdom ...	262,351	29,462,107†
Canada	16,530	1,673,610
Hong Kong	305	12,624
Straits Settlements ...	8	1,029

† Values of sugar quota certificates not included.

Other exports are comparatively insignificant in value. They are chiefly:—aloe fibre (1,291 tons valued Rs.236,822); rum (39,159 litres valued Rs.8,776) copra and poonac (1,332 tons valued Rs.229,884); coconut oil (7,113 litres valued Rs.2,686).

Domestic Exports in the year amounted to Rs.31,842,308; Re-exports Rs.948,498.

The Re-exports are chiefly lentils, gunny bags, salted fish, old metals, cinema films consigned to the neighbouring Islands of Bourbon and Madagascar and also to the Union of South Africa, Japan and India.

Apart from the trade in merchandise, bullion and specie were imported and exported to the total value of Rs.50,000 and Rs.159,185 respectively in 1936 against Rs.36,866 and Rs.1,275,622 in 1935.

Distribution of Imports.

The import trade is mainly from the United Kingdom (31·65 per cent.) and India (33·04 per cent.), in 1936. The United Kingdom is the source of most of the manufactured articles and India of grain, spices and gunny bags.

Other sources of supply are Australia (4·28 per cent.); Japan (3·92 per cent.); France (3·62 per cent.) and the United States of America (3·17 per cent.).

Australia is the principal source of supply for wheat, flour and butter. Importations from Japan and United States of America increased slightly during the year.

The United States of America and the Dutch East Indies are the principal sources of petroleum products.

Course of Prices of Imports.

In 1936 there was a rise in the price of flour in comparison with the year previous. The price of rice and the other essential foodstuffs, however, remained unchanged.

Development of Empire Trade.

Since 1924 the Colony has accorded preference to the United Kingdom goods. This preferential tariff was extended from year to year and assumed, in 1933, an Empire character. As from 1934, quotas were imposed on artificial silk and cotton piece-goods and as a result both the United Kingdom and India have benefited.

The value of the import trade from the British Empire, in 1936, was Rs.22,802,528 against Rs.23,460,095 in 1935, while in respect of foreign countries it increased from Rs.358,009 in 1935 to Rs.7,375,447 in 1936. This is due to larger foreign importations of electric goods and apparatus, wearing apparel, glassware, metals, motor spirts, machinery.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

No change of importance occurred during the year. Labourers under monthly contract received, in cash Rs.10 per month, with rations, lodgings, medical attendance, etc., in all equivalent to about Rs.20 per month.

Male day labourers received R.0.50 to R.0.60 per daily task, during the intercrop season but, during harvest time, wages are about double these figures. Females, of whom a considerable number are employed, receive generally half the wages of males.

Remuneration for piece work was, on the average, as follows:—

	Per acre. *Rs.*
Clearing land	30–40
Digging cane holes	18–20
Manuring	15
Weeding	8
Cutting canes (20 tons/acre)	10–15

The wages of artizans were Rs.1 to 2 per day according to nature of work, while those paid monthly received Rs.35 to Rs.75 according to circumstances.

Domestic servants, especially in the Central and most populous districts, are easy to procure but well-trained servants are not so numerous on the market. Butlers, cooks, gardeners and other servants receive between Rs.10 and Rs.35 per month. Chauffeurs, on the average get Rs.35 per month.

No change in the rates of salaries occurred in 1935. The following table indicates the ruling rates:—

	Rs. per annum.
Managers of sugar estates and senior Government officials	8,000–13,000
Government, bank and commercial clerks (higher grade)	4,000– 7,000
Clerks and employees on sugar estates...	1,500– 3,000
Junior clerks and employees	720– 1,500

The cost of living in 1936 upon the whole decreased appreciably. Rice, the staple food of the population, was indexed at 74 during the first quarter and at 66 during the last (100 in 1914, as base). Other grains rose from 79 to 88. Flour remained about 60 during the first three quarters but rose to 120 during the last. Oils and fats were steady about 77 while tea and coffee decreased from 90 to 75. Articles of clothing decreased from 151 in the first quarter to 109 in the last.

The quarterly weighted index for the total cost of living (28 items) in 1936 was as follows (100 being the Index for 1914):—

First quarter	116·7
Second ,, ...	121·7
Third ,, ...	111·6
Fourth ,, ...	95·9

The mean for the year was 111·5 as compared with 115·9 in 1935. As regards the labouring classes, the following table indicates the purchasing power of wages, in terms of rice, since 1927:—

Year.	*Average daily wages of male labourer.*	*Average price of fair quality rice per lb.*	*Purchasing power of wages expressed in lb. of rice.*
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*lb.*
1927	1·25	0·13	9½
1928	1·25	0·10	12½
1929	1·00	0·10	10
1930	0·80	0·09	9
1931	0·75	0·08	9
1932	0·45	0·05½	8
1933	0·45	0·06	7½
1934	0·45	0·06	7½
1935	0·55	0·07	8
1936	0·55	0·06	9

The official index numbers do not take into consideration the improved standard of living since 1914, while such items as housing, lighting, tuition of children, taxes, etc., which have either not been reduced or else, actually increased. Consequently, the cost of living for Europeans and people living on the European standard is, generally, higher than the official index would lead one to suppose.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

An Ordinance, enacted by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, was introduced on the 18th of September, 1934, to amend and consolidate the Law on Education. It provides for the establishment of a Royal College Department and a Schools Department. The Regulations for the management of Government and Aided Primary Schools as well as Aided Secondary Schools are embodied in the Education Code.

Primary.—Primary Education is not compulsory, but it is given free through Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony. The following table shows the number of primary schools, the number of pupils on roll, and the staff of teachers during the year 1936:—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Government ...	50	393	15,192	10,987
Aided	77	659	24,774	17,837
Total ...	127	1,052	39,966	28,824

State-aided schools are under the control of a Manager, and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Pupils must be at least five years old and must have been successfully vaccinated in order to be allowed admission to a primary school; when they are under five they undergo preliminary training before being promoted to the lowest form.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, and arithmetic. In the higher classes elementary history and geography are taught and girls study needlework. Regular instruction is also given in physical drill, nature study, hygiene and elementary principles in agriculture.

There are six primary school standards or classes, viz.:—

Standard I with pupils from 5 to 6 years of age.
Standard II with pupils from 6 to 7 years of age.
Standard III with pupils from 7 to 8 years of age.
Standard IV with pupils from 8 to 10 years of age.
Standard V with pupils from 9 to 11 years of age
Standard VI with pupils from 10 to 12 years of age.

There are no fixed age limits for the different standards but no pupil may be entered on the attendance register who is under five years of age, and no pupil may be retained on the register after the annual examination which follows his or her fourteenth birthday, exception being made for pupils following the scholarship classes.

Examinations which were formerly held for all the classes are now limited to Standards V and VI. Experience has shown that the quality of the work put in, now that examinations have been restricted to the higher classes, is of a higher standard than it used to be. Much however is left to be done on this line and a definite scheme is being introduced for the benefit of the lower classes. The advantage gained by the primary schools through the methods of teaching introduced is positively proved by examination results.

Fourteen apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicraft. Needlework apprenticeships which were formerly restricted to Government or aided primary school pupils, are now open to outsiders. The object in view was to encourage competition on this line but, unfortunately the result is far from being satisfactory. There is a noticeable abstention from the handicraft examinations, and the reason for this may be ascribable to the undoubted aversion professed for manual work of any kind. Twenty-six scholarships and exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools are awarded every year, through competitive examinations, to the best pupils attending primary schools.

It is interesting to note that a high percentage of candidates winning the English scholarships are junior scholars from the primary schools.

There are 30 gardens attached to the primary schools and they are cultivated by the pupils of Standards III to VI. These gardens are regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation.

Secondary.—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz: (1) Secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (2) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by the Government.

(1) *Secondary aided schools.*—Government grants to secondary aided schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as in the case of primary aided schools with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

The following table shows the number of institutions, the number of pupils on roll and in average attendance, and the staff of teachers during the year 1936:—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Aided	9	134	1,599	1,406

These schools provide not only for elementary education such as is given in primary schools, but also for higher education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate and the London Matriculation.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history, and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale.

These schools are visited periodically by the Superintendent of Schools, who examines the lower forms. No advantage is gained from these examinations but it helps classification in view of prizes awarded for general proficiency. The middle and higher forms are examined partly by local examiners and partly through examinations conducted by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools, extend as a general rule, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. no provision being made for evening classes.

(2) *Royal College.*—The Royal College is a Government school for the secondary and higher education of boys up to a standard equivalent to that of the Higher Certificate examinations conducted by Oxford and Cambridge Universities. It comprises two schools under the management of the Rector, the Royal College proper in Curepipe and the Royal College School in Port Louis, where pupils who live in or near the capital are educated on the same lines as in Curepipe up to School Certificate Standard. At the Royal College the teaching staff consists of the Rector, twelve Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, eleven Assistant Masters appointed locally, and a Physical Training and Gymnastic Instructor (who also attends once weekly at the school to take classes); and at the Royal College School, of the Head-master, two Masters and nine Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped libraries and chemical, physical, and biological laboratories; almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies. The subjects taught are English, French, mathematics, Latin, Greek, chemistry, physics, biology, geography and history; and classes are held during school hours in physical training and gymnastics. The pupils are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from 10 to 20 years. The fees are from Rs.96 to Rs.192 per annum, and pupils may travel at quarter rate on the Government railways. Admission to the Royal College is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning one of the 20 annual Primary Schools Scholarships and Exhibitions or one of the two Secondary

Schools Scholarships awarded annually, or one of the eight class scholarships and exhibitions, which are competed for annually, and are open to all boys in the Colony. Six further class scholarships and exhibitions are competed for annually by Royal College pupils. These 36 scholarships and exhibitions are tenable at the Royal College, and entitle the holders to free tuition, free railway travelling to and from College, and also to the purchase at half price of books and school requisities, for a period of three years except the primary schools awards, which carry these privileges for the whole period of the pupil's college education.

Two scholarships one on the Classical and one on the Modern Side, of the present value of £1,200 each (with first-class passage to and from England) tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom are also awarded annually. Besides the winners of these two scholarships, a few boys whose parents can afford it go to England or France to study for a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practise. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects. Specialization begins at the Entrance class, and the division into modern and classical sides becomes complete in the Upper Middle class. At the School, pupils may undergo commercial training in place of classics or science.

Classes are held between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on five days weekly. In addition to the ordinary classes there are Saturday extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public science examinations are helped in their studies. The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1935, was 325, and of the School, 156. The average attendance at the College was 273 and at the School, 124. (The number of College pupils on the roll in May, 1935, after the publication of the School Certificate results, was 307.) One hundred and one pupils sat in December, 1934, for the Cambridge School Certificate, of whom 48 obtained certificates. In May, 1935, the number of pupils who had passed this examination and proceeded to the highest class of the College was 43.

Besides the regular Physical Training Classes encouragement is given to rugby and association football, hockey, boxing and gymnastics and athletics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high. As the pupils are all day-boys it is difficult to obtain much support for other social activities, but a school magazine is published thrice yearly.

Welfare Institutions.

There are six Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women, and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy; also an orphanage for boys and one for girls under the control and management of the Church of England, and one " home " for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland. These institutions receive from the Government a maintenance fee for each pauper maintained therein.

Under Ordinance No. 44 of 1932, subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 21 of 1934, a home, styled the Austin Wilson Home, has been instituted and incorporated to provide accommodation and subsistence for aged gentlefolk. The funds for the establishment of this home have been generously contributed by Mr. A. J. Wilson in memory of his son, the late Austin Wilson.

A Mohammedan orphanage was also established in Port Louis in 1932 for the maintenance and education of orphans of the Mohammedan creed. Funds for running the institution are obtained from voluntary subscriptions among the Mohammedans.

Outdoor assistance to paupers was granted in cash by the Poor Law Department during the year.

Several private religious societies for the distribution of assistance in food and medical care are also in existence. The Société Francaise d'Assistance chiefly assists French nationals.

The Child Welfare Committee and the Oeuvre Pasteur de la Goutte de Lait, two philanthrophic Institutions in receipt of Government grants, deal especially with expectant and nursing mothers and their babies.

The Workmen Compensation Ordinance provides for the grant of compensation by employers to workmen who are injured in the course of their work.

Recreation, Music, Art and Drama.

Association football is the most popular form of sport. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and rugby football are played mostly by the wealthier classes. The Mauritius Turf Club and the Mauritius Jockey Club hold race meetings from May to September at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis and at Floreal in the district of Plaines Wilhems; and regattas are held by the Yacht clubs of Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay. " La Chasse " or the shooting of driven deer is a favourite sport of Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies; the latter are known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy

Scouts have not been so successful as the Girl Guides, but efforts are being made to encourage the movement.

There is not much encouragement for any of the arts. Music is fostered principally by the parish churches whose amateur singers frequently give concerts. The Christian Brothers also provide musical training, and apart from the Police Band, which consists of a bandmaster and 30 bandsmen, a band styled the " Alliance Musicale " and comprising about 25 units was established in 1933.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent. The Institute has a collection of pictures presented by Mr. Rochecouste but there is no other art gallery.

Occasional dramatic performances are given by amateurs, but no permanent society has been formed. In better times the Municipality of Port Louis subsidizes a theatrical company from France, which plays in the theatre at Port Louis. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town, to which companies come from China when conditions are prosperous.

There exists a Royal Society of Arts and Sciences which was founded in 1829 under the title of Société d'Histoire Naturelle and was granted a Royal Charter in 1846. It interests itself in most branches of science and arts, especially those relating to questions of agriculture and the natural history of the Colony. The Society was incorporated with the Mauritius Institute in 1906 and its library has been transferred to the Institute.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads and Road Transport.

The Colony is well served with 500 miles of main roads maintained by Government and 188 miles of branch roads maintained by the District Boards. All roads are metalled and 165 miles of the main roads have been covered with bitumen.

The excellent roads of Mauritius are a source of constant surprise and admiration to all visitors to the Colony who are in a position to draw comparisons between Mauritius and other outlying posts of the Empire. All the principal roads are tarred and a systematic policy of widening, grading and reducing curves has been pursued for some years with the result that the numerous places of beauty and interest in the Colony can be reached quickly and in comfort by tourists and visitors.

At the end of the year there were 2,831 motor vehicles in use classified as follows:—

Private cars	1,743
Taxi cabs	364
Lorries	368
Motor cycles	218
Omnibuses	138

Importations of motor vehicles during the year totalled 332 of which 272 were British made.

Taxi Cabs for hire in Port Louis and the principal towns are of modern type and are kept in excellent condition as regards safety and cleanliness and the charges for hire are reasonable—viz. R.0.20 per mile for short distance and special rates for long journeys or by the day. There is an excellent bus service on the 15 miles of main road from Port Louis to Curepipe and many subsidiary lines of less importance which radiate from the main system to every town and village in the Colony. The fares vary from 2 to 5 cents per mile and buses on the principal routes are well patronized and maintained in excellent condition for the safety and comfort of passengers. The retail price of petrol is normally Rs.11.00 per eight-gallon case, which is equivalent to about 2s. 1d. per gallon.

The annual tax payable in respect of motor vehicles is Rs.4 per horse-power in respect of motor cycles and Rs.5 per horse-power in respect of other classes of vehicles. Lorries pay an additional tax of Rs.40 per ton gross weight and motor buses a licence duty varying from Rs.200 to Rs.500 per annum in accordance with their seating capacity. Motor lorries plying for hire pay a further licence of Rs.200 per annum. Motor Cabs pay a licence duty of Rs.30 per annum and the cost of a driving licence is Rs.5 a year.

Cars of visitors are subject to a tax at the rate of Rs.5 a month.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways comprise 110 miles of main line with 45½ miles of siding and station lay-outs of British standard 4 feet 8½ inch gauge, and 13½ miles of 75 cm. gauge track known as the Bois Cheri Light Railway. The exceptionally heavy gradient, much of it being 1 in 26, makes the operation of the Railways exceptional, restricting speed of the passenger service and limiting the weight of goods trains.

From the terminal at Port Louis, the most important section, the Midland line rises to 1,800 feet on its way to Mahebourg, the old port on the south-east coast of the island, 35¼ miles distant. A branch, 11 miles long, from this line, Rose Belle serves the fishing hamlet of Souillac. The North line, 33½ miles long, is fairly level and runs from Port Louis passing through the coastal districts to the little village of Grand River South-East, on the east coast. The Moka branch from Rose Hill, on the Middle line, 950 feet above sea-level, to Montagne Blanche, is 14¾ miles long and rises on this length to 1,500 feet. Tamarin and the Black River district are served by a branch off the Midland line at Richelieu, 12½ miles long, for goods traffic only. The Montagne Longue branch from Terre Rouge on the North line, is 3½ miles long, and in common with the Black River line has no heavy gradients.

Particulars of revenue and expenditure for five financial years are given below:—

Revenue.

	1931–32.	*1932–33.*	*1933–34.*	*1934–35.*	*1935–36.*	*Increase or Decrease of 1935–36 over 1934–35.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers... ...	434,325	419,181	524,818	510,728	466,307	– 44,421
Parcels	63,466	62,163	65,776	61,019	63,515	+ 2,496
General Goods ...	817,077	1,174,046	1,255,729	928,850	1,288,520	+ 359,670
Miscellaneous ...	70,875	57,412	53,809	52,102	52,886	+ 784
Net Revenue ...	187,938	63,554	36,738	43,809	47,204	+ 3,395
Total ...	1,573,681	1,776,356	1,936,870	1,596,508	1,918,432	+ 321,924
Goods Tonnage ...	254,139	362,642	385,541	279,646	422,811	

Expenditure.

	1931–32.	*1932–33.*	*1933–34.*	*1934–35.*	*1935–36*	*Increase or Decrease of 1935–36 over 1934–35.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Working expenditure including renewals.	1,945,113	1,516,631	1,606,730	1,808,354	1,877,048	+ 68,694
Net revenue expenditure.	642,785	260,955	190,308	223,162	189,103	– 34,059
Total ...	2,587,898	1,777,586	1,797,038	2,031,516	2,066,151	+ 34,635
Capital Expenditure.	20,226	304	—	26	11,604	+ 11,578
	2,608,124	1,777,890	1,797,038	2,031,542	2,077,755	+ 46,213

As a contrast with last year, the 1935-6 sugar crop was a record one, viz., 281,000 tons, and the financial results are reflected in the above statement.

In spite of the increased revenue from sugar, some of the more favourably placed estates have adopted Diesel motor lorries to transport their sugars to Port Louis, the effect of which would be to raise the rail transport costs to those factories less favourably situated for road access. Measures have therefore been placed before the Legislature to preserve all sugar traffic for the railway, the latter being at present in a general sense essential for the due transport of the crop. Passenger traffic continues to diminish and, although the early promise of reduced fares has not been fulfilled, there is as yet no urgency to curtail the passenger service. There can be no doubt however that road travel is increasing, due to the flexibility of the bus services and the size and comfort of the buses, which are not regulated by time tables and not tied down to fixed fares. In consequence the existing Rs.450,000 to Rs.500,000 of passenger revenue is in jeopardy.

Tramways.

Better economic conditions for the sugar industry resulted in a perceptible extension of tramways on estates, notwithstanding the greater extension of motor traffic. In 1936, the total extent of rail on estates approximated to 1,770 kilometres as against 1,680 in 1935. There were 220 locomotives and about 7,400 trucks. Farm tractors numbered 72 and motor lorries 99.

Posts, Telegraphs and Wireless.

The inland postal service is fairly well developed, the usual facilities in regard to correspondence, parcels and remittances being available. The island is served by 52 offices and postal agencies of which 47 are also telegraph offices. With the exception of a few outposts in outlying localities, the offices are on the railway lines. The outlying offices and localities far from the railway stations are served by postmen or by mail contractors.

Mails to and from Europe are received and despatched regularly twice every month by the French Messageries Maritimes Steamers via Suez, and twice in transit through South Africa by the Dutch K.P.M. Steamers. Other vessels are occasionally available. The time taken in transit for letters from Great Britain is about 32 days by the Messageries Maritimes Steamers and between 26 and 52 days via South Africa.

English parcel mails are not received by the Cape route unless a direct boat is available; the normal route is via Marseilles. Parcels from continental Europe are also received by this route.

Mails to and from India, Ceylon, the Far East and Australia are usually received and forwarded by the Messageries Maritimes Steamers via Mombasa or Aden, and by the K.P.M. Steamers via Singapore or Batavia.

There is a regular monthly service by the Dutch K.P.M. Steamers with Rodrigues, the largest dependency of Mauritius, and a regular four-monthly steamer service with the other dependencies. Occasional communications by sailing vessels are also available.

Remittances may be made by both money orders and postal orders. There are direct exchanges with the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Ceylon, Mozambique, Australia, Seychelles and Hong Kong; and through the intermediary of these offices, remittances may be made to almost any place. Remittances may also be made by telegraph to the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Mozambique and Seychelles.

There is a telephone service which is managed by the Oriental Telephone Company whose main office is in Port Louis with which the rural districts are connected. Government offices are linked together by a Government owned telephone system which is connected with the Oriental Telephone Company's lines.

Telegraphic communication is provided by cable and is maintained by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company whose chief local station is at Port Louis; the Company has also a station at Port Mathurin in Rodrigues. Cablegrams are transmitted to and from the rural Post Offices on Government lines.

Communication with the outer world is also maintained by a wireless station. The station works mainly with ships at sea, but there is also a service with Reunion Island. The Station was built by the Admiralty in 1915 for communication with ships at sea and with various naval bases in the Indian Ocean. It was closed during a short period in 1922-3 and was taken over by the Mauritius Government in June, 1923. There has been a 24-hour service since October, 1928.

During the cyclonic season from 11th November to 15th May, the station transmits to all ships and stations within range, at 0845 G.M.T. daily, a detailed weather report including observations made at Seychelles, Rodrigues, Reunion and Durban. The average yearly number of weather reports intercepted from ships at sea is 2,500. When a cyclone is in the vicinity the Government tug *Maurice* stationed in the harbour at Port Louis is manned and inland weather reports are transmitted by wireless telegraphy from the tug to all vessels in port, for the guidance of their masters. The wireless apparatus in the *Maurice* also acts as a stand-by in the event of accident to the aerial system at the main wireless station at Rose Belle. The Rose Belle Station is provided with a modern valve set in conformity with the Telecommunication Convention. The range of the Station is 1,000 miles.

There is a privately-owned local broadcasting station licensed by Government. The station transmits between 1900 and 2000 G.M.T. programmes consisting mainly of gramophone records.

Harbour.

Port Louis, the capital of the Colony, possesses the only navigable harbour for ocean-going ships, which is picturesquely situated on the north-west coast. A wide break in the ring of coral reefs surrounding the island, caused by the meeting of several rivers and streams, the Latanier, La Paix, Le Pouce, and Creole, gives access to the harbour, which has been dredged so as to provide deep-water accommodation for ten ships lying at berths in the channel and drawing from 24 to 31 feet of water. The harbour is flanked on the north by Fort George, a military post, and on the south by Fort William, which is abandoned. The mountains of the range behind Port Louis, including the

Judicature.—Ordinances Nos. 9 and 10 amend the District Court Constitution Ordinance with reference to the jurisdiction of the District Magistrates.

Civil Service.—Ordinance No. 43 of 1936 provides for a total recast of the law governing the grant of pensions, gratuities and allowances to Civil Servants in the Colony.

A list of the more important Ordinances is given in Appendix I to this Report.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the year ended 30th June, 1936, amounted to Rs.15,350,986, including Rs.42,000, the unexpended balance of the 1922 Loan, and was Rs.92,564 less than the Estimate and Rs.7,613,258 less than that of the previous year.

The expenditure for the same period was Rs.14,694,644, being Rs.455,722 below the Estimate and Rs.5,956,310 below that of the previous year.

The revenue during the financial year 1935-36 exceeded expenditure by Rs.656,342 and the surplus of assets over liabilities on 30th June, 1936, amounted to Rs.17,846,203.

Of the expenditure for 1935-36, Rs.4,946,200 were spent on "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.9,748,444 on "Other Charges". The corresponding figures for 1934-35 were Rs.4,934,509 for "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.15,716,445 on "Other Charges".

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years.

Year.	*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.
1931–32	12,160,279	17,704,574
1932–33	30,200,418	13,810,589
1933–34	16,567,110	14,634,339
1934–35	22,964,244*	20,650,954
1935–36	15,350,986	14,694,644

* Including Rs 7,882,380 Special Revenue.

The revenue normally becoming due and collected during the year 1932-33 was Rs.14,503,504, and the increase in the amount shown for that year was due to special adjustments comprising, *inter alia*, the following transfers to Revenue:—

	Rs.
Widows' and Orphans' Fund	5,032,347·84
Government Scholarship Fund	539,769·17
Improvement and Development Fund	6,317,717·98
Mauritius Loan, 1922	1,362,678·99
Unexpended balance, Sugar Industry Loan, 1929 ...	7,315·90
	13,259,829·88

Health.—There were eight deaths in hospital as compared with 13 in the preceding year.

Industrial School.

The Barkly Industrial School for boys is an institution for the training of juvenile offenders and vagrants, boys living in criminal surroundings, and those who cannot be controlled at home or in orphanages, etc.

The School is under the supervision of the Commissioner of Police and has a resident staff of one Chief Officer and 11 Instructors and Assistants. It occupies a group of buildings formerly used as a hospital and comprises large grounds which are fully cultivated as gardens, etc.

The number of boys in the School at the end of the year was 91, compared with 77 in 1935 and 54 in 1934. The number of admissions was 48 and discharges 26 for the whole year.

A Visiting Committee instituted by law looks after the general welfare of the inmates of the School and exercises a beneficent influence on the institution.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Forty-five Ordinances were passed by Council of Government and assented to by the Governor between the 3rd of April and the 3rd of November, 1936.

The majority of these Ordinances deal with matters of domestic importance amongst which the following are of considerable importance.

Public Health.—Ordinance No. 11 of 1936 provides for an extension of the sewerage area of the town of Port Louis with consequential improvement in the health conditions likely to be derived therefrom.

Law and Order.—(i) Ordinance 41 of 1936 provides for the prevention of riots and the better preservation of the public peace.

(ii) Ordinance No. 29 amends the Penal Code Ordinance No. 6 of 1838, with reference to the counterfeiting of coins, seals and similar offences.

(iii) Ordinances Nos. 14 and 15 of 1936 provide better and more adequate measures for the deportation of undesirable persons.

Finance.—(i) Ordinance No. 1 and Ordinance No. 7 of 1936 provide for the establishment and financing of a local Agricultural Bank.

(ii) Ordinance No. 13 provides for the better control of the Government Savings Bank.

(iii) Ordinance No. 35 provides for the transfer of the balance of the Mauritius General Improvement and Development Fund to the general revenue and assets of the Colony.

(iv) Ordinance No. 31 provides for the control of the transport of sugar and fertilizers.

Prisons.

Organization.—The Mauritius Prisons Department has an establishment of four Gazetted Officers, who are appointed from England, and 108 other ranks recruited locally.

The Department is placed under the charge of the Commissioner of Police, who holds the appointment of Superintendent of Prisons, and is responsible for the management and control of the two penal institutions of the Colony, Port Louis and Beau Bassin Prisons.

Port Louis Prison provides separate cell accommodation for 154 male prisoners, association cells for 40 women in a special block, and contains the offices of the Department and quarters for two Chief Officers and two matrons.

Every male convicted prisoner is sent to this Prison and on admission is classified as (1) Adult Felon, (2) Adult Hard Labour, (3) Adult Misdemeanant, (4) Juvenile Felon or Hard Labour, (5) Juvenile Misdemeanant or (6) Special.

Felons are prisoners sentenced to penal servitude and misdemeanants are those sentenced to imprisonment without Hard Labour or for failing to pay fines.

Groups (1), (2) and (4) are subdivided into First Offenders and Recidivists.

Prisoners classified in Group (1) and Recidivists of Group (2) sentenced to 14 days and upwards normally serve their sentence at Beau Bassin which contains 756 separate cells for males only while all misdemeanants, Special Class and well-conducted Adults and Juvenile First Offenders are accommodated at Port Louis.

Debtors, Women and Waiting Trial Prisoners are also given separate accommodation at Port Louis Prison.

Labour.—Hard labour consists of quarrying, stone breaking, cutting firewood, and agricultural work outside the Prisons, and tailoring, boot, sail and mattress making, tin-smith work and black-smithing, carpentry and cabinet making, blind, mat and basket making and baking inside the prison's workshop.

Population.—The number of persons admitted to Port Louis Prison during the year was 2,695, which is 228 less than in the previous year and 604 less than the average for the preceding five years. Of the 2,695 persons, 1,684 were convicted, of whom 1,179 were sentenced to imprisonment for one month or less. The convicted prisoners comprised 1,609 men and 75 women. The daily average population was 451·15 compared with 444·89 in 1935 and the number of persons in prison on 31st December, 1936, was 379 compared with 417 in 1935 and 424 in 1934.

Of the 379 persons in Prison, 355 were serving sentences and comprised 345 men and 10 women.

The number of persons who served sentences of imprisonment in lieu of paying fines was 854, including 39 women.

The Dependency of Rodrigues is administered by a Magistrate who has the same jurisdiction in Rodrigues as a District Magistrate in Mauritius and whose duties are to a considerable extent administrative.

The Magistrates heard 11,481 civil cases and 11,048 ordinary criminal cases and petty offences and held:—

165 coroners' inquests;
24 preliminiary inquiries into crimes and serious misdemeanours.

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force has an establishment of 21 Gazetted Officers and 596 other ranks. The personnel of the Force is almost entirely recruited locally, there being at present only 13 Officers and Warrant Officers classified as "Home-born" who were posted from England or transferred from other Forces.

The Force is organized mainly as a "Civil" as distinct from a "Military" Police Force but recruits are instructed in the use of the rifle, an Armed Detachment is maintained at Headquarters and those who have qualified in preliminary tests fire a musketry course every year.

The establishment is divided into Headquarters Staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Revenue and Motor Vehicle Control Branch, Training School, Harbour Police, Railway Police, District Police, Rodrigues Police and the Police Band.

Police Headquarters is situated in the historic Line Barracks of Port Louis and the District Police are distributed in 55 Stations of varying size and importance.

Crime.—The total number of offences of all kinds reported to the Police during the year 1936 was 23,986 which shows a slight decrease on the figure for 1935 which was 24,216 and also a decrease on the average of 24,000 for the past three years.

More than half of these offences are of a minor character or refer to Statutory and Revenue contraventions.

The more serious offences are classified as follows:—

Offences against the person	... ...	8,620 in 1936
" " "	... ...	8,442 in 1935
Offences against property	... ...	3,169 in 1936
" " "	... ...	2,929 in 1935

The number of persons prosecuted in connexion with these 23,986 offences was 9,946, of whom 8,918 were convicted, 591 otherwise disposed of and 437 pending trial at the end of the year.

Corresponding figures for the previous year were 10,589 persons prosecuted, 9,525 convicted, 537 otherwise disposed of and 527 pending trial at the end of the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Justice is administered in Mauritius by the Supreme Court and ten District Magistracies.

Supreme Court.—The Supreme Court sits in the capital (Port Louis) and is presided over by one Chief Judge and two Puisne Judges. It has jurisdiction in Civil and Criminal matters and also as a Court of Admiralty; it also decides appeals from the Supreme Court of Seychelles and the Inferior Courts of Mauritius. There is a Bankruptcy Division presided over by one of the Judges or by the Master and Registrar sitting as Judge in Bankruptcy. In 1936 the Supreme Court dealt with 254 civil matters out of 320 which were brought before it, as against 238 out of 298 in 1935. In 1936 14 persons were brought before this Court and tried on criminal charges and of these 11 were convicted. Criminal cases are tried by a Judge and a Jury. Divorce cases, bankruptcy matters and civil actions in which the sum involved is less than Rs.3,000 are heard by one Judge. Civil actions in respect of claims over Rs.3,000 are heard by two Judges. Where, however, the magnitude of the interests at stake or the importance of the questions of fact or law involved make it desirable, a case is heard by three Judges.

Magistrates.—There is a Magistrate's Court in each of the nine districts, the Courts in Port Louis and in Plaines Wilhems each sitting in two divisions. A Magistrate has jurisdiction in nearly all civil matters involving not more than Rs.1,000 and in all criminal matters with power to inflict not more than one year's imprisonment and Rs.1,000 fine. A Bench of three Magistrates may be instituted by law for the trial of certain offences and also at the request of the Procureur-General for nearly all offences, with jurisdiction extending to three years' penal servitude or imprisonment and fine possibly of Rs.3,000. An appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court within the limits stated above, both in fact and law, the several modes of reviewing the decisions being the same as in English Law. There is no system similar to the French Assistance Judiciaire but facilities are given to very poor litigants both before the Supreme and the Inferior Courts to obtain leave to sue *in forma pauperis*. In Supreme Court cases, counsel are ready to accept a pauper brief at the request of the Chief Judge, while in Assize cases counsel is always appointed without fee, for undefended prisoners. The Dependencies are visited periodically by one of two Magistrates supernumerary to the District Magistrates, whose services are also available in Mauritius.

on measures that could be adopted to improve the quality. The report was received in June, 1934, and it concluded as follows :—

> "The purification of the Mare-aux-Vacoas waters by means of existing slow sand filtration is inefficacious and defective and does not constitute an adequate safeguard in the event, however unlikely, of harmful contamination of the raw water."

The main recommendations of the Committee were to the effect that (i) the raw water should be taken from the lake as near as possible from the surface, (ii) the water should be aerated before the filters and (iii) the water chlorinated after filtration.

The works recommended by the Committee of the Mare-aux-Vacoas water have been proceeded with and completed.

The water supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from 27 different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest. The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000 and is comprised mostly of the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains.

Irrigation works.—Government storage irrigation works were begun in 1914 according to plans made by Mr. C. M. Harriott, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.Inst.C.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Central Provinces, India, and Consulting Engineer for Irrigation Works to the Government of Mauritius. The La Ferme scheme for the irrigation of the south-west of the island, between Grand River North West and River Dragon, has been completed, and the Nicoliere scheme to irrigate land in the north, was started in 1918. These two schemes cover 18,700 acres in the area below the level which enjoys 60 inches of rain and cannot be cultivated to the best advantage without irrigation water. The La Ferme scheme is dependent on a low-level reservoir of 2,500 million gallons, which was completed in 1918 and now irrigates 3,700 acres of land under sugarcane plantation. The plans for the Nicoliere scheme include a high-level storage reservoir at 1,300 feet altitude at Midlands, of 4,400 million gallons capacity, intended to fill a low-level reservoir at Nicoliere of a capacity of about 250 million gallons.

Owing to financial conditions the plans were first curtailed and the works afterwards suspended. The Feeder Channel which measures 16¾ miles from Midlands to Nicoliere and which had been completed by the end of 1931 with a reduced section has now been built up to its full section and concreted. The area covered by the existing curtailed plan is only 11,000 as compared with 15,000 acres in the original plan.

Damage is caused to a considerable extent by white ants which are particularly active in the low-lying districts of the island.

Severe cyclones, which happily are not frequent, are responsible for a good deal of damage to water works, roads and buildings.

Sewerage Works of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922, the scheme was revised by Messrs. Mansergh and Sons and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connexions, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

Bridges.—There exist 335 bridges on main and branch roads, the longest having spans of 150 feet. Only a few timber bridges remain and these are being gradually replaced by ferro concrete structures for double line of traffic and heavy loading.

Water Works.—The water supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from the Grand River North-West at a distance of about four miles from the town at a level of 250 feet. This supply was handed over by the Municipality to the Public Works Department in 1922. The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated. The capacity of the mains leading to the filters is 5 million gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of 2 million gallons.

The water supply of Plaines Wilhems and of parts of Moka and Black River Districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare aux Vacoas, at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons. The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands. The whole of this water supply is filtered through sand filters at "La Marie", about two miles below the reservoir, whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being 5¼ million gallons. The population served by this supply is approximately 90,000, and the average daily consumption 3¾ million gallons. The Mare aux Vacoas water supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. The supply is limited to 900,000 gallons per day. In this connexion a covered service reservoir at Petite Riviere of 750,000 gallons was completed and put into operation in 1931.

At the beginning of 1934, a Committee was appointed to report on the quality of the water of the Mare aux Vacoas supply, and

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use; the following special French and local measures are, however, still to be found:—

Measures of length and area:—

1 ligne Francaise = 2·258 millimetres or 0·088 inch.
12 lignes = 1 French inch.
12 French inches = 1 French foot.
1 French foot = 1·06 English feet.
1 lieue = 2½ English miles (approx.).
1 gaulette = 10 French feet.
1 arpent = 40,000 square French feet or 1·04 acres.
1 toise = 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches.

Measures of capacity:—

1 barrique = 50 gallons (cane juice, etc.).
1 tiercon = 190 to 192 litres (molasses).
1 velte = 7·45 litres (coconut oil).
1 bouteille = 800 cubic centimetres (liquid).
1 chopine = ½ bouteille.
1 corde = 80 French cubic feet or 96·82 English cubic feet (firewood).

Measures of weight:—

1 Gamelle = 5·250 kilogrammes.
1 livre = 500 grammes or 1·10 English pounds.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Government buildings, the sewerage of Port Louis, roads and bridges, the survey of Crown Lands, water supplies, and State irrigation.

Buildings.—Some of these, such as a time-ball tower in the Port Office, are of historical interest, dating from the time of the French Governor, Mahé de Labourdonnais, in 1740. Government House in Port Louis was then in project and was built between 1740 and 1767. Apart from the addition of a second storey, it now stands exactly as it was originally constructed. It contains the Governor's offices, in which are to be found the table on which the instrument of capitulation of the island was signed in 1810, a throne room, a council room, the council offices, a library, and quarters for the Governor and officials. The former and present residences of the Governors at " Mon Plaisir ", Pamplemousses, and " Le Reduit ", Moka, respectively, also date back to the French occupation. The value of the Government buildings is approximately 15 million rupees.

There are in the island one mental and nine general hospitals. An old hospital, the Grand River North-West Hospital, built in 1769 for seamen, is used when necessary as a quarantine station for plague.

The Currency Commissioners are entitled to charge commission not exceeding one and three-quarters per centum in addition to the cost of any telegrams sent in connexion with any transfer.

The effect has been to substitute for the Indian rupee a new paper rupee based on sterling and to limit official exchange fluctuations to a maximum spread of three and a half per centum.

Local commercial practice is such that the effective rate of exchange is the rate at which the banks sell sterling and not the mean between the buying and selling rates. At the time the Ordinance was introduced the rate was Rs.13.70 for £1 by telegraphic transfer, or approximately one rupee for one shilling and five pence halfpenny sterling. With a view to avoiding any sudden fluctuation in the actual rate of exchange, the commission which the Currency Commissioners were authorized to charge when selling sterling was fixed, in the first instance, at the maximum of one and three-quarters per cent., making the effective official exchange rate Rs.13.57 for £1 in respect of amounts of £5,000 or over. The rate charged by the Currency Commissioners when buying sterling has been fixed at one-quarter per cent.

The value of the currency is maintained by a Note Security Fund held by the Crown Agents and invested in Government Securities (other than those of the Colony). Profits arising from currency transactions and income from the investments of the Note Security Fund must be applied in the first instance to maintaining the Security Fund at a value equal to the face value of currency notes in circulation. If the value of the Note Security Fund reaches one hundred and ten per cent. of the face value of notes in circulation, all profits then accrue to the revenue of the Colony.

With a view to facilitating transactions between the Banks and between the Banks and the Treasury, new notes of Rs.1,000 denomination were issued in November, 1936.

Subsidiary silver coinage was introduced under an Ordinance passed in September, 1934. The coins are not normally redeemable but the seignorage on the issue is invested.

The value of the currency notes of five rupees, ten rupees and one thousand rupees, in circulation on 31st December, 1936, was Rs. 9,227,500 and that of Mauritius silver coins on the same date Rs.1,875,000.

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius rupee, equivalent to 1s 6d. sterling, divided into 100 cents.

The coinage in circulation is the silver rupee, half rupee, quarter rupee and 20-cent and 10-cent pieces and the bronze 5-cent, 2-cent and 1-cent pieces.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are three private banks in the Colony, viz. :—

(a) The Mauritius Commercial Bank;

(b) The Mercantile Bank of India; and

(c) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838, and has paid-up capital of Rs.2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs.200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1936, was Rs.7,015,671. The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid-up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1936, amounted to Rs.2,931,523. Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid-up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local Bank on 31st December, 1936, amounted to Rs.3,511,721. This Bank which is affiliated with Barclays Bank, Limited, was founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836), and the National Bank of South Africa Limited. A branch of the last-named bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1936, was 38,990 compared with 38,553 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs.6,495,031 as against Rs.6,236,739. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

Currency.

In March, 1934, an Ordinance was enacted "to make provision with respect to the currency notes of the Colony and to place the issue of such currency notes upon a permanent basis". By this Ordinance the Currency Commissioners are required to issue, on demand, currency notes in exchange for sterling lodged with the Crown Agents in London, and to pay on demand sterling in London in exchange for currency notes lodged with them. The rate at which these exchanges are to be made is fixed at one rupee for one shilling and six pence sterling, and the minimum transaction is £5,000 or its equivalent.

K.P.M. and Union Castle lines averages 32 days. The same voyage by the Messageries Maritimes Line via Marseilles would take from 31 to 36 days.

Vessels of the Bullard King Company call occasionally from the United Kingdom via Durban and Cape Ports, with tourists.

Cheap passages to the United Kingdom may, as usual, be secured during the sugar shipping season—October to March—the voyage averaging 40 days.

The fares from Mauritius to England vary as follows:—

(i) per Messageries Maritimes steamers, from £76 to £32;

(ii) per Union Castle Intermediate steamers from £89 to £36;

(iii) per K.P.M. with transhipment at Durban from £117 and £92 to £48 and £44;

(iv) per Bullard King & Company's steamers from £30 to £43 according to classes and types of steamers.

Government servants are allowed a rebate of from 15 to 20 per cent. by all the above companies.

The number of vessels and total tonnage entering and leaving the port during the past three years were as follows:—

INWARDS.

		1934.		1935.		1936.	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	207	641,389	200	625,175	206	641,150
	Sailing ships	2	345	—	—	1	88
		209	641,734	200	625,175	207	641,238
Coastings	Steamers ...	6	5,274	11	8,197	11	9,045
	Sailing ships	20	3,837	15	2,413	14	1,465
		26	9,111	26	10,610	25	10,510

OUTWARDS.

		1934.		1935.		1936.	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	207	643,543	201	622,274	205	645,315
	Sailing ships	1	40	—	—	1	88
		208	643,583	201	622,274	206	645,403
Coasting	Steamers ...	6	5,274	10	8,166	12	9,924
	Sailing ships	21	4,142	15	2,402	14	1,465
		27	9,416	25	10,568	26	11,389

The Colonial Government pays a military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its revenue (total revenue exclusive of land sales, irrigation, Mare aux Vacoas and other water works revenue, and special export duty on sugar) towards the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

The contribution was, however, limited to £42,000 for the year 1935-36 to cover the actual cost of the garrison during the year.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 30th June, 1936, was £2,878,995. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £1,836,347 compared with £1,743,372 on 30th June, 1935.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30th June, 1936.

Liabilities.	*Rs.*	*Assets.*	*Rs.*
Other Colonial Governments.	37,666	Cash Balances	6,705,223
		Imprests	2,750
Deposits	655,244	Advances	12,026,591
Loan Funds Unexpended...	223,191	Unallocated Stores ...	440,060
Appropriated Funds ...	9,976,706	Appropriated Funds Invested.	9,564,386
Balance : Surplus of Assets over Liabilities at 30th June, 1936.	17,846,203		
Rs.	28,739,010	Rs.	28,739,010

Description of the Main Heads of Taxation and their Yield.

The main heads of taxation with their yield for the current year as compared with the preceding year are the following:—

	1934–35. *Rs.*	*1935–36.* *Rs.*
Customs—Import duties	4,422,207	4,533,469
„ —Export duties	648,314	450,777
Excise duty on rum	1,590,107	1,680,232
Licence duties	1,111,627	1,099,124
Tobacco excise	1,200,427	1,247,492
Taxes on vehicles and animals ...	399,313	424,477
House tax	225,425	208,411
Poll tax	540,978	429,502

Customs Duties.

The Revenue from Customs duties for the year 1936 was Rs.4,640,335 for Imports and Rs.566,369 for Exports.

The figures for the two previous years were:—

	Import duty. *Rs.*	*Export duty.* *Rs.*
1935	4,650,711	816,385
1934	4,899,209	738,624

Customs Tariff (Summarized).

The following shows the rates of duty on the principal imports and exports on the 31st of December, 1936:—

IMPORTS.

Rice	R. 0·63 per 100 kilos.	Wines in casks up to 14°.	Rs. 22·00 per hectolitre.
Dholl	Rs. 1·14 per 100 kilos.	Wines in cases up to 14° (still).	R. 0·33 per litre.
Flour	R. 0·94 per 100 kilos.	Spirits (proof) ...	Rs. 6·87 per litre.
Fertilizers ...	R. 0·11 to Rs. 1·10 per 100 kilos.	Tobacco, manufactured.	Rs. 15·00 per litre.
Petroleum oil ...	Rs. 5·28 per hectolitre.	Tobacco, cigarettes.	Rs. 16·50 per kilo.
Petroleum spirits	Rs. 14·00 per hectolitre.	Vegetable oil, other than olive.	Rs. 5·50 to Rs. 9·00 per 100 kilos.
Soap, common...	Rs. 1·93 per 100 kilos.	Most manufactured articles.	5 to 55 per cent. *ad valorem*, with an average of about 15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

EXPORTS.

*Sugar	R. 0·46 per 100 kilos.	†Aloe fibre ...	Rs. 4·0 per 1,000 kilos.

NOTE.—*The duty on sugar is only for special purposes as under :—
R. 0·03 per cent. kilos for destruction of *Phytalis Smithi* ;
R. 0·03 ,, ,, ,, ,, College of Agriculture ;
R. 0·04 ,, ,, ,, ,, Sugar Industry Reserve Fund ;
R. 0·036 ,, ,, ,, ,, in refund of loans.

† The duty on aloe fibre includes Rs. 3 per 1,000 kilos in refund of loan to the hemp industry.

Principal Preferential Rates on Imports.

	Preferential.	*General.*
Motor vehicles of all kinds, including tyres and tubes.	5·5 per cent. *ad valorem*.	36·66 per cent. *ad valorem*.
Silk manufactures (including artificial silk).	16·5 ,, ,, ,, ,, or R. 0·55 per kilo whichever is the higher.	55 ,, ,, ,, ,, or R. 1·75 per kilo
Indigo	Rs. 1·10 per kilo.	Rs. 2·75 per kilo.
Cement	R. 0·30 per 100 kilos.	R. 1·00 per 100 kilos.
Cinema films	Free.	R. 0·04 per metre.
Machinery, industrial...	Rs. 1·45 per 100 kilos.	5·5 per cent. *ad valorem*.
Cotton manufactures ...	5 per cent. *ad valorem*.	26 per cent. *ad valorem*, and also specific rates in certain cases.
Hardware	11 per cent. *ad valorem*.	22 per cent. *ad valorem*.
Coal	8 cents per 100 kilos.	42 cents per 100 kilos.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

The duty on rum for home consumption for potable use is Rs.2.75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

Four distilleries worked periodically during 1936. Three of these distilleries form an annexe to sugar mills; in all cases spirits are distilled from molasses and the strength of the spirits produced varies from 30 to 42 degrees Cartier. The bulk is produced at 39 degrees Cartier or below and when broken down to 23 degrees Cartier, is consumed locally as potable rum, though it has the general characteristics of rectified spirit.

The remainder of the spirits produced is used after denaturation or compounding for lighting and heating and power purposes; for the preparation of medicinal tinctures, drugs, perfumed spirits and for the manufacture of vinegar. Attempts have been made to find an export market for locally produced alcohol but with little success. The quantity exported was 22,267 litres for the period July, 1935, to June, 1936, as compared with 28,732 litres for the previous period.

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for heating and lighting is 4 cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 4 cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier.

Owing to the quantity of electrical power available and the organization for its distribution, comparatively little use is made of locally produced alcohol for lighting purposes. Where electrical power is not available kerosene is a more popular illuminant. The poorest classes, who require little illumination since they mostly retire at nightfall, use coconut oil or similar local product. There is little call for artificial heating of houses and most cooking is done by locally produced wood charcoal on charcoal stoves. Locally produced alcohol might be used largely for cooking purposes, were a satisfactory type of stove available. The import duty on denaturated or methylated alcohol is 0·33 cents per litre.

The quantity of spirits denaturated for heating and lighting purposes during the last two years is shown below:—

1934–35.		*1935–36.*	
Quantity.	*Excise duty.*	*Quantity.*	*Excise duty.*
Litres.	*Rs.*	*Litres.*	*Rs.*
138,250	5,663·62	141,410	5,764·13

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for use as motor fuel is 4 cents per litre or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier. Attempts on a commercial scale to utilize locally produced alcohol in various forms for power purposes have been in progress for about 19 years but have had little success. The increasing use of heavy fuel oil and compression ignition type engines make any further development in the use of the local alcohol improbable in present circumstances. Protection is given to the local industry by imposing a Customs duty on imported motor spirits of Rs.14·00 per hectolitre.

The following statement shows the quantity of spirits denaturated during the last two years for use as industrial alcohol:—

1934–35.		1935–36.	
Quantity. Litres.	*Excise duty. Rs.*	*Quantity. Litres.*	*Excise duty. Rs.*
268,010	10,720·40	243,800	9,752·0

The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of "Alcoolats" in accordance with the formulae laid down in the British Pharmacopoeia or the French Codex or any other medicinal tinctures and drugs as notified in Gazette is Rs.2·50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier, with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

With the exception of certain traditional local preparations locally produced tinctures, etc., have provided little competition to the imported articles which pay an import duty at 13·2 per cent. *ad valorem.*

The following table shows the quantity of alcohol used during the last two years for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs:—

1934–35.		1935–36.	
Quantity. Litres.	*Excise duty. Rs.*	*Quantity. Litres.*	*Excise duty. Rs.*
7,846	1,399·30	9,853	1,380·10

The duty on alcohol delivered for the manufacture of perfumed spirits is 50 cents per litre. The position as regards locally produced perfumed spirits is similar to that of medicinal tinctures. One or two preparations are in popular local demand but in spite of the fairly high protective import duty of 33 per cent. *ad valorem,* there is little demand for other products. Attempts have recently been made to find an export market by selling perfumery as ships' stores. It is too early yet to forecast whether this venture is likely develop to any degree.

The quantity of spirits issued for the manufacture of perfumed spirits during the last two years was as follows:—

1934–35.		1935–36.	
Quantity. Litres.	*Excise duty. Rs.*	*Quantity. Litres.*	*Excise duty. Rs.*
7,932	3,966·00	6,130	3,065·00

The duty on vinegar is Rs.1·70 per hectolitre, on vinegar not exceeding 8 degrees of strength by acidimeter and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8 degrees.

Locally-produced vinegar is manufactured exclusively by the slow oxidation of alcohol. This small industry gives indication of development. The production figures for the past years were:—

	Litres.	Amount of duty. Rs.
July 1934 to June 1935 ...	21,047	357·80
,, 1935 ,, ,, 1936 ...	24,500	419·96

The corresponding import duty on vinegar is Rs.3.50 per hectolitre, full rate and Rs.1.65 preferential rate.

According to the Excise figures the number of litres of spirits distilled in 1935-6 (July to June) was 966,627, as compared with an average of 961,254 litres for the past five years.

The duty on wine and other liquor (excepting rum and compounded rum) manufactured in the Colony which contain more than four degrees alcohol according to Gay Lussac's alcoholometer is as follows:—

(i) on all such liquor not exceeding 14 degrees Gay Lussac's alcoholometer a duty of 15 cents per litre;

(ii) on all such liquor exceeding 14 degrees a duty at the same rate and on the same scale as the Customs duty on wine payable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

Practically no grapes are grown in Mauritius and the local wine is produced from imported dried fruits, principally raisins, sugar and other ingredients. Attempts to produce wine from local fruits such as pineapples, guavas, bananas, etc., have not been successful. There has been a slight development in the wine industry during the past year from the point of view of quantity, and considerable research work is being done in the improvement of the quality of the produce and in studying the many variations in fermentation largely caused by differences in temperature, atmospheric humidity, etc.

Local wine issued:—

	Litres.
July, 1934 to June, 1935	265,947
,, 1935 ,, ,, 1936	325,366
For the calendar year, 1935	277,683
,, ,, ,, ,, 1936	350,678

An excise duty of Rs.4 per kilog. is charged on leaf tobacco for the manufacture of tobacco for local consumption.

According to the official figures, the quantity of tobacco manufactured in the year 1936 was 362,587 kilos. as compared with Ks.337,378·975 gms. in 1935.

The Excise duty collected on tobacco during the last two financial years is given below:—

	1934–35. Rs.	1935–36. Rs.
Tobacco	1,200,427·53	1,247,492·40

The figures for the calendar year are:—

	Year 1935. Rs.	Year 1936. Rs.
Tobacco Excise	1,187,683·93	1,281,086·00

The Government Tobacco Warehouse, controlled by the Tobacco Board is proving a most useful institution for the grading and general control of tobacco grown in the Colony. It ensures for the planters a ready market for their crop, and for the manufacturers an assured source of supply at controlled prices of graded leaf In spite of its efforts the Board has so far been unable to gain any export trade.

The Stamp Laws were amended and consolidated by the passing on 23rd November, 1926, of Ordinance 22 of 1926. This Ordinance was put into force on 23rd July, 1927, by Proclamation No. 32 of 1927.

Stamp duties are of three kinds:—

(1) A duty in proportion to the size of the paper used;
(2) A fixed duty; and
(3) An ***ad valorem*** duty.

The Stamp Ordinance No. 22 of 1926 was amended in 1932 by the passing of Ordinance No. 26 of 1932 to provide for the increase from 4 to 10 cents of the stamp duty on cheques drawn on banks in and out of the Colony and on receipts as defined in Article 2 (5) of the Stamp (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1926.

House Tax.

Rates.—One per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs.1,000.

Yield.—The amount collected during the financial year 1935-6 was Rs.208,411.

Method of assessment.—Any building liable to the house tax is assessed according to its full and fair value. In arriving at this figure, the valuer takes into consideration the actual or probable rent a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for such building.

Method of collection.—For the purpose of collecting the house tax when the assessment arrived at is final for the year, notices for payment are served upon owners of buildings and the tax is paid to the Cashier of the district in which it is levied or to the Chief Cashier, Treasury.

Graduated Poll Tax.

A Graduated Poll Tax was imposed in 1934 on all taxable income accruing in, derived from, or received in the Colony during the year preceding the year of assessment, subject to specified exemptions.

The tax, which falls on residents and non-residents is peculiar to Mauritius and payable in half-yearly instalments by persons (including legal entities) whose income exceeds Rs.5,000.

The tax scale rises from Rs.50 (with marginal relief) on incomes exceeding Rs.5,000 but not exceeding Rs.7,000 to Rs.5,150 on incomes exceeding Rs.60,000 but not exceeding Rs.70,000. The tax on incomes exceeding Rs.70,000 is Rs.6,150.

The tax must be tendered with a Return from the Taxpayer, but the Commissioner may refuse the Return and raise an assessment subject to a right of objection and appeal to the High Court.

No provision exists for:—

(*a*) Losses to be carried forward.
(*b*) Personal or depreciation allowances.
(*c*) Dominion Income Tax Relief.
(*d*) Deduction of tax at source.

The main Ordinance was amended in 1935 chiefly to facilitate an equitable administration of the tax as regards allowances for interest paid, and to provide for reciprocation in exemption of profits from the business of Shipping.

Yield.—The amount collected for 1934-5 was Rs.540,566 but, as a result of the poor sugar crop in 1934, the Poll Tax collections for 1935-6 declined to Rs.429,502. The estimated yield for 1936-7 is Rs.580,000.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The sugar crop reaped during the year was an exceptionally good one, the total sugar production for the year reaching the record figure of 300·34 thousand metric tons against an average production of 250 thousand metric tons for the years 1930 to 1935, exclusive of the years 1931 and 1934 when on account of adverse climatic conditions, the crops were reduced to 164,010 and 178,860 thousand metric tons respectively.

There was also an increase in sugar prices during the year, but the rise came too late to have much effect on the sale of the year's crop. The large yield was however an important set-off to the continued low prices obtained for sugar during recent years and made it possible to resume the collection of the export duty on sugar of Rs.3.60 per ton levied in repayment of the Sugar Industry Loans referred to in Ordinance No. 15 of 1929, of which only a fraction of about 35 per cent. was collected in 1935 in view of the heavy deficit from the reduced crop of the year 1934 and the extremely depressed market conditions of the industry.

The Colony continued to enjoy the benefit of the General Imperial Preference amounting to about 3s. 9d. on all Colonial sugars entering the United Kingdom and of a special preference of 3s. per cwt. on a quantity of Colonial sugars limited to 360,000 tons, the quota of Mauritius sugars entitled to the latter preference being fixed at 112,400 tons. Sugars consigned to Canada also benefit by a preference which is at least as profitable to the producer as the general preference accorded by the United Kingdom.

As exports of sugar from Mauritius to countries other than the United Kingdom and Canada are insignificant and the quantity consumed locally is about ten to eleven thousand tons annually, the portion of the 1936 crop available for export to the United Kingdom and Canada is about 290,000 tons. The total preference on this quantity of sugar, calculated at the rates given above, amounts to roughly £1,425,000.

On the recommendation of a Committee appointed by the Governor in 1934 to investigate the problem of unemployment in the Colony various works of public utility were undertaken towards the end of that year and during the year 1935 in order to give employment to as many persons as possible who were out of work. Relief works continued in progress during the whole of the year 1936, chiefly in the districts of Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems where the pressure of unemployment is more severe.

The island was visited by the French cruiser *Jeanne d'Arc* from the 25th to the 28th February, 1936, and by H.M.S. *Emerald* from the 7th to the 20th August, 1936.

His Excellency Sir W. E. F. Jackson, whose normal term of office as Governor of Mauritius was due to expire on the 30th August, 1936, left the Colony on leave of absence on the 7th April, 1936. While in England, the Governor was asked to extend his service in Mauritius in order to enable him to complete certain outstanding tasks of importance in the Colony with which he had been closely connected. He returned to Mauritius on the 3rd December, 1936.

APPENDIX I.

Forty-five Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1936, the more important to which are tabulated as follows:—

No.	*Title.*
1	For establishing and regulating the Mauritius Agricultural Bank.
7	To make provision for raising a loan for the purpose of financing the Mauritius Agricultural Bank.
9	To amend the District Courts Constitution Ordinance, 1888.
10	To amend the Lesser Dependencies Ordinance, 1904.
11	To amend the Port Louis Sewerage Ordinance, 1905.
13	To amend and consolidate the law relative to the Government Savings Bank.
14	To regulate the deportation of undesirable aliens.
15	To regulate the deportation of undesirable British subjects.
27	To amend Ordinance No. 6 of 1838 commonly called the Penal Code.
29	To amend Ordinance No. 6 of 1838 commonly called the Penal Code.
31	To control and restrict the transport of sugar and fertilizers.
35	To legalise the transfer to the General Revenue of the balance of the Mauritius General Improvement and Development Fund.
36	To provide that Railway rates for the conveyance of sugar and fertilizers shall not be increased during a certain period.
41	To provide for the prevention of riots.
43	For regulating Pensions, Gratuities and Allowances to be granted in respect of offices held in His Majesty's Civil Service in this Colony.

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MAURITIUS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

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Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1886). By Baron d'Unienville.*	ditto	—
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Island of Mauritius. By Raymond Philogene.*	ditto	—
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Sea Fights and Corsairs of the Indian Ocean. By H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E.	Mauritius.	Rs. 50.
La pluie a l'Ile Maurice, Lat. 20° 5′ 39″ S. Long. 57° 33′ 18″ E., By Marc Herchenroder.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd.	Rs. 5.
Port Louis—Deux Siecles d'Histoire, 1735–1935. By A. Toussaint.	The Auction Mart, Port Louis.	1st Edition, Rs. 25. 2nd Edition, Rs. 8.

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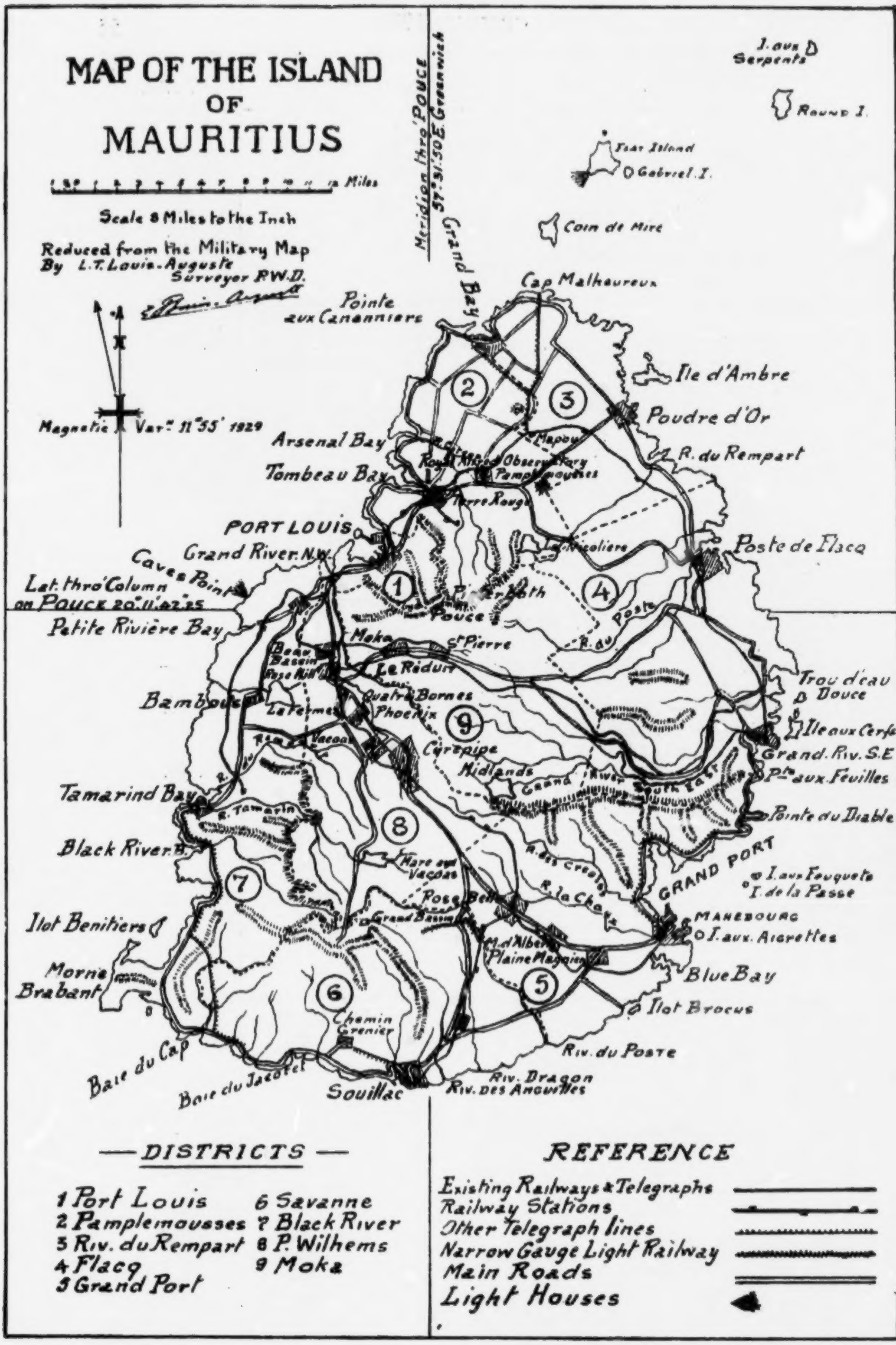
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MAURITIUS

REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1937

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. It is situated in the South Indian Ocean at about 1,400 miles from the east coast of Africa and lies between 19° 50′ and 20° 35′ S. latitude and between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ E. longitude. The greatest length from north to south is nearly 39 miles and the widest breadth from east to west is 29 miles. The area of the island is about 716 square miles, exclusive of that of several small islets round the coast which measure about four square miles.

The dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, had a population estimated at 9,977 on 31st December, 1937. The estimated population of the lesser dependencies on that date was 1,411.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used Mauritius as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer, and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar-cane, but were frustrated by rats. Although they denuded the forests of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called maroons were formed. The combination of rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin, uncontrolled by any tribal or political system, proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population, apart from maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de Labourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Port Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops and barracks. Labourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755, large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and when in 1825 the duty of ten shillings a hundredweight, levied on Mauritius sugar entering England (in order to protect the West Indian sugar), was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 pounds the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 pounds in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842, Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who at the beginning of 1937 owned 38·4 per cent. of the whole area under sugar-cane. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artizan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle Phytalus Smithi was discovered in the sugar-cane.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the war brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water-supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the maintenance of many works undertaken in the better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve his recommendation that a subsidy should be given to sugar to supplement the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

The position became worse in 1931 owing to a cyclone which caused considerable damage to property and reduced the year's output of sugar by about 33 per cent. The Imperial Government guaranteed a loan of £750,000 for planters, house owners, and repairs to Government property, on condition that a Financial Commission should visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget. The Commission's report was published at the beginning of 1932 and immediate steps were taken to carry out measures of retrenchment and economy. The situation was again critical in 1934 owing to the effect of a severe drought on the sugar crop; but since then the Colony has had the benefit of substantial crops and the general situation and outlook would have considerably improved were it not for the low price of sugar.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. The next year the Constitution was amended and a Council including unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, was composed of the Governor, eight *ex-officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the population: of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represent the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who are to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect is made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions. The new Letters Patent, however, provide that the Governor shall have power to enact legislation considered by him to be essential in the interests of good government. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four *ex-officio* members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing two unofficial members to the Council was revived.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1937, was 9,290. Every male person who is qualified as follows is entitled to be registered as a voter:—

(1) has attained the age of 21 years;

(2) is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights;

(3) is a British subject by birth or naturalization;

(4) has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications:—

(*a*) is the owner of an immoveable property of the annual value of Rs.300;

(*b*) is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs.25 a month;

(*c*) is the owner of moveable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs.3,000;

(*d*) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications;

(*e*) is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs.600 or of a monthly salary of at least Rs.50 and

(*f*) is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs.200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary. The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis" and was instituted, as were other local Municipalities, by the "Assemblée Coloniale." These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the "Assemblée Coloniale," on 21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis" and were denominated the "Conseil des Notables." The "Conseil des Notables" was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the "Conseil des Communes" and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1850, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge "La Triple Esperance" from 21st to 23rd February in that year. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered to take measures within the prescribed limits of the townships for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility, for the prevention of fires, and for the proper paving and lighting of the town, etc.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These Boards are empowered to pass regulations for the making, maintenance, and improvement of branch roads and footpaths, and for the levying of taxes in the extra urban areas.

III.—POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into (1) the general population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans and people of African, Chinese and mixed origins, and (2) the Indian population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants.

The estimated population of the island and its Dependencies on the 31st December, 1937, was 413,459, showing an increase of 2,539, the rate of increase being 6·2 per 1,000.

The geographical distribution of the population is shown in the following table:—

Districts.	*Area in square miles.*	*Census population, 26th April, 1931.*			*Population on 31st December, 1937*		
		General population.	*Indian population.*	*Total.*	*General population.*	*Indian population.*	*Total.*
Port Louis	16½	29,832	24,603	54,435	31,552	24,648	56,200
Pamplemousses	69	6,847	30,000	36,847	6,569	28,805	35,374
Riviere du Rempart	57	5,518	25,274	30,792	5,953	26,563	32,516
Flacq	115	10,438	42,202	52,640	10,813	40,286	51,099
Grand Port	100½	12,484	36,135	48,619	13,070	35,249	48,319
Savanne	94½	6,645	24,456	31,101	6,975	24,123	31,098
Plaines Wilhems	78½	41,866	53,392	95,258	46,425	58,054	104,479
Moka	89	5,522	23,761	29,283	5,922	23,860	29,782
Black River	100	5,437	8,826	14,263	5,463	7,741	13,204
Total—Mauritius	720	124,589	268,649	393,238	132,742	269,329	402,071
Rodrigues	40	8,084	118	8,202	9,696	281	9,977
Minor Dependencies	47	1,354	103	1,457	1,320	91	1,411
Grand Total—Dependencies ...	87	9,438	221	9,659	11,016	372	11,388
GRAND TOTAL—Mauritius and Dependencies	—	134,027	268,870	402,897	143,758	269,701	413,459

The preponderance of males in the Indian population and that of females in the general population is shown in the next table.

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Mauritius—General population	64,953	67,789	132,742
Indian ,, ...	138,889	130,440	269,329
Rodrigues—General ,, ...	4,747	4,949	9,696
Indian ,, ...	183	98	281
Minor Dependencies—General population ...	808	512	1,320
Indian ,, ...	69	22	91
Totals	209,649	203,810	413,459

The following tables give the number of births, deaths and still-births registered in Mauritius during the last three years.

BIRTHS.

	Number of births.			*Rate per 1,000 of population.*		
	1935.	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
General population ...	4,498	4,758	4,774	34·9	36·4	36·3
Indian ,, ...	8,748	9,109	9,323	32·9	34·1	34·7
Whole population ...	13,246	13,867	14,097	33·6	34·9	35·2

DEATHS.

	Number of deaths.			*Rate per 1,000 of population.*		
	1935.	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
General population ...	2,954	3,039	3,505	22·9	23·3	26·6
Indian ,, ...	7,491	7,461	8,022	28·2	27·9	29·9
Whole population ...	10,445	10,500	11,527	26·5	26·4	28·8

STILL-BIRTHS.

	Number of still-births.			*Rate per 100 live births.*		
	1935.	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
General population ...	297	300	296	6·6	6·3	6·2
Indian ,, ...	1,004	1,021	1,009	11·5	11·2	10·8
Whole population ...	1,301	1,321	1,305	9·8	9·5	9·3

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 2,178. The infantile mortality rate was 154·5 per thousand live births registered during the year as compared with 142·3 and 139·4 for 1936 and 1935 respectively.

The marriages during the year numbered 1,951 as compared with 1,991 in 1936. The marriage rate or number of persons married to every thousand of the entire population was 9·8 against 10·0 in 1936.

The departures exceeded the arrivals by 327.

IV.—HEALTH.

The present constitution of the Medical and Health Department dates back to 1895 when under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894-5 the powers vested in the General Board of Health were transferred to the Director, Medical and Health Department.

The headquarters staff of the Department consists of the Director, the Deputy Director and the clerical and accounting staffs of the correspondence, financial and storekeeping branches.

The administrative unit of Government is the district which is the political unit as well. Every district with the exception of Black River is provided with a hospital for the reception and treatment of the sick poor. Patients from the Black River district are treated in the Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes, or the Civil Hospital, Port Louis. The medical and sanitary administration of each of the rural districts is entrusted to a Government Medical Officer who is in charge of the district hospital and dispensaries and who is also the Health Officer for the district. To assist him, he has a number of subordinate officers; dressers and sanitary officers and the staff necessary for the care of the patients in the hospital. In addition to his medical and sanitary duties he has also statutory duties of a medical or sanitary nature which he carries out on behalf of the Police and Poor Law Departments. The district dispensaries are visited at regular intervals by the Government Medical Officer.

The hospitals of the Colony are divided into two groups:—

(i) General hospitals, namely:—Civil, Victoria and Moka, totalling 637 beds, which are fully equipped for X-ray and major operative work; and

(ii) district hospitals where only medical and midwifery cases are admitted and where minor surgery is carried out to a certain extent.

Patients who apply to the latter hospitals and require special treatment, surgical or other, are conveyed to the nearest general hospital by motor ambulance. A mental hospital and a leper hospital are also administered by the Department.

The general health of the population during 1937 has been reasonably good. There was again an exceptionally good crop leading to a consequent increase in the amount of money circulating in the Colony. There has been no scarcity of food and the general economic condition of the people, though low, has not been bad.

The principal diseases affecting the population are hookworm disease and malaria.

The prevention of hookworm disease has ceased to be a matter in which the central government can usefully intervene. With the abolition of the system of preparing for agricultural use, manure whose chief constituent was human excrement. the widespread infection with hookworm of the canefields ceased. Naturally, some years were required for the cleansing of the soil but it may now be safely presumed that hookworm disease is seldom contracted in the canefields. The problem has now become one of personal hygiene, dependent upon a radical change in the personal habits of a very conservative and still ignorant people. The influence of education and propaganda on an agricultural population whose standard of living is definitely low is practically negligible. It is only when a man becomes fairly prosperous that he feels the need to modify his habits according to the new standards of living to which his increased prosperity has raised him. Thus, though the majority of the rural inhabitants have provided their premises with latrines the proper use of which would undoubtedly prevent hookworm infection, they have not yet habituated themselves to their use.

But though the prevention of the disease is now in the ineffectual hands of the rural population, the Government can still institute measures for its control. By the frequent and extensive treatment of the rural population with appropriate drugs the Government ensures that a large percentage of them are periodically released from the infestation to which their blind adherence to custom makes them liable. The hookworm-malaria branch of the Department undertakes mass treatment of the rural population and in this way ensures for those who are willing to take the treatment a certain degree of relief from the consequences of their hygienic shortcomings. Concurrently with the administration of treatment, the staff of the branch hammer home the principles of prevention, but this part of the campaign shows little sign of being effective so long as the general economic level of the population is low. During the year 101,226 treatments were given.

Malaria.—In 1932 the malaria situation in the Colony was reviewed in the light of past colonial experience and of the new information which had become available through the labours of the Malaria Committee of the League of Nations in Europe. As a result of this review it became evident that much energy was being dissipated by the institution of inappropriate measures and the maintenance of old drainage works whose usefulness had disappeared, either on account of their having been established in areas where such treatment was uneconomic or inappropriate or because subsequent events had nullified their effectiveness. It was accordingly decided to apply to the different regions of the Colony the measures which in the light of the new experience were likely to produce the most effective return for the energy expended. In practice this has meant the virtual abandonment of anti-mosquito measures throughout the greater part of the rural areas lying below 600 feet altitude. Here the object of the Government is to make totaquina as widely available as possible so that sufferers may be able to obtain the treatment which they need. In a few populous places old drainage works of known effectiveness are maintained, but no new works are being undertaken in the meantime.

In most of the region lying higher than 600 feet anti-mosquito work is feasible, on account of the density of the population and of the effects of the cool season in restricting to practical numbers the permanent mosquito nurseries in the area. This area has now been the subject of close study for the past three years and it has been found that most of the mosquito nuisances are not such as require extensive permanent drainage works for their abatement. The problem on the central plateau is not the abolition or the treatment of large natural mosquito-breeding places but the abolition of innumerable small nuisances created and maintained by human agency. The area is strewn with gardens and small holdings on each of which there are maintained collections of water in the shape of watering tubs, barrels, tanks or pits. Of these the pits of the market gardens are the worst offenders as they have been repeatedly found to contain larvae of *A. costalis.* Water receptacles of this kind are quite unnecessary in this area because practically every house or garden has a piped water supply. In fact most of the storage receptacles are filled from the pipe. The hookworm-malaria branch has been fully occupied in attempting to deal with this nuisance, but progress must necessarily be slow. Nevertheless control of such water collections is essential for control of malaria in this locality.

V.—HOUSING.

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories: (*a*) housing on estates, (*b*) housing in rural areas not estates, and (*c*) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are, for the most part, adequately housed. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts, constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs more commonly of thatch, but frequently of corrugated iron. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult. The lines must be kept clear of weeds, and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least ten feet round them. Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes. As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. Lighting is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

The housing in rural areas other than estates is fairly satisfactory. The Indian labourer can himself with the aid of his friends construct a satisfactory hut. He generally owns the piece of land on which he builds his hut and what is not occupied by the hut is planted with sugar cane or other agricultural produce, while room is also found for a primitive byre or a shelter for goats. The amenities of life are few, and a locality settled by a number of such persons bristles with sanitary problems arising out of poverty. Fortunately, most of them are now on a pipe-line so that their water supply gives little cause for anxiety, though they may have to carry their water several hundred yards from the nearest public fountain.

In the towns and townships conditions vary. There are areas of overcrowding with its consequent insanitary conditions. Too many persons live in one room though the climate is such as to obviate many of the evils attendant upon this practice.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Weather conditions were, generally, very favourable to growth: high temperature and rainfall prevailed throughout the growing season. Unfortunately, the persistency of these conditions during the ripening season was detrimental to the sucrose content of the cane.

The industries of the Colony are, almost exclusively agricultural and sugar forms over 98 per cent. of its exports. Irrespective of sugar, the other industries comprise tobacco, fibre, pineapple, tea, coconut and, as by-product of the sugar industry, alcohol. Details regarding the various industries are reviewed below.

The total area of the Colony is 460,800 acres of which some 144,000 acres are in sugar cane, 35,000 acres in secondary crops. The area at present cultivated could with proper irrigation be increased by roughly 4 to 5 per cent.

Sugar Production.

The total cane reaped approximated 2,823 thousand metric tons, in excess by 276 thousand tons on last year's production: this year's output thus exceeds all previous records. The sucrose content of the cane was, however, considerably below last year's, averaging only 12·99 as against 13·71 in 1936.

The mean extraction of sugar per cent. of cane was 11·12 as against 11·79 last year. The total output of sugar was 313·82 thousand metric tons in excess by 4·5 per cent. on last year's.

The following table exhibits the comparative production for the past seven years.

YIELD OF SUGAR IN THOUSAND METRIC TONS.

Districts.	*1937.*	*1936.*	*1935.*	*1934.*	*1933.*	*1932.*	*1931.*
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart	82·65	63·97	69·97	30·13	57·77	62·73	41·81
Flacq	48·16	49·98	44·15	30·87	41·31	35·97	27·91
Moka	37·72	43·42	35·76	29·30	40·08	34·12	20·83
Plaines Wilhems ...	22·49	21·89	20·62	11·54	18·22	17·05	11·64
Black River ...	13·81	12·85	11·28	5·99	8·88	9·06	6·29
Grand Port ...	57·23	56·10	53·39	38·37	50·66	46·66	28·52
Savanne	51·76	52·13	45·34	32·66	44·48	41·63	27·01
Totals ...	313·82	300·34	280·50	178·86	261·46	247·22	164·01

The deficit in 1931, due to a severe cyclone, was estimated at 34 per cent. In 1934, there was a severe drought.

Grades of Sugar.—The proportion of Raws was, this year, 83·7 per cent. of the total sugar production; granulated whites (Vesous) were 16·0 per cent.; while low sugars approximated 0·3 per cent.

Area under Sugar Cane.—While most of the alienated land of the Colony passed under private ownership by means of " concessions " during the French occupation, most of the land occupied by Indian small planters was acquired under the " metayage " and " morcellement " systems, whereby large estates were parcelled out to numbers of tenants who became, after a term of years, legal owners of their plots of land. The " metayage " or " morcellement " systems are still practised though on a much reduced scale.

At the beginning of 1937, the area under cane was estimated at 143,497 acres, in excess by 4,156 acres on the figure for 1936. Estates with factory cultivated 62,089 acres; estates without factory, 38,978 acres, giving a total estate cultivation of 101,067 acres, in excess by 3,456 acres on the corresponding figure for 1936.

The balance of 42,430 acres, which shows an increase of 700 acres on the corresponding figure for the year previous, was cultivated by smaller planters, mostly Indian peasant proprietors.

The total area under Indian cultivation at the beginning of 1937 was estimated at 55,053 acres or 38·4 per cent. of the total area under cane. This total was made up of (i) 35,730 acres belonging to Indian small planters off estates, (ii) 10,223 acres cultivated by Indians on estate lands and lastly, (iii) estates, belonging to Indians, comprising altogether 9,100 acres.

Number of Sugar Factories.—During the year, two more factories were dismantled, bringing the total, at the close of 1937, to 38. Sixteen factories were closed during the past 16 years.

Sugar Market.—Market conditions were, upon the whole, decidedly better in 1937 than in 1936, although, during the last months of the year quotations came down markedly. The average net price realised in 1936 was Rs.5.69 per 50 kilos; in 1937, the average net price realised by 31st December, on 243,892 metric tons sold by that date approximated to Rs. 6.20 per 50 kilos.

Sugar transactions are made through the " Mauritius Sugar Syndicate " which controls practically all the sugar of the Colony.

Disposal of the 1936-7 *Sugars and Local Consumption*.

The total sugar exported during the 1936-7 year (1st August, 1936, to 31st July, 1937) amounted to 289,010 metric tons, distributed as follows:—

	Metric tons.
Great Britain	271,820
Canada	16,530
Hong Kong	660
Total	289,010

The exportation of the 1937-8 crop, up to 3st December, 1937, was as follows:—

	Metric tons.
Great Britain	134,566
Canada	22,415
Hong Kong	457
Other places	119
Total	157,557

The local consumption of sugar for the 1936-7 year was 10,326 metric tons as compared with 9,327 in 1935-6 and 11,211 in 1934-5.

Sugar Machinery.—Machinery to the value of Rs.914,545 was imported during the year, as against Rs.589,449 in 1936. Tramway material to the value of Rs.128,059 was imported in 1937, as compared with Rs.328,219 the year previous.

General Agricultural Matters.

Fertilizers.—The importation of chemical fertilizers in 1937 totalled 19,818,236 kilos, valued at Rs.2,117,295 as compared with 21,588,262 kilos valued at Rs.2,078,332 in 1936.

Insect Pests.—Following the extension of the abolition of hand collection of *Phytalus smithi, Arr.* to more than 80 per cent. of the infested areas, efforts to increase the natural control of this pest have been redoubled. The Second Phytalus Officer has spent seven months in South Africa and the Assistant Entomologist has recently embarked upon a further mission to Zanzibar and North Africa, in order to discover sources of fresh parasite material.

Apart from these measures, efforts are also made to introducing parasite resistant cane varieties in the infested areas.

The Moth borer situation still causes anxiety and the Entomologist was requested to prepare a comprehensive scheme of borer control by biological means.

A serious outbreak of tobacco beetle was reported from the Government Tobacco Warehouse and fumigation with hydrocyanic acid was carried out successfully in the most affected part of the stores.

Coconut palms, in all parts of the Colony are suffering severely from the attacks of *Aspidiotus destructor Sign* and every effort is being made to increase the natural control of this pest.

Plant Diseases.—Bacterial diseases on maize and palm turned out this year to be of major importance as the plants mentioned have been proved to be natural hosts of the sugar cane gumming disease bacterium. The presence of these wild hosts complicate the problem of eradication of the gumming disease on cane from the Island.

Black shank and mosaic diseases of tobacco were somewhat less troublesome than in previous years. Wilt of the pineapple is apparently brought about in the Island by different causes, such as conditions of soil and climate; what may be another type of the disease is receiving attention.

Tobacco.—During the year, permits for 699 acres were issued and 661 acres were actually planted.

A general quota of 500 kilos per acre was allocated, which limited the crop to 349,625 kilos: but, in view of favourable conditions the quota had been, by the end of the year, exceeded by 128,000 kilos.

The amount of leaf purchased by the warehouse in 1937 was 391,435 kilos of a value of Rs.487,239 as compared with 375,923 kilos of a value of Rs.475,326 in the previous year. The above figures do not include the leaf delivered in excess of the quota: the total quantity of leaf actually received at the warehouse was 519,435 kilos.

The amount of leaf used by manufacturers was 329,233 kilos as compared with 321,544 kilos in 1936.

But little progress was made in obtaining a type of tobacco suitable for the export market. Trials with new varieties were continued and a more extensive research scheme considered and proposals put forward.

Fibre.—Market conditions were fairly satisfactory during the first half of 1937: but from July onwards they deteriorated until, in December, there was practically no market. The total exported in 1937 was 1,617 metric tons as against 1,214 in 1936 and 446 in 1935.

A committee has been appointed to investigate the conditions under which the bag factory might be reopened. The work of the committee is still in progress.

Pineapple Industry.—Appreciable progress is in evidence regarding this industry. At the end of the year 11 acres of experimental plantations had been carried out by the Department of Agriculture. A large amount of planting material will be available this year and it is expected that the area under pineapple will be increased. The Fruit Canning Factory anticipates for 1937-8 a total turn out of 4,500 cases or about 108 tons.

Tea Industry.—Conditions continue favourable concerning this industry. At the end of the year, the total area under tea approximated to 440 acres and the total produce for 1936-7 was about 50 thousand kilos (metric).

Coconut Industry.—The export of copra—produce of the Dependencies of Mauritius—amounted during the year to 1,507 tons valued at Rs.350,012 as against 1,331·5 tons valued at Rs.229.884 in 1936. The export of coconut oil during the year was 5,731 litres valued at Rs.2,353, as compared with 7,113 litres valued at Rs.2,686 in 1936.

Alcohol.—The total quantity of alcohol distilled for human consumption amounted to 593,396 litres as against 651,727 the year before. The quantity distilled for industrial purposes was 603,192 litres as against 483,820 in 1936. The exportation of rum during the year was 84,210 litres valued at Rs.27,181 as compared with 39,619 litres valued at Rs.8,776 in 1936.

Veterinary and Livestock.—At the beginning of 1937 the total horned cattle on estates numbered 13,646 as against 14,195 at the beginning of 1936.

Cattle importation from Madagascar amounted to 5,967 heads, valued at Rs.335,758, all of which was for beef.

An agreement between Government and the Stock Breeders' Association has been arrived at, following the recommendations of Professor Lindsay Robb, of Pretoria University, and steps are being taken for the importation of beef type bulls and heifers, with the idea of increasing the local meat production. Consideration is also being given to the improvement of pastures in the Colony.

The Agricultural College.—The Mauritius Agricultural College is administered as an integral part of the Department of Agriculture. Experimental fields and farms cover about 60 acres. Laboratories provide accommodation for teaching and research in Chemistry, Entomology, Botany, Mycology, Physics and Sugar Technology.

A three year course leads to the Diploma of the College. Short courses in the intercrop period are provided for estate employees and special courses for agricultural and sugar house chemists. The examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute in sugar technology are held annually at the College and the full Technological Certificate of the Institute is awarded to graduates of the Agricultural College who pass successfully the final examination of the Institute in Sugar Technology.

Most past students of the College have been absorbed in the local sugar industry while a few have obtained situations abroad or in Government. The practical value of the training received at the College is now showing its effects and, on several estates, the Diploma of the College has been made a *sine qua non* condition for employment.

In 1937, the regular students on the books numbered 21, together with six part-time students. Present accommodation limits the total number to a maximum of 30. In recent years, the applications for studentships have been considerably in excess of the accommodation available and new entrants have been selected through a competitive examination, up to a total number limited to seven or eight.

The Sugar Cane Research Station.—This station was opened in 1930, with the objects of producing superior varieties of sugar cane, of investigating soil properties with a view to introducing improved cultivation and manurial methods and of conducting research into the physiology of the cane.

As a result of the cane breeding work, five varieties have been released for general distribution after being tested in varying conditions, and it is confidently expected that some of these will become commercial varieties in the near future.

Soil research has shown a clear correlation between climate and soil properties and manurial trials are conducted on the different soil types, to discover their fertilizer requirements.

The physiological investigations have been chiefly concerned with root systems of different commercial varieties under varying conditions. These results have been correlated with suitability of various kinds of environment, phytalus resistance and different cultural practices.

School Gardening and Nature Teaching in Primary Schools.—(See also Chapter X, page 34.) The work is entrusted to the officers of the Agricultural Division of the Department of Agriculture. There are at present 32 registered school gardens. Gardening classes are held regularly, when the Instructors visit the schools, i.e., about every fortnight. Classes are also held on the average twice weekly by one of the schoolteachers. While particular attention is given to practical work in the garden, care is also taken to get the pupils to record their observations in garden note books. Furthermore, short lectures are delivered to the pupils on the principle and practice of horticulture.

In order further to secure the interest of both pupils and schoolteachers, a prize scheme exists, prizes being given annually for the best gardens.

Co-operation.—The idea of establishing Co-operative Banks for the benefit of the small planter was introduced in the Colony by the Royal Commission who visited the island in 1909.

The form of the bank inaugurated is that of the agricultural type based on the main principles laid down by Raiffeissen. These principles were adopted with some slight variations found necessary to suit the ideas and necessities of the small planters, and are briefly the following:—

Each society must contain at least ten members and must operate in a small area. Every member must contribute at least one share fixed at Rs.10, and must be personally known to his fellow members. The liability of the members is unlimited, the services of the members are rendered gratuitiously, the profits are placed to a reserve fund and loans for short periods are granted only to members essentially for reproductive purposes. Shares contributed, deposits of members and non-members, Government advances and the reserve fund, if any, constitute the working capital of the society.

The facilities given by Government are briefly that a society is registered free of charge, the audit and inspection of its accounts are made by Government officers, it has a priority of claims as against crops, etc., over other creditors, the share or interest of a member is made not liable to attachment or sale under any decree, the instruments executed by or on behalf of the society are exempted from stamp duty and registration fees.

Co-operative Credit Societies were first registered in July, 1913. The following notes describe their position twenty-four and a half years later and show the progress achieved solely through Government's activities:—

On the 31st December, 1937, there were 35 societies in operation in the island and its dependencies (Rodrigues) with 2,041 members and a working capital amounting to Rs.269,650 made up of:—

(*a*) Share contribution Rs.61,133;

(*b*) Dividends undrawn by members and left in the societies as non-dividend bearing shares for strengthening their working capital Rs. 1,368;

(*c*) Deposits of members and non-members Rs.100 and Rs.2,400 respectively;

(*d*) Government advances held by six societies Rs.17,000;

(*e*) Reserve Fund Rs.187,649.

The total amount the societies disbursed as loans to their members was Rs.226,725. The rates of interest charged by the societies on loans to their members varied from 5 to 12 per cent. per annum.

Since the inception of the movement, Government advances totalling Rs.102,450 have been made to the societies of which Rs.85,450 have been refunded.

The movement is under the supervision and guidance of the Government and is run as a branch of the Department of Agriculture with a staff composed of:—(*a*) the Registrar who is also the Director of Agriculture; (*b*) the assistant Registrar, a whole-time officer who has undergone a training in co-operation in Ceylon; (*c*) a whole-time Inspector; and (*d*) a part-time Inspector with combined duties of Agricultural Instructor.

Apart from a small yearly contribution made by the societies towards their audit inspection, the cost of running the movement is borne by the Government.

Other Manufacturing Industries.

Conditions have been nearly stationary regarding subsidiary industries. In 1937, engineering establishments numbered 48. There were four docks (landing, etc.), three distilleries, three hydro-electrical plants, six cigarette factories, one match factory and four salt making establishments. Altogether, employment was afforded to about 2,000 people in these various concerns.

In addition, there exist, on a somewhat limited scale, leather tanning, boot and shoe making, aerated water works, ice making, vinegar making, biscuit and jam making, etc., together with the usual innumerable small handicrafts, which in an overpopulated island like Mauritius help to render the community less dependent on imported articles.

Fisheries.

In 1926 the question of fishery control in Mauritius was thoroughly investigated by Mr. J. Hornell, F.L.S., F.R.A.I., formerly Director of Fisheries in Madras, and his recommendations in the printed report on the subject have formed the basis of the work of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committee formed in 1927. Special consideration has been given to the questions of control of net fishing, improvement of local methods of fish-curing, protection of the local dried fish trade against the imported article, and ensuring a plentiful supply of cheap fish in the markets without prejudice to the working fishermen. Careful study of the whole question led the Committee to recommend a suspension of the use of large nets in 1934 and this was approved and has been in force since 1st October of that year. This measure, which was made permanent in the early part of the year under review, divided public opinion to such an extent that the Fisheries Advisory Committee have recommended a relaxation of prohibition, in consequence of which net fishing will very probably be reintroduced during 1938.

The lagoons, between the coral reef surrounding the Island and the beach, are normally full of excellent fish of many varieties which are taken in large quantities by means of basket traps, cast net and line and, in the open sea outside the reefs, large fish can be taken at practically all times of the year by trolling or with deep sea lines.

All professional fishing is done from small sailing craft known as " peniches " and " pirogues " which are well built and sea-worthy but the business side of the industry is quite undeveloped owing to local preference for old-fashioned methods which ought to be replaced. Amateur fishermen are well supplied with locally built sea-going motor boats which enable them to reach the remarkable fishing grounds round the rocky islets lying from two to fifteen miles off the northern coast of the Colony where good sport is certain at almost all seasons.

Fish-curing industries are established at Rodrigues and St. Brandon Islands and produce a considerable quantity of what is one of the staple foods of the poorer classes but the dried fish of South Africa and India still commands a large sale and is imported in increasing quantities at a very low price.

River fishing is confined to spinning for carp and chite—a fish very like a mullet—but fishing rights are preserved and suitable stretches of water are scarce.

Forestry.

The forest area consists of 110 square miles of Crown forest (forest and scrub) and about 60 square miles of private forest land (forest and scrub). Total about 170 square miles.

Those portions of Crown forest not carrying merchantable produce have a vegetative cover, important for catchment and for protection purposes, especially where situated on the central and southern plateaux, where the high rainfall and general humidity of the air ensures that any blanks are rapidly colonized. The same may be said of portions of the private forest lands, but others are at too low levels for this cover to have such effect.

As a subsidiary form of production, forest lands are utilized for shooting and fishing—Crown forests leased for this purpose returning Rupees 16,000 in a normal year.

A second subsidiary form of production consists in the grazing that is to be had on the four thousand five hundred acres of Pas Geometriques or Crown land strip 250 feet wide round the greater part of the coastline and islands leased on tree-planting conditions. This strip of plantations gives the island one of the finest coastlines in the world, and the combination of economic production (timber and grazing) with aesthetic value is worthy of special note.

The forests of indigenous species which produced the primary timbers have been and still are being superseded by the invasion of exotic vegetation due to the extensive removal of the over-forest in the past, the destruction of the regeneration by the burning of charcoal in conjunction with this operation, the exceptionally slow regeneration and aftergrowth of the indigenous species and the very favourable conditions of climate and rainfall and the physical soil conditions awaiting the invading species. In place of the whole island area, only some few square miles of this virgin forest now exist.

Following the foregoing general destruction, trials of many and varied exotic tree species were undertaken, many were planted between 1880 and 1918 on a large scale on Crown land, notably eucalypt and to a lesser extent the Chinese pine, but generally speaking, these plantations were formed to reconstitute the vegetative cover and were not laid out on commercial lines. The present stocks are sometimes scattered, irregular and often severely shaken and damaged, whilst there are many fallen trees due to the selection of unsuitable species, to cyclone damage and to lack of past thinning and other treatment. It is from these plantations that, what major production as is possible, has at present to be effected. From 1928 onwards, however, regular and vigorous plantations, on easy extraction routes, are being provided on a scale designed to abolish imports of the cheap woods of commerce and to provide a surplus of cabinet timbers worthy of export. These plantations are the result of a careful study of the results of the past and a selection of species has been made accordingly though the species composing the mixture are changed from time to time. Full financial records are available for these recent plantations.

(*a*) *Production:—*

Unmanufactured items.

From Crown forests (no figures available for private lands).

Product	*Volume, 1937* *Cu. ft.*	*Value, 1937* *Rs.*
Logs and round timber	96,000	33,000
Sawn timber	8,000	17,000
Fuel	690,000	46,000
Minor forest produce	—	2,000
Sales in Rodrigues...	—	1,600
		99,600

Manufactured items.

(i) Approximately 160,000 gross boxes of matches produced by the Mauritius Match Manufacturing Company. Total value, say, Rs.90,000 to 100,000.

(ii) The finished articles produced by cabinet-makers numbering about one hundred and sixty. The products of these craftsmen are of high quality.

Minor Forest Produce.

Grass for fodder, bamboos, palm salads, thatching material and fodder seeds.

The most notable features of production for 1937 were the further large advance in the production of matches by the Mauritius Match Manufacturing Company and the large and much increased demands for fuel from Crown land.

Much fuel is converted into charcoal. Few charcoal lorries, however, are at present working on the island.

(*b*) Logs and round timber supplied on forest roads or sometimes delivered to buyer.

Sawn timber: sawn by hand.
Fuel: sold standing or by the cord of forest roads.

The principle of limiting the outturn to ensure a sustained yield applies to Crown forests. At present the sale of pine has thus to be limited.

(*c*) All production is consumed locally.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Mauritius is an essentially agricultural Colony and yet, it barely produces one-tenth of the foodstuffs required for its inhabitants and imports practically all articles of food and drink, with the exception of sugar, and manufactured goods of all descriptions.

Of the principal articles of food and drink imported, rice, which is the staple food of the people as well as dholl, lentils and other grain, edible oil, spices and seeds, salted fish and ghee come from India, confectionery, preserved provisions, soya bean oil, whisky from the United Kingdom; wheat flour, fresh fruits and butter from Australia; salted fish, meat, fresh fruits from South Africa; wines from France and Spain; lard from Hong Kong; preserved provisions from China; margarine and cheese from Holland; tinned sardines from Japan, tea from Ceylon; and cattle, pistachio nuts and potatoes from Madagascar.

The main items of imports of manufactured goods are: heavy iron and steel goods for use on sugar estates in connexion with the manufacture of sugar; cotton and woollen goods, wearing apparel, patent fuel, fertilizers, hardware, paint, soap, motor vehicles from the United Kingdom; gunny bags for packing sugar, saltpetre, cotton piece goods come from India.

Other sources of supply are: France, apparel and haberdashery, perfumery and drugs; the Dutch East Indies supply petroleum products; the United States of America, machinery and petroleum products; Germany, toys and tramway materials; the Straits Settlements, timber and rattans; Belgium, chemical manures, glassware and tramway materials; Japan, cotton and silk manufactures, earthenware, glassware and wearing apparel.

Of the foodstuffs produced locally, may be mentioned fresh fruits and fresh vegetables.

Mauritius is almost entirely dependent on one industry—the sugar industry—and so long as efforts made to develop other industries do not meet with success its position will be more or less insecure especially on account of cyclones. In 1937 the sugar exports represented about 98 per cent. of the domestic exports. Other items of exportation are comparatively insignificant in value—they are: aloe fibre, copra, poonac, rum and coconut oil.

There has, as yet, been no market for the local tobacco industry, but as the result of the successful development of these industries during the past few years, imports of cigarettes and matches have considerably decreased.

The following table gives the total value of imports, domestic exports and re-exports for the year under review and each of the preceding four years.

	Imports. *Value* *c.i.f.* *(Rs.).*	*Domestic* *Exports.* *Value* *f.o.b.* *(Rs.).*	*Re-exports.* *Value* *f.o.b.* *(Rs.).*
1937	34,226,522	36,081,479*	832,542
1936	30,218,589	31,842,308	948,498
1935	29,891,160	28,008,615	640,640
1934	29,680,346	25,028,810	1,107,330
1933	29,035,237	31,428,394	748,349

* Excludes the value of Sugar Quota Certificates which in the year 1937 may be estimated at Rs. 4,900,000.

The following table gives the percentage of total imports provided by the British Empire and foreign countries respectively during the year 1937 and the four preceding years.

	1937. *Per cent.*	*1936.* *Per cent.*	*1935.* *Per cent.*	*1934.* *Per cent.*	*1933.* *Per cent.*
Empire	77	75·5	78·6	74·4	70·6
Foreign countries	23	24·5	21·4	25·6	29·4

In the following table is given the percentage of total imports provided by the six principal countries from which our commodities are imported, for the year under review and the four previous years.

	1937. *Per cent.*	*1936.* *Per cent.*	*1935.* *Per cent.*	*1934.* *Per cent.*	*1933.* *Per cent.*
United Kingdom	30·4	31·7	30·3	29	32·5
Australia ...	6·0	4·3	5·0	6	4
India	33·8	33·0	36·7	34	29
France	3·3	3·6	3·7	4	5
Japan	3·7	3·9	3·3	4	6
U.S.A.	3·3	3·7	3·2	4	3·7

Table giving the percentage of domestic exports sent to the Empire and foreign countries.

	1937. *Per cent.*	*1936.* *Per cent.*	*1935.* *Per cent.*	*1934.* *Per cent.*	*1933.* *Per cent.*
Empire	99	98·9	99	99	99
Foreign countries	1	1·1	1	1	1

Table giving the percentage of domestic exports sent to the principal countries of destination.

	1937. *Per cent.*	*1936.* *Per cent.*	*1935.* *Per cent.*	*1934.* *Per cent.*	*1933.* *Per cent.*
United Kingdom	92	93·5	86·8	95	98
Canada	7	5·0	12·3	3·5	—
Hong Kong ...	—	—	—	—	0·4
Belgium	0·4	0·3	0·1	0·1	—
Reunion	0·2	0·3	0·3	0·3	—
France	—	—	—	—	0·4

The following table gives the values and quantities of the principal imports for the year under review and the previous year with an indication of the principal sources of supply. The total imports of each commodity are also given:—

Articles and Principal Countries of Origin.		*1937.*		*1936.*	
		Quantity.	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*
Cows and oxen—					
Madagascar ...	No.	5,967	335,758	5,766	361,100
Butter—					
Australia	Kilos	64,819	122,274	63,202	110,965
Denmark	,,	5,120	13,697	2,575	6,751
Total imports ...	,,	79,009	149,080	75,469	133,518
Ghee—					
India	Kilos	48,912	72,407	62,644	86,064
Confectionery—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	80,075	113,661	59,868	79,038
Total imports ...	,,	95,032	128,141	68,615	86,277
Bran—					
Australia	Kilos	755,505	68,359	754,148	63,092
India	,,	613,766	46,369	481,314	34,060
Total imports ...	,,	1,394,696	117,134	1,235,462	97,152
Tinned sardines—					
Japan	Kilos	145,350	41,417	117,342	32,490
Portugal	,,	102,074	67,174	104,109	56,395
Total imports ...	,,	254,184	111,325	226,485	90,953
Fish, salted—					
U.S. Africa ...	Kilos	313,557	133,612	380,163	146,507
India	,,	102,189	47,860	104,334	50,255
Total imports ...	,,	444,471	201,034	513,084	216,448
Rice—					
India	Kilos	67,558,431	7,076,404	54,127,737	5,992,666
Total imports ...	,,	67,719,337	7,101,625	54,482,152	6,035,237
Wheat flour—					
Australia	Kilos	9,789,405	1,548,299	7,944,063	996,375
Total imports ...	,,	9,909,109	1,566,879	8,103,027	1,017,554
Dholl—					
India	Kilos	3,617,092	424,512	2,789,469	322,254
Lentils—					
India	Kilos	1,865,112	233,382	2,026,178	209,515
Lard, hog's—					
Hong Kong ...	Kilos	209,864	147,356	160,691	95,909
Total imports ...	,,	280,254	200,331	211,239	133,495
Oil, mustard—					
India	Kilos	441,819	194,255	485,867	195,822
Oil, pistachionut—					
India	Kilos	699,408	293,372	128,587	50,107
Dutch East Indies	,,	343,787	160,660	570,066	235,236
Total imports ...	,,	1,098,364	475,939	707,390	289,793
Oil, soya—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	871,185	425,543	684,197	298,369
Total imports ...	,,	1,292,896	609,717	867,431	380,220
Spices and spice seeds—					
India	Kilos	312,639	107,774	516,199	114,324
Total imports ...	,,	351,893	129,844	1,011,820	198,155

Articles and Principal Countries of Origin.		*1937.*		*1936.*	
		Quantity.	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*
Tea—					
Ceylon	Kilos	155,463	276,885	116,505	200,649
Total imports ...	,,	160,991	295,683	129,874	218,846
Whisky—					
United Kingdom...	Litres	25,623	110,822	21,552	79,100
Potatoes—					
Madagascar ...	Kilos	1,026,555	72,578	861,548	80,617
Total imports ...	,,	1,253,610	97,193	1,157,470	111,086
Coal—					
U.S. Africa ...	Kilos	40,521,920	566,031	37,563,624	404,120
Total imports ...	,,	41,739,637	596,797	40,261,876	463,615
Linseed oil—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	187,940	95,019	134,402	64,845
Total imports ...	,,	201,624	101,138	151,700	71,799
Wood and timber—					
Australia	Cu. m.	1,617	118,646	Not stated	49,889
Straits Settlements	,,	5,745	182,175	,,	227,559
Siam	,,	5,654	243,690	,,	145,653
Total imports ...	,,	13,230	559,031	,,	464,801
Boots and shoes—					
United Kingdom...	Pairs	12,596	64,385	16,111	61,659
Hong Kong ...	,,	71,635	99,073	57,004	75,384
Total imports ...	,,	147,376	214,289	151,011	216,566
Cotton piece-goods—					
United Kingdom...	Metres	2,604,963	831,899	4,060,605	1,109,860
India	,,	3,388,116	576,520	3,516,849	512,451
Japan	,,	835,643	203,865	1,249,552	170,594
Total imports ...	,,	6,891,972	1,644,933	8,845,739	1,802,798
Jute, gunny bags—					
India	No.	4,453,900	1,135,359	4,004,610	1,129,275
Silk manufactures—					
United Kingdom...		—	208,263	—	114,721
Japan		—	414,239	—	305,667
Total imports ...		—	733,490	—	487,880
Woollen manufactures—					
United Kingdom...		—	216,512	—	229,485
Japan		—	74,225	—	115,403
Total imports ...		—	302,112	—	352,395
Machinery, sugar—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	1,067,834	788,801	982,040	528,334
Total imports ...	,,	1,172,352	896,725	1,062,905	589,449
Iron sheets and plates—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	658,291	171,856	1,587,394	273 284
Belgium	,,	301,307	78,323	1,009,617	176,102
Total imports ...	,,	1,194,776	303,153	2,713,307	469,778
Tramway materials of all kinds—					
Germany		—	150,974	—	153,503
Total imports ...		—	266,375	—	187,615
Motor cars—					
United Kingdom...	No.	266	604,473	159	337,016
Total imports ...	,,	321	740,511	205	446,828
Cement—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	5,358,317	220,016	5,588,699	195,551
Total imports ...	,,	7,074,780	239,897	6,570,386	225,546

Articles and Principal Countries of Origin.		*1937.*		*19[illegible].*	
		Quantity.	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*
Manures, chemical—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	12,567,516	1,199,913	13,691,904	1,239,827
India	,,	3,950,805	560,202	3,760,273	582,222
Chili	,,	1,609,516	165,331	442,988	43,735
Total imports ...	,,	19,824,236	2,117,295	19,570,305	2,038,642
Films, cinematograph—					
India	Metres	494,785	134,777	308,724	91,236
France	,,	470,910	94,066	442,316	113,378
Total imports ...	,,	1,053,461	246,633	955,408	253,161
Petroleum motor spirits—					
Dutch East Indies	Litres	2,624,318	359,415	4,145,936	541,454
U.S.A.	,,	2,635,027	379,767	2,470,372	331,158
Total imports ...	,,	6,059,265	859,945	6,616,308	872,612
Petroleum lamp oil—					
Dutch East Indies	Litres	821,861	107,404	932,227	107,960
U.S.A.	,,	1,955,556	247,280	1,850,088	215,176
Total imports ...	,,	2,777,417	354,684	2,782,320	323,137
Paints and colours—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	467,317	210,000	448,631	191,997
Total imports ...	,,	542,283	230,193	522,712	212,095
Paper manufactures—					
United Kingdom...		—	164,377	—	199,196
Belgium		—	47,090	—	27,616
Czechoslovakia ...		—	28,863	—	15,984
Total imports ...		—	358,662	—	363,476
Soap, common—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	1,554,934	579,379	1,548,199	526,172
Total imports ...	,,	1,654,484	602,102	1,558,929	530,669
Shingles—					
India	No.	1,275,250	61,190	1,138,075	59,371
Total imports ...	,,	1,295,250	61,379	1,138,075	59,371

QUANTITY AND VALUE OF PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS DURING 1937 AND 1936.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

Articles and Countries of Destination.		*1937.*		*1936.*	
		Quantity.	*Value f.o.b. Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Value f.o.b. Rs.*
Sugar—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	289,682,430	32,599,979	262,351,435	29,462,107
Canada	,,	22,415,417	2,570,551	16,529,808	1,673,610
Hong Kong ...	,,	914,494	80,077	304,838	12,624
Straits Settlements	,,	—	—	8,010	1,029
Total ...	,,	313,012,341	35,250,607	279,194,091	31,149,370
Copra—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	1,506,867	350,012	1,331,539	229,884
Aloe fibre—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	416,995	74,040	297,788	41,244
Belgium	,,	789,438	146,662	493,673	94,871
France	,,	79,068	13,868	56,091	11,139
Holland	,,	203,208	29,298	159,166	39,761
U.S.A.	,,	128,022	18,658	284,187	49,807
Total ...	,,	1,616,731	282,526	1,290,905	236,822

RE-EXPORTS.

Articles and Countries of Destination.		*1937.*		*1936.*	
		Quantity.	*Value f.o.b. Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Value f.o.b. Rs.*
Lentils—					
Reunion ...	Kilos	433,966	63,149	684,660	94,449
Total	,,	541,791	80,233	762,757	104,532
Jute, gunny bags—					
Madagascar ...	No.	710,900	169,759	622,950	130,231
Reunion ...	,,	—	—	518,302	149,298
Total	,,	722,900	173,119	1,286,752	308,609
Iron, old and scrap—					
Japan	Tons	3,303	66,053	Not stated	77,220
Total	,,	3,934	147,548	—	105,792

In the Table of Imports, Domestic Exports and Re-Exports above, the values for Bullion and Specie are not included. The imports in 1937 were Rs.121,333 and Re-Exports Rs.174,789 against Rs.50,000 and Rs.159,185 respectively in 1936; Rs.36,866 and Rs.1,275,622 in 1935; Rs.2,182,000 and Rs.2,419,834 in 1934.

In 1933 there were no imports, and re-exports amounted to Rs.213,030.

TOURIST TRAFFIC.

During the year 1937, five tourist ships called at Port Louis with 532 visitors. The number of tourists who arrived in the Colony by other ships amounted to 182. Good roads and taxi-cars at cheap rates render places of interest throughout the Colony easily accessible to visitors.

VIII.—LABOUR.

About 11,000 labourers mainly of the Indian population work on the sugar estates under verbal monthly contract and some 70,000 by the day or by the task. Casual labour is hired by Indian sirdars who go round the neighbouring villages and persuade their fellow-countrymen to work at a certain rate on estates where the sirdars have been entrusted with field work.

To all appearances, especially in crop time, demand is in excess of supply chiefly for the reason that a day labourer will not work more than six hours a day at most.

Serious unrest occurred during the year among labourers employed on sugar estates. The first indications of this unrest appeared at the end of July when the cane cutting season began. The principal grievance of the strikers at that time was that a

15 per cent. cut had been made in the price paid for " Uba " cane—an inferior type of cane which has a smaller sugar content than other varieties. The small planters, many of whom work as labourers, alleged that this cut in price had been made without due notice and that it would result in serious loss to themselves. Strikes continued to occur until September, the complaints of the labourers being:—

(1) Low wages.
(2) Inferior quality of rations.
(3) Low rates of overtime pay.
(4) Poor medical treatment.

During the course of the strikes several serious accidents occurred—in one case the staff of a sugar mill, fearing that they would be rushed by a hostile mob, opened fire, killing four persons and wounding six others. In another case a mob attacked a small party of police with stones and the police were obliged to fire, killing one person and slightly wounding another.

A considerable amount of intimidation occurred during the strike—arrests were made in some cases.

The Protector of Immigrants and his staff took all steps possible to enquire into and settle the strikes, and millers and employers agreed to a reduction in the cut in the price paid for " Uba " cane and to an increase in wages for labourers.

The series of strikes ended on the 8th of September.

On the 17th of August a Commission was appointed to hold a full enquiry into the causes of the unrest and to make such recommendations as it thought fit. This Commission had not yet reported when the year came to an end.

The problem of unemployment, which is practically non-existent in the labouring classes, was severely felt amongst skilled artisans and clerks. Certain works of public utility were again undertaken by Government during the year, providing employment for as many persons as possible who were without work.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labourers under monthly verbal contracts receive in cash Rs.10 per month, together with rations, lodgings, medical assistance, etc. Furthermore, they have facilities for rearing chickens, goats, milch cattle and form the groundwork of the supply, through hawkers, of eggs, chickens and milk throughout the Island.

Male day labourers received R.0.60 to Rs.1.25 per daily task; females R.0.35 to R.0.70: in crop time agricultural wages being about double their wages in inter-crop.

Remuneration for piece work was, on the average, as follows:—

	Per acre. *Rs.*
Clearing land	20–40
Digging cane holes	18–20
Manuring	15
Weeding	8–10
Cutting canes (20 tons/acre)	12–16

The wages of artisans were R.1 to Rs.2 per day while those paid by the month received Rs.30 to Rs.90 according to the nature of work.

The supply of domestic servants, especially in the populous central districts, is abundant, if not altogether efficient. Butlers, cooks, gardeners, and other servants receive Rs.10 to Rs.35 per month, often with quarters. Chauffeurs, on the average get Rs.35 per month.

As regards salaries, conditions have not changed in 1937. The following gives a broad outline of the principal rates:—

	Rs. per annum.
Managers of sugar estates and senior Government officials	8,000–13,000
Government, bank and commercial clerks (higher grade)	4,000– 7,000
Clerks and employees on sugar estates	1,500– 3,000
Junior clerks and employees	720– 1,500

The cost of living in 1937 evinced an appreciable decrease, especially as regards foodstuffs. Rice, the staple food of the population, was indexed, throughout the year at 66 (100 in 1914). Other grains (lentil, dholl) fell from 80 to 77. Flour, which was 129 during the first quarter, fell to 113 during the last. Oils and fats fell from 69 to 66 while tea and coffee remained steady at 77 and 58 respectively. Articles of clothing remained steady about 112.

The quarterly weighted index for the total cost of living (28 items) in 1937 was as follows (100 being the Index for 1914):—

First quarter	98·0
Second ,,	98·2
Third ,,	97·0
Fourth ,,	97·9

The mean for the year was 97·8 as compared with 111·5 in 1936.

As regards the labouring classes, the following total indicates the purchasing power of wages, in terms of rice, since 1927:—

Year.	*Average daily wages of male labourer.*	*Average price of fair quality rice per lb.*	*Purchasing power of wages expressed in lb. of rice.*
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*lb.*
1927	1·25	0·13	9½
1928	1·25	0·10	12½
1929	1·00	0·10	10
1930	0·80	0·09	9
1931	0·75	0·08	9
1932	0·45	0·05½	8
1933	0·45	0·06	7½
1934	0·45	0·06	7½
1935	0·55	0·07	8
1936	0·55	0·06	9
1937	0·65	0·06	11

The official index numbers do not take into consideration the improved standard of living since 1914, while such items as housing, lighting, tuition of children, taxes and rates, etc., have either not been reduced or else, actually increased. Consequently the cost of living for Europeans and people living on the European standard is, generally, higher than the official index would lead one to suppose.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

An Ordinance, enacted by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, was introduced on the 18th of September, 1934, to amend and consolidate the law on education. It provides for the establishment of a Royal College Department and a Schools Department. The Regulations for the management of Government and Aided Primary Schools as well as Aided Secondary Schools are embodied in the Education Code.

Primary.—Primary Education is not compulsory, but it is given free through Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony. The following table shows the number of primary schools, the number of pupils on roll, and the staff of teachers during the year 1937:—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Government ...	50	401	14,393	10,436
Aided	77	691	24,515	17,306
Totals ...	127	1,092	38,908	27,742

State-aided schools are under the control of a Manager, and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Pupils must be at least five years old and must have been successfully vaccinated in order to be allowed admission to a primary school; when they are under five they undergo a preliminary training before being promoted to the lowest form.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French and arithmetic. In the higher classes elementary history and geography are taught and girls study needlework. Regular instruction is also given in physical drill, nature study, hygiene and elementary principles of agriculture.

There are six primary school standards or classes, viz.:—

Standard I with pupils from 5 to 6 years of age.
Standard II with pupils from 6 to 7 years of age.
Standard III with pupils from 7 to 8 years of age.
Standard IV with pupils from 8 to 10 years of age.
Standard V with pupils from 9 to 11 years of age.
Standard VI with pupils from 10 to 12 years of age.

There are no fixed age limits for the different standards but no pupil may be entered on the attendance register who is under five years of age, and no pupil may be retained on the register after the annual examination which follows his or her fourteenth birthday, exception being made for pupils following the scholarship classes.

Examinations which were formerly held for all the classes are now limited to Standards V and VI. Experience has shown that the quality of the work put in, now that examinations have been restricted to the higher classes, is of a higher standard than it used to be. A scheme of work was introduced recently for the benefit of the lower classes. It contains suggestions to teachers as to the methods to be employed with a view to acquiring a more gradual teaching of the elementary subjects. The advantage gained by the primary schools through this scheme is being gradually felt and it is hoped that in the near future the full effect of the system will be reaped.

Fourteen apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicraft. Needlework apprenticeships which were formerly restricted to Government or aided primary school pupils, are now open to outsiders. The object in view was to encourage competition on this line but, unfortunately, the result is far from being satisfactory. There is, however, a noticeable increase in the number of candidates for these examinations. Mauritian youngsters profess an undoubted aversion for manual work of any kind, but being given the difficulty of finding employment of the clerical type, there is a passive acceptance of the condition imposed upon them and a momentary return to handicraft. A new scheme is on foot and the object in view is to render handicraft more attractive. Twenty-six scholarships and exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools are awarded every year, through competitive examinations, to the best pupils attending primary schools.

It is interesting to note that a high percentage of candidates winning the English scholarships are junior scholars from the primary schools.

There are 32 gardens attached to the primary schools and they are cultivated by the pupils of Standards III to VI. These gardens are regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation. (See Chapter VI, page 19.)

Secondary.—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz.:—(1) secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (2) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by Government.

(1) *Secondary Aided Schools.*—Government grants to secondary aided schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as in the case of primary aided schools with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

The following table shows the number of institutions, the number of pupils on roll and in average attendance, and the staff of teachers during the year 1937:—

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Aided	9	139	1,632	1,471

These schools provide not only for elementary education such as is given in primary schools, but also for higher education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate and the London Matriculation.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale.

These schools are visited periodically by the Superintendent of Schools, who examines the lower forms. No advantage is gained from these examinations but it helps classification in view of prizes awarded for general proficiency. The middle and higher forms are examined partly by local examiners and partly through examinations conducted by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools extend as a general rule from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., no provision being made for evening classes.

(2) *Royal College.*—The Royal College is a Government school for the secondary and higher education of boys up to a standard equivalent to that of the Higher Certificate examinations conducted by Oxford and Cambridge Universities. It comprises two schools under the management of the Rector, the Royal College proper in Curepipe and the Royal College School in Port Louis, where pupils who live in or near the capital are educated on the same lines as in Curepipe up to School Certificate standard. At the Royal College the teaching staff consists of the Rector, twelve Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, eleven Assistant Masters appointed locally, and a Physical Training and Gymnastic Instructor (who also attends once weekly at the school to take classes); and at the Royal College School, of the Headmaster, two Masters and nine Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped libraries and chemical, physical, and biological laboratories; almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies. The subjects taught are English, French, mathematics, Latin, Greek, chemistry, physics, biology, geography and history; and classes are held during school hours in physical training and gymnastics. The pupils are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from 10 to 20 years. The fees are from Rs.96 to Rs.192 per annum, and pupils may travel at quarter rate on the Government railways. Admission to the Royal College is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning one of the 20 annual primary schools scholarships and exhibitions or one of the two secondary schools scholarships awarded annually, or one of the eight class scholarships and exhibitions, which are competed for annually, and are open to all boys in the Colony. Six further class scholarships and exhibitions are competed for annually by Royal College pupils. These 36 scholarships and exhibitions are tenable at the Royal College, and entitle the holders to free tuition, free railway travelling to and from College, and also to the purchase at half price of books and school requisites, for a period of three years except the primary schools awards, which carry these privileges for the whole period of the pupil's college education.

Two scholarships, one on the Classical and one on the Modern Side, of the present value of £1,100 each (with first-class passage to and from England), tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom are also awarded annually. Besides the winners of these two scholarships, a few boys whose parents can afford it go to England or France to study for a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practise. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects. Specialization begins at the Entrance class, and the division into modern and classical sides becomes complete in the Upper Middle class. At the school, pupils may undergo commercial training in place of classics or science.

Classes are held between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on five days weekly. In addition to the ordinary classes there are Saturday extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public examinations are helped in their studies. The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1937, was 334, and of the school, 176. The average attendance at the college was 313 and at the school 170. (The number of college pupils on the roll in May, 1937, after the publication of the School Certificate results, was 317.) Eighty-six pupils sat in December, 1936, for the Cambridge School Certificate, of whom 47 obtained certificates. In May, 1937, the number of pupils who had passed this examination and proceeded to the highest class of the college was 22.

Besides the regular physical training classes encouragement is given to rugby and association football, hockey, boxing and gymnastics and athletics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high. As the pupils are all day-boys it is difficult to obtain much support for other social activities, but a school magazine is published once yearly.

Welfare Institutions.

There are six Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women, and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy; also an orphanage for boys and one for girls under the control and management of the Church of England, and one " home " for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland. These institutions receive from the Government a maintenance fee for each pauper maintained therein.

Under Ordinance No. 44 of 1932, subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 21 of 1934, a home, styled the Austin Wilson Home, has been instituted and incorporated to provide accommodation and subsistence for aged gentlefolk. The funds for the establishment of this home have been generously contributed by Mr. A. J. Wilson in memory of his son, the late Austin Wilson.

A Mohammedan orphanage was established in Port Louis in 1932 for the maintenance and education of orphans and children of paupers of the Mohammedan creed. Funds for running the institution were up to February, 1937, obtained from voluntary subscriptions among the Mohammedans.

Consequent on an application from the Directors of the Orphanage for the grant of capitation fees out of public funds, the Orphanage is receiving from the Government, since the 1st March, 1937, a maintenance fee for each child maintained therein.

Outdoor assistance to paupers was granted in cash by the Poor Law Department during the year.

Several private religious societies for the distribution of assistance in food and medical care are also in existence. The Société Francaise d'Assistance chiefly assists French nationals.

The Child Welfare Committee and the Oeuvre Pasteur de la Goutte de Lait, two philanthropic institutions in receipt of Government grants, deal especially with expectant and nursing mothers and their babies.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance provides for the grant of compensation by employers to workmen who are injured in the course of their work.

Recreation, Music, Art and Drama.

Association football is the most popular form of sport. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and rugby football are played mostly by the wealthier classes.

The Mauritius Turf Club, founded by Colonel Edward A. Draper in 1812, and the Mauritius Jockey Club, which first ran horses in 1906, hold race meetings from May to October, at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis and at Floreal in the district of Plaines Wilhems. The large gathering of Indians in bright attire at the former place on the last Saturday of August, called " The Race Saturday," is a striking sight worth seeing.

Regattas are held by the Yacht Clubs of Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay generally on Empire Day, in August, and in December.

Fly and devon fishing, in rivers, for a sort of perch *Kuhlia* (Dules), *rupestris* (Lacp) called " Carpe," locally; and trailing for sail and sword fishes and other big game, out at sea, with heavier rods, afford excellent sport especially from October to January.

The " Chasse," or the shooting of deer, is a favourite sport in Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September, and strangers of mark visiting the Island at this period are always treated to chasses, some of which, like those given to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh by Messrs. Currie and Pitot in 1871, to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York (later King George the Fifth) by Mr. Leopold Antelme in 1901 and to His Royal Highness the Duke of York (now King George the Sixth) by Mr. Georges Antelme in 1927, are the occasion of splendid fetes. The " Chasse " affords to many poor people the only opportunity of eating meat during the year.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies, the latter known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy Scouts movement is becoming very popular and there are several companies of Scouts and Cubs. A Sea Scout Company has recently been organized and is promising.

There is not much chance of encouragement for any of the Arts. Music is fostered principally by the parish churches and amateur singers, who sometimes give concerts; there are but few professors now that the theatrical companies from France, which came over every year, and whose members generally gave lessons, sometimes remaining till the next season, have been driven away by the financial crisis and by the competition of the cinema, of which there are halls in every important village where excellent films are exhibited in record time after their appearance in Europe and in India. Censorship is exercised.

The Christian Brothers also provide musical training, and apart from the police band which consists of a bandmaster with 30 bandsmen, a band styled the " Alliance Musicale " and comprising about 25 units was established in 1933. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town, to which companies come from China when conditions are prosperous. The African Creoles are very fond of music and can pick up a tune in an amazingly short time.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent now that the post of drawing master has been abolished at the Royal College.

The Mauritius Institute was founded in 1900 (Ordinance No. 37 of 1900) to promote the intellectual advancement of the Colony and installed in a specially erected building whose first stone was laid by Sir George Bowen on 23rd November, 1880. The Natural History Collections bequeathed to the Colony by Mr. Julien Desjardins were transferred to it in 1885.

The Institute now consists of:—

(*a*) The Museum Desjardins, containing the natural history collections bequeathed to the Colony by Mr. N. Desjardins in 1842, to which important additions have since been made.

(*b*) An Art Gallery of some 60 paintings of which 47 were offered by Mr. Edgar de Rochecouste in 1921-2.

(*c*) A Public Library of about 20,000 volumes, which is increasing at an annual rate of 300 units and attended by some 1,200 readers.

(*d*) The following incorporated scientific bodies: The Société Médicale de l'Ile Maurice including among its members most of the medical practitioners of the Colony; the Societe des Chimistes, a technical body of the local sugar industry, reckoning over 120 members and studying questions of technique concerning the growing of sugar cane and the manufacture of cane sugar; the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences. This Society which was founded in 1829 under the title of Societe d'Histoire Naturelle was honoured with a Royal Charter in 1846. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history, science and art. Lectures are delivered by its members, now numbering 60, and also by visitors of mark under its auspices. Its valuable library has been transferred to the Institute.

Apart from the public Art Gallery at the Institute, many pictures from celebrated painters are privately owned, together with artistic collections of old china, glassware, lace, bronze and marble figures from the best artists including the Mauritian sculptor Prosper d'Epinay.

There is also a museum of naval relics, located in a building on the premises of Government House. Most of the exhibits were reclaimed by the Honourable H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E., from the wreck of battleships sunk in Mahebourg harbour in 1810.

Artistic photography and fine millinery and embroidery are also produced.

In addition to the Institute Library there are: at Port Louis, the Municipal, the Police and the Union Catholique libraries; and at Curepipe, the Carnegie Library.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads and Road Transport.

The Colony is well served with 500 miles of main roads maintained by Government and 190 miles of branch roads maintained by the District Boards. All roads are metalled and 170 miles of the main roads have been covered with bitumen.

The excellent roads of Mauritius are a source of constant surprise and admiration to all visitors to the Colony who are in a position to draw comparisons between Mauritius and other outlying posts of the Empire. All the principal roads are tarred and a systematic policy of widening, grading and reducing curves has been pursued for some years with the result that the numerous places of beauty and interest in the Colony can be reached quickly and in comfort by tourists and visitors.

At the end of the year there were 2,866 motor vehicles in use classified as follows:—

Private cars	1,719
Taxi cars	402
Lorries	389
Motor cycles	224
Omnibuses	132

Importations of motor vehicles during the year totalled 350, of which 265 were British made.

Taxi-cars for hire in Port Louis and the principal towns are of modern type and are kept in excellent condition as regards safety and cleanliness and the charges for hire are reasonable, viz., R.0.20 per mile for short distance and special rates for long journeys or by the day. There is an excellent bus service on the 15 miles of main road from Port Louis to Curepipe and many subsidiary lines of less importance which radiate from the main system to every town and village in the Colony. The fares vary from 2 to 5 cents per mile and buses on the principal routes are well patronized and maintained in excellent condition for the safety and comfort of passengers. The retail price of petrol is normally Rs. 12.00 per eight gallon case, which is equivalent to about 2s. 2d. per gallon.

The annual tax payable in respect of motor vehicles is Rs.4 per horse-power in respect of motor cycles and Rs.5 per horse-power in respect of other classes of vehicles. Lorries pay an additional tax of Rs.40 per ton gross weight and motor buses a licence duty varying from Rs.200 to Rs.500 per annum in accordance with their seating capacity. Motor lorries plying for hire pay a further licence of Rs.200 per annum. Motor cars pay a licence duty of Rs.30 per annum and the cost of a driving licence is Rs.5 a year.

Cars of visitors are subject to a tax at the rate of Rs.10 a month.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways comprise 110½ miles of main line with 45¾ miles of sidings and station lay-outs of British standard 4 feet 8½ inch gauge, and 13⅔ miles of 75 cm. gauge track known as the Bois Cheri Light Railway. The exceptionally heavy gradients, much of it being 1 in 26, makes the operation of the railways exceptional, restricting speed of the passenger service and limiting the weight of goods trains.

From the terminal at Port Louis, the most important section, the Midland Line, rises to 1,800 feet on its way to Mahebourg, the old port on the south-east coast of the island, 35¼ miles distant. A branch, 11 miles long, from this line, at Rose Belle, serves the fishing hamlet of Souillac. The North line, 33½ miles long, is fairly level and runs from Port Louis passing through the coastal districts to the little village of Grand River South-East, on the east coast. The Moka Branch from Rose Hill, on the Midland line, 950 feet above sea-level, to Montagne Blanche, is 14¾ miles long and rises on this length to 1,500 feet. Tamarin and the Black River district are served by a branch off the Midland line at Richelieu, 12½ miles long, for goods traffic only. The Montagne Longue branch from Terre Rouge on the North line, is 3½ miles long, and in common with the Black River line, has no heavy gradients.

Particulars of revenue and expenditure for six years are given below:—

REVENUE.

	1931–32.	*1932–33.*	*1933–34.*	*1934–35.*	*1935–36.*	*1936–37.*	*Increase or Decrease of 1936–37 over 1935–36.*
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	
Passengers	434,325	419,181	524,818	510,728	466,307	433,446	− 32,861
Parcels	63,466	62,163	65,776	61,019	63,515	59,954	− 3,561
General goods	817,077	1,174,046	1,255,729	928,850	1,288,120	1,375,022	+ 86,902
Road traffic (railway lorries) ...	—	—	—	—	400	7,548	+ 7,148
Miscellaneous	70,875	57,412	53,809	52,102	52,886	50,556	− 2,330
Net revenue	187,938	63,554	36,738	43,809	47,204	32,187	− 15,017
Totals	1,573,681	1,776,356	1,936,870	1,596,508	1,918,432	1,958,713	+ 40,281
Goods tonnage	254,139	362,642	385,541	279,646	422,811	454,622	

EXPENDITURE.

	1931–32.	*1932–33.*	*1933–34.*	*1934–35.*	*1935–36.*	*1936–37.*	*Increase or Decrease of 1936–37 over 1935–36.*
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	
Working expenditure including renewals.	1,945,113	1,516,631	1,606,730	1,808,354	1,877,048	1,896,216	+ 19,168
Net revenue expenditure ...	642,785	260,955	190,308	233,015	218,917	207,415	− 11,502
Totals	2,587,898	1,777,586	1,797,038	2,041,369	2,095,965	2,103,631	+ 7,666
Capital expenditure	20,226	304	—	26	11,604	25,711	+ 14,107
	2,608,124	1,777,890	1,797,038	2,041,395	2,107,569	2,129,342	+ 21,773

All previous records were broken in 1936 by the sugar crop reaching a total of 300,340 tons.

Of the total quantity of sugar produced in the Colony, 17,895 tons or 5·95 per cent. were carried otherwise than by the Railway Department, i.e., by road or by sea.

The increased size and speed of buses as well as the use of communal taxis has again reduced the passenger revenue of the Railway.

In March, 1937, the passenger services were reduced by the suppression of the little 3-mile Bel Air—Riviere Seche branch service, of two Midland line trains between Port Louis and Forest Side, of two Moka line trains between Rose Hill and Montagne Blanche and of four others between Montagne Blanche and Verdun. This step was rendered necessary by the need for economy and the paucity of passengers using these trains.

The Transport of Sugar and Fertilizers (Restriction) Ordinance became law on the 24th April, 1937. By this enactment about 98 per cent. of all the sugar produced in the Colony will be carried by rail and additional revenue from the transport of fertilizers should be realized. A slightly more equitable distribution of sugar rates has at the same time been made together with a remission of the 1 per cent. for cane fire and damp sugar risks and the one cent. per ton for sugar otherwise damaged in transit.

Tramways.

Greater extension of the network of tramway lines was in evidence. In 1937, over 1,800 kilometres of rail were in service as against 1,770 the year previous. There were 221 locomotives and about 7,700 trucks, as against 220 locomotives and 7,400 trucks in 1936. Farm tractors, on estates, numbered 69 and motor lorries 108.

Posts, Telegraphs and Wireless.

The usual facilities which the Post Office provides in regard to correspondence, parcels, and remittances are being extended to remote areas gradually as their postal needs can be firmly estimated. Of the 57 offices and postal agencies, 53 are telegraph offices. Mails from one office to another are carried by the Government Railways. With the exception of a few outposts in outlying localities the offices are on the railway lines. The offices and localities lying out far from the railway stations are served by bicycle postmen or by motor mail contractors.

A regular monthly service by the Dutch K.P.M. steamers is maintained with Rodrigues, the largest dependency of Mauritius. A connexion is made every four months with the other dependencies. Communications by occasional sailings are also available.

Mails to and from Europe are carried regularly twice every month by the French Messageries Maritimes steamers via Suez, and twice in transit through South Africa by the K.P.M. steamers.

Mails between Mauritius and India, Ceylon, the Far East and Australia are despatched by the Messageries Maritimes steamers via Mombasa or Aden and by the Dutch K.P.M. steamship lines via Singapore and Batavia, twice monthly.

Communications with Europe, Asia, and other places are occasionally provided by other ships.

The time taken for the transmission of first class mail to and from England by the Messageries Maritimes steamers via Dar-es-Salaam is 18 days, and by the Dutch K.P.M. steamers via South Africa 15 days. It takes about 32 days by the former route and between 26 and 50 days by the latter for second class mail. Letters by air are also despatched to Europe via Tananarive and Batavia. The average time of transmission is 18 and 25 days respectively .

The outstanding feature of the postal service for the year 1937 has been the introduction of the Empire Air Mail Scheme which has made it possible to send letters by air to Great Britain and certain British territories in Africa at the rate of 12 cents for 10 grammes.

Parcel mails from Great Britain are only received by the Cape route when direct despatch is not available. The other route is via Marseilles. Parcels from Continental Europe are as a rule received by the latter route.

Remittances are made by both money orders and postal orders. There are direct exchanges with the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Ceylon, Aden, Seychelles, Hong Kong and Australia; remittances to almost any place may be made through these offices. Remittances by telegraph may be made to the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Seychelles and Rodrigues.

There is also a remittance service with England and France in respect of Trade Charge Orders.

The Telephone service, owned and managed by the Oriental Telephone Company, has its headquarters in Port Louis with which the rural districts are connected. Government Offices are linked together by the Government telephone system which is connected to the Oriental Telephone Company's lines.

Overseas telecommunications are maintained by the Eastern and South African Company, whose local station is in Port Louis. Cablegrams to and from rural telegraph offices are transmitted on the Government telegraph lines. Rodrigues is connected to Mauritius by that Company's cable system.

Communication with the outside world is also provided by the Post Office wireless coast station. The station can transmit within a limited range to ships equipped with wireless. There is also a service with Reunion Island. The staff is in attendance day and night. Radiotelegrams can be handed in at any telegraph office for transmission. During the cyclonic season, from 11th November to 15th May, the station transmits to all ships and stations within the range at 08.45 G.M.T. daily a detailed weather report including observations made at Reunion, Rodrigues, Seychelles and Durban. A fairly large number of weather reports are intercepted from ships at sea. When a cyclone is in the vicinity, the Government tug *Maurice* stationed in the harbour at Port Louis is manned and inland weather reports are transmitted by wireless telegraphy from the tug to all vessels in the port for the guidance of their masters. The wireless apparatus in the *Maurice* also acts as a stand-by in the event of accident to the aerial system at the main wireless station at Rose Belle. The Rose Belle station is provided with a modern valve set in conformity with the Telecommunications Convention. The range of the station is 1,000 miles.

Harbour.

Port Louis, the capital of the Colony, possesses the only navigable harbour for ocean-going ships, which is picturesquely situated on the north-west coast. A wide break in the ring of coral reefs surrounding the island, caused by the meeting of several rivers and streams, the Latanier, La Paix, Le Pouce, and Creole, gives access to the harbour, which has been dredged so as to provide deep-water accommodation for ten ships lying at berths in the channel and drawing from 24 to 31 feet of water. The harbour is flanked on the north by Fort George, a military post, and on the south by Fort William, which is abandoned. The mountains of the range behind Port Louis, including the Pouce, 2,661 feet, and Pieterboth, 2,690 feet, are guiding beacons to ships by day. The lighthouses of Flat Island, the Colony's quarantine station six miles north of Mauritius, and Caves Point, five miles south of Port Louis on the cliff's edge, and the gas buoy to the north of the outer harbour entrance, direct ships approaching Port Louis by night. A tide gauge has been in operation for five years. The maximum rise of tide at ordinary springs is three feet, which diminishes to two or three inches at ordinary neaps. Dredging of the berths and channel by the Government plant is continuously in progress.

The Government of Mauritius is the Harbour Authority. The Government has from time to time sold or let to two lighterage companies various areas of land bordering the harbour. These two companies, the New Mauritius Dock Company and the

Albion Dock Company, each own about 45 lighters with the necessary tugs, and undertake all the storage and lighterage of sugar. The British India Steam Navigation Company also own 30 lighters and two tugs. This Company mainly handles grain from the East, the rest of the general cargo being shared fairly evenly between the British India Company and the other two lighterage companies. Seven years ago the Government built a deep-water quay, 500 feet long, with 32 feet of water alongside, which is able to deal with 100,000 tons of cargo per annum. Actually only 40,000 to 50,000 tons, chiefly petroleum products, Government coal, etc., are discharged annually at the quay.

A Government granary, capable of storing 300,000 bags of rice, was put into commission seven years ago as a protection against the spread of plague in the Colony. Under exceptional circumstances 414,000 bags were stored in the granary in 1937.

Shipping.

There are now three regular lines of passenger steamers connecting Mauritius with the United Kingdom.

The service between Marseilles and Mauritius, performed by the Messageries Maritimes Company has been reduced to a three-weekly service for four months of the year and a fortnightly service for the remainder of the year; the average voyage takes from four to five weeks and includes a stay of about a week at Reunion either on the outward or homeward voyage.

Vessels of the K.P.M. (Dutch Line) leave Mauritius monthly for Durban and Cape ports connecting with the Royal Mail steamers from the United Kingdom; and once a month for Mombasa via Durban.

Vessels also leave Durban once a month direct for Mauritius.

The K.P.M. Company have put three new motor vessels of about 16,000 tons gross and a speed of about 17½ knots on the Java-Mauritius-Africa Line. The voyage to England via K.P.M. and Union Castle Lines averages 32 days. The same voyage by the Messageries Maritimes Line via Marseilles would take from 31 to 36 days.

Vessels of the Bullard King Company call occasionally, from the United Kingdom via Durban and Cape ports, with tourists.

Cheap passages to the United Kingdom may, as usual, be secured during the sugar shipping season—October to March—the voyage averaging 40 days.

The fares from Mauritius to England vary as follows:—

(i) per Messageries Maritimes steamers, from £76 to £32;

(ii) per Union Castle Intermediate steamers from £89 to £36;

(iii) per K.P.M. with transhipment at Durban from £117 and £92 to £48 and £44;

(iv) per Bullard King and Company's steamers from £50 to £43 according to classes and types of steamers.

Government servants are allowed a rebate of from 15 to 20 per cent. by all the above companies.

The number of vessels and total tonnage entering and leaving the port during the past three years were as follows:—

Inwards.

		1935.		*1936.*		*1937.*	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	200	625,175	206	641,150	205	633,927
	Sailing ships	—	—	1	88	1	88
	Totals	200	625,175	207	641,238	206	634,015
Coasting	Steamers ...	11	8,197	11	9,045	13	5,811
	Sailing ships	15	2,413	14	1,465	9	423
	Totals	26	10,610	25	10,510	22	6,234

Outwards.

		1935.		*1936.*		*1937.*	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	201	622,274	205	645,315	203	635,170
	Sailing ships	—	—	1	88	1	88
	Totals	201	622,274	206	645,403	204	635,258
Coasting	Steamers ...	10	8,166	12	9,924	13	5,187
	Sailing ships	15	2,402	14	1,465	9	423
	Totals	25	10,568	26	11,389	22	5,610

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Government buildings, the sewerage of Port Louis, roads and bridges, the survey of Crown lands, water supplies, and State irrigation.

Buildings.—Some of these, such as a time-ball tower in the Port Office, are of historical interest, dating from the time of the French Governor, Mahé de Labourdonnais, in 1740. Government House in Port Louis was then in project and was built between 1740 and 1767. Apart from the addition of a second storey, it now stands exactly as it was originally constructed. It contains the Governor's offices, in which are to be found the table on which the instrument of capitulation of the island was signed in 1810, a throne room, a council room, the council offices, a library and quarters for the Governor and officials. The former and present residences of the Governors at " Mon Plaisir ", Pamplemousses, and " Le Reduit ", Moka, respectively, also date back to the French occupation. The value of the Government buildings is approximately 15 million rupees.

There are in the island one mental and eight general hospitals, and one leper asylum. An old hospital, the Grand River North-West Hospital, built in 1769 for seamen, is used when necessary as a quarantine station for plague.

Damage is caused to a considerable extent by white ants which are particularly active in the low-lying districts of the island.

Severe cyclones, which happily are not frequent, are responsible for a good deal of damage to water works, roads and buildings.

Sewerage Works of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922, the scheme was revised by Messrs Mansergh and Sons and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connexions, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

Bridges.—There exist 335 bridges on main and branch roads, the longest having spans of 150 feet. Only a few timber bridges remain and these are being gradually replaced by ferro concrete structures for double line of traffic and heavy loading.

Water Works.—The water supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from the Grand River North-West at a distance of about four miles from the town at a level of 250 feet. This supply was handed over by the Municipality to the Public Works Department in 1922. The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated. The capacity of the mains leading to the filters is 5 million gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of 2 million gallons. The revenue is approximately Rs.60,000 and goes to the Municipality of Port Louis.

The water supply of Plaines Wilhems and of parts of Moka and Black River Districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare aux Vacoas, at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons. The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands. The whole of this water supply is filtered through sand filters at " La Marie ", about 2 miles below the reservoir, whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being 5½ million gallons. The population served by this supply is approximately 120,000 and the average daily consumption 4½ million gallons. The Mare-aux-Vacoas water supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. The supply is limited to 900,000 gallons per day. The water is chlorinated after filtration. The revenue is approximately Rs.148,000.

The water supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from 27 different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest. The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000 and is composed mostly of the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains. The revenue is approximately Rs.90,000 and goes to the District Boards.

Irrigation Works.—There are no works in progress at present. The works executed up to now provide for the irrigation of about 3,000 acres under sugar cane plantation and tobacco in the district of Black River from La Ferme Reservoir, and for a few hundred acres in the District of Pamplemousses from La Nicoliere Reservoir.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Justice is administered in Mauritius by the Supreme Court and 11 District Magistracies.

Supreme Court.—The Supreme Court which sits in the capital —Port Louis—consists of one Chief Judge and two Puisne Judges. It has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters and also as a Court of Admiralty; it also decides appeals from the Supreme Court of Seychelles, the Judge in Bankruptcy, the Master and Registrar and the inferior Courts of Mauritius.

There is a Bankruptcy Division presided over by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court or by the Master and Registrar sitting as Judge in Bankruptcy.

In 1937, the Supreme Court dealt with 292 civil cases out of 336 which were brought before it. In the course of the same year, 20 persons were brought before this Court and tried on criminal charges, 16 of them being convicted to various terms of imprisonment, one released upon furnishing recognizance, two discharged and one remanded to the next Assizes. No sentence of death was pronounced.

Criminal cases are tried by a Judge and a Jury. Matrimonial cases, bankruptcy matters and civil actions in which the sum involved is less than Rs.3,000 are heard by one Judge. Civil actions in respect of claims over Rs.3,000 are heard by two

Judges. Where, however, the magnitude of the interests at stake or the importance of the question of fact or law involved make it desirable, a case is heard by three Judges.

Magistrates.—There is a Magistrate's Court in each of the nine districts, the Courts in Port Louis and in Plaines Wilhems each sitting in two divisions.

The jurisdiction of a Magistrate sitting alone is limited:—

(*a*) in civil cases, to actions wherein the sum of money or matters in dispute do not exceed Rs.1,000 in value;

(*b*) in criminal matters, to offences for whose punishment the penal and other laws of the Colony provide imprisonment with or without hard labour not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding Rs.1,000 (except in particular cases expressly provided for in any special enactment).

Certain offences not triable by a Magistrate sitting alone and, at the request of the Procureur-General whenever he may consider it expedient to do so, nearly all offences triable by a Magistrate sitting alone, are tried by a Bench of three Magistrates, whose jurisdiction is made to extend to the imposition of penal servitude not exceeding three years and a fine not exceeding Rs.3,000.

An appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court within the limits stated above, both in fact and law, the several modes of reviewing the decisions being the same as in English Law. There is no system similar to the French Assistance Judiciaire, but facilities are given to very poor litigants, both before the Supreme and the Inferior Courts to obtain leave to sue in *forma pauperis*. In Supreme Court cases, counsel are ever ready to accept a pauper brief at the request of the Chief Judge, while in Assize cases counsel is always appointed without fee, for undefended prisoners. The Dependencies are visited periodically by a Magistrate.

The Dependency of Rodrigues is administered by a Magistrate, who has the same jurisdiction in Rodrigues as a District Magistrate in Mauritius, and whose duties are to a considerable extent administrative.

The Magistrates heard 6,444 civil cases and 10,326 ordinary criminal cases and petty offences, and held—

173 coroners' inquests;

28 preliminary inquiries into crimes and serious misdemeanours; and

1 inquiry under "Commission Rogatoire".

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force has an establishment of 21 Gazetted Officers and 596 other ranks. The personnel of the Force is almost entirely recruited locally, there being at present only 11 Officers and Warrant Officers classified as " Home-born " who were posted from England or transferred from other Forces.

The Force is organized mainly as a " Civil " as distinct from a " Military " Police Force, but recruits are instructed in the use of the rifle, an armed detachment is maintained at Headquarters, and those who have qualified in preliminary tests fire a musketry course every year.

The establishment is divided into Headquarters Staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Revenue and Motor Vehicle Control Branch, Training School, Harbour Police, Railway Police, District Police, Rodrigues Police and the Police Band.

Police Headquarters is situated in the historic Line Barracks of Port Louis, and the District Police are distributed in 55 Stations of varying size and importance.

Crime.—The total number of offences of all kinds reported to the police during the year 1937 was 23,052, which shows a decrease on the figure for 1936, which was 23,986, and also a decrease on the average of 24,161 for the past three years.

More than half of these offences are of a minor character or refer to statutory and revenue contraventions.

The more serious offences are classified as follows:—

Offences against the person	10,348 in 1937
Offences against the person	8,620 in 1936
Offences against property	3,713 in 1937
Offences against property	3,169 in 1936

The number of persons prosecuted in connexion with these 23,052 offences was 8,310, of whom 7,354 were convicted, 591 otherwise disposed of and 365 pending trial at the end of the year.

Corresponding figures for the previous year were 9,946 persons prosecuted, 8,918 convicted, 591 otherwise disposed of and 437 pending trial at the end of the year.

Prisons.

Organization.—The Mauritius Prisons Department has an establishment of four Gazetted Officers, who are appointed from England, and 108 other ranks recruited locally.

The Department is placed under the charge of the Commissioner of Police, who holds the appointment of Superintendent of Prisons, and is responsible for the management and control of the two penal institutions of the Colony, Port Louis and Beau Bassin Prisons.

Port Louis Prison provides separate cell accommodation for 154 male prisoners, association cells for 40 women in a special block, and contains the offices of the Department and quarters for two chief officers and two matrons.

Every male convicted prisoner is sent to this prison and on admission is classified as (1) Adult Felon, (2) Adult Hard Labour, (3) Adult Misdemeanant, (4) Juvenile Felon or Hard Labour, (5) Juvenile Misdemeanant, or (6) Special.

Felons are prisoners sentenced to penal servitude and misdemeanents are those sentenced to imprisonment without Hard Labour or for failing to pay fines.

Groups (1), (2) and (4) are subdivided into First Offenders and Recidivists.

Prisoners classified in Group (1) and Recidivists of Group (2) sentenced to 14 days and upwards normally serve their sentence at Beau Bassin which contains 756 separate cells for males only while all misdemeanants, Special Class and well-conducted Adults and Juvenile First Offenders are accommodated at Port Louis.

Debtors, women and waiting trial prisoners are also given separate accommodation at Port Louis Prison.

Labour.—Hard Labour consists of quarrying, stone breaking, cutting firewood, and agricultural work outside the prisons, and tailoring, boot, sail and mattress making, tin-smith work and black-smithing, carpentry and cabinet making, blind, mat and basket making and baking inside the prison's workshop.

Population.—The number of persons admitted to Port Louis Prison during the year was 2,559, which is 136 less than in the previous year and 524 less than the average for the preceding five years. Of the 2,559 persons, 1,562 were convicted of whom 1,072 were sentenced to imprisonment for one month or less. The convicted prisoners comprised 1,492 men and 70 women. The daily average population was 419·82 compared with 451·15 in 1936 and the number of persons in prison on 31st December, 1937, was 363 compared with 379 in 1936, and 417 in 1935.

Of the 363 persons in prison, 349 were serving sentence and comprised 342 men and seven women.

The number of persons who served sentence of imprisonment in lieu of paying fines was 651, including 18 women.

Health.—There were ten deaths in hospital as compared with eight in the preceding year.

Industrial School.

The Barkly Industrial School for boys is an institution for the training of juvenile offenders and vagrants, boys living in criminal surroundings, and those who cannot be controlled at home or in orphanages, etc.

The school is under the supervision of the Commissioner of Police and has a resident staff of one chief officer and 12 instructors and assistants. It occupies a group of buildings formerly used as an hospital and comprises large grounds which are fully cultivated as gardens, etc.

The number of boys in the school at the end of the year was 118, compared with 91 in 1936 and 77 in 1935. The number of admissions was 60 and discharges 28 for the whole year.

A visiting committee instituted by law looks after the general welfare of the inmates of the school and exercises a beneficient influence on the institution.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Fifty-one Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor between the 15th of January and the 20th of December, 1937.

The majority of these Ordinances deals with matters of domestic concern amongst which the following are of considerable importance.

Law and Order.—(i) Ordinance No. 11 of 1937, brings up to date the Fisheries Laws of the Colony in a consolidated form.

(ii) Ordinance No. 14 of 1937, provides for the protection of human beings against the danger arising from the presence of game snares and wells over the countryside.

(iii) Ordinance No. 24 of 1937, amends the District Court (Jurisdiction) Ordinance, 1888.

(iv) Ordinance No. 36 of 1937, brings up to date the Distillery Laws of the Colony in a consolidated form.

Finance.—(i) Ordinance No. 5 of 1937, amends the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1936, and provides for the transfer of deposits from the Post Office Savings Banks of the British Empire to the local Government Savings Bank and *vice versa.*

(ii) Ordinance No. 15 of 1937, provides for the raising of the loan of Rs.2,000,000 by the Colonial Government for the purpose of financing the newly created Mauritius Agricultural Bank.

(iii) Ordinances Nos. 18, 19, 20 of 1937, amend the Beau Bassin and Rose Hill Ordinance, 1895, the Quatre Bornes Ordinance, 1895, and the Curepipe Ordinance, 1889, and provide for the grant by Government of a yearly contribution to the township Boards created under the latter Ordinances, whilst affording to Government some measure of control over the financial administration of these Boards.

(iv) Ordinance No. 39 of 1937, provides for the control of the export of sugar from the Colony in line with the International Sugar Agreement of 1937.

Labour.—(i) Ordinance No. 8 of 1937, provides for the protection of dockers from accidents whilst unloading ships in line with the International Labour Convention of 1932.

(ii) Ordinance No. 32 of 1937, amends the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1931, and provides for the grant of compensation to workmen for occupational diseases.

(iii) Ordinance No. 38 of 1937, provides for the proper marking of deck lines and load lines on ships, to secure a greater margin of safety for life at sea.

All these Ordinances have in view the social and economic progress of the population of this Colony and attempt to work to that end.

A list of the more important Ordinances is given in Appendix I to this Report.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are three private banks in the Colony, viz.:—

(*a*) The Mauritius Commercial Bank;
(*b*) The Mercantile Bank of India; and
(*c*) Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838, and has a paid-up capital of Rs.2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs.200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1937 was Rs.8,729,260. The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid-up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1937, amounted to Rs.2,763,810. Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid-up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local Bank on 31st December, 1937, amounted to Rs.3,248,294. This Bank which is affiliated with Barclay's Bank, Limited, was founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836), and the National Bank of South Africa, Limited. A branch of the last named bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1937, was 39,382, compared with 38, 990 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to

Rs.6,554,221 as against Rs.6,495,031. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank, which was established under Ordinance No. 1 of 1936, commenced operations on the 5th January, 1937. The Capital of the Bank (Rs.10,000,000) is provided by Government, which raised loans at 3½ per cent. per annum for this purpose. Of these loans, the sum of Rs.3,600,000 was raised locally, the balance being raised in London. The annual Interest and Sinking Fund Charges, amounting in all to Rs.368,740 for 1938-9, are met by the Bank.

The Bank, which is neither a Government institution nor a Government department, has been introduced to lower interest charges on agricultural advances which, it is considered, impose an undue burden on the sugar industry and unduly depress wages. Subject to the provisions of the ordinance which constituted it a corporate body, the bank has complete discretion as to the conduct of its business and the nature and account of its loans. The consent of the Managing Director, who is appointed by the Secretary of State, is necessary to the grant of any loan. A measure of Government control, however, exists and is exercised by the following methods:—

(*a*) The members of the Board of Directors, other than the Managing Director, are appointed by the Governor, who determines the amount of their fees;

(*b*) While the Board appoints its own servants the amount of their salary is subject to the approval of the Governor;

(*c*) The funds of the Board are derived exclusively from the Government;

(*d*) The methods of accounting, the books to be maintained and the nature of the auditor's certificates are prescribed by the Government, and the form of Balance Sheet is prescribed by the Treasurer.

Currency.

In March, 1934, an Ordinance was enacted to make provision with respect to the currency notes of the Colony, and to place the issue of such currency notes upon a permanent basis. By this Ordinance the Currency Commissioners are required to issue, on demand, currency notes in exchange for sterling lodged with the Crown Agents in London, and to pay on demand sterling in London in exchange for currency notes lodged with them. The rate at which these exchanges are to be made is fixed at one rupee for one shilling and six pence sterling, and the minimum transaction is £5,000 or its equivalent.

The Currency Commissioners are entitled to charge commission not exceeding one and three-quarters per centum in addition to the cost of any telegram sent in connexion with any transfer.

The effect has been to substitute for the Indian rupee a new paper rupee based on sterling, and to limit official exchange fluctuations to a maximum spread of three and a half per centum.

Local commercial practice is such that the effective rate of exchange is the rate at which the banks sell sterling, and not the mean between the buying and selling rates. At the time the Ordinance was introduced the rate was Rs.13·70 for £1 by telegraphic transfer, or approximately one rupee for one shilling and five pence half-penny sterling. With a view to avoiding any sudden fluctuation in the actual rate of exchange, the commission which the Currency Commissioners were authorized to charge when selling sterling was fixed, in the first instance, at the maximum of one and three-quarters per cent., making the effective official exchange rate Rs.13·57 for £1 in respect of amounts of £5,000 or over.

The rate charged by the Currency Commissioners when buying sterling has been fixed at one-quarter per cent.

The value of the currency is maintained by a Note Security Fund held by the Crown Agents and invested in Government Securities (other than those of the Colony). Profits arising from currency transactions and income from the investments of the Note Security Fund must be applied in the first instance to maintaining the Security Fund at the value equal to the face value of currency notes in circulation. If the value of the Note Security Fund reaches one hundred and ten per cent. of the face value of notes in circulation, all profits then accrue to the revenue of the Colony.

Subsidiary silver coinage was introduced under an Ordinance passed in September, 1934. The coins are not normally redeemable, but the seignorage on the issue is invested.

The value of the currency notes of five rupees, ten rupees and one thousand rupees, in circulation on 31st December, 1937, was Rs.9,417,485 and that of Mauritius silver coins on the same date Rs.2,055,000.

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius rupee, equivalent to 1s. 6d. sterling, divided into 100 cents.

The coinage in circulation is the silver rupee, half rupee, quarter rupee, and 20-cent and 10-cent pieces, and the bronze 5-cent, 2-cent and 1-cent pieces.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use; the following special French and local measures are, however, still to be found:—

Measures of Length and Area:—

1 ligne Francaise = 2·258 millimetres or 0·088 inch.
12 lignes = 1 French inch.
12 French inches = 1 French foot.
1 French foot = 1·06 English feet.
1 lieue = 2½ English miles (approx.).
1 gaulette = 10 French feet.
1 arpent = 40,000 square French feet or 1·04 acres.
1 toise = 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches.

Measures of Capacity:—

1 barrique = 50 gallons (cane juice, etc.).
1 tiercon = 190 to 192 litres (molasses).
1 velte = 7·45 litres (coconut oil).
1 bouteille = 800 cubic centimetres (liquid).
1 chopine = ½ bouteille.
1 corde = 80 French cubic feet or 96·82 English cubic feet (firewood).

Measures of Weight:—

1 gamelle = 5·250 kilogrammes.
1 livre = 500 grammes or 1·10 English pounds.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue of the Colony for the year ended 30th June, 1937, amounted to Rs.15,923,784, and was Rs.766,084 more than the Estimate and Rs.572,798 more than that of the previous year.

The expenditure for the same period was Rs.15,506,431 being Rs.506,182 above the Estimate and Rs.811,787 above that of the previous year.

The revenue during the financial year 1936-7 exceeded expenditure by Rs.417,353 and the surplus of assets over liabilities on 30th June, 1937, amounted to Rs.18,263,556.

Of the expenditure for 1936-7, Rs.4,956,561 were spent on "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.10,549,870 on "Other Charges". The corresponding figures for 1935-6 were Rs.4,946,200 for "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.9,748,444 on "Other Charges".

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years.

Year.	*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.
1932–33	30,200,418	13,810,589
1933–34	16,567,110	14,634,339
1934–35	22,964,244*	20,650,954
1935–36	15,350,986	14,694,644
1936–37	15,923,784	15,506,431

The revenue normally becoming due and collected during the year 1932-3 was Rs.14,503,504, and the increase in the amount shown for that year was due to special adjustments comprising, *inter alia,* the following transfers to Revenue.

	Rs.
Widows' and Orphans' Fund	5,032,348
Government Scholarship Fund	539,769
Improvement and Development Fund	6,317,718
Mauritius Loan, 1922	1,362,679
Unexpended balance, Sugar Industry Loan, 1929 ...	7,316
	Rs. 13,259,830

The Colonial Government pays a military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its total revenue (inclusive only of net excess of revenue on railways, irrigation, Mare aux Vacoas and other water works but exclusive of land sales and special export duty on sugar) towards the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

The amount paid as contribution in 1936-7 was £48,650, of which £41,000 was in respect of the estimated cost of the garrison for 1936-7 and £7,650, the difference between the actual and estimated cost of the garrison for 1934-5 and for 1935-6 £2,532 and £5,118, respectively.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 30th June, 1937, was £2,977,871. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £1,857,369 compared with £1,836,347 on 30th June, 1936.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30th June, 1937.

Liabilities.	*Rs.*	*Assets.*	*Rs.*
Other Colonial Governments.	43,687	Cash Balances	6,353,750
		Imprests	3,513
Joint Colonial Fund ...	453,333	Advances	13,092,378
Deposits	722,127	Unallocated Stores ...	452,815
Appropriated Funds ...	9,794,962	Appropriated Funds Invested.	9,375,209
Balance : Surplus of Assets over Liabilities at 30th June, 1937.	18,263,556		
	Rs. 29,277,665		Rs. 29,277,665

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* Including Rs 7,882,380 Special Revenue.

Description of the Main Heads of Taxation and Their Yield.

The main heads of taxation with their yield for the current year as compared with the preceding year are the following:—

	1935–36. *Rs.*	*1936–37.* *Rs.*
Customs—Import duties	4,533,469	4,631,890
,, —Export duties	450,777	1,129,011
Excise duty on rum	1,680,232	1,728,393
Licence duties	1,099,124	1,078,375
Tobacco excise	1,247,492	1,306,227
Taxes on vehicles and animals ...	424,477	446,089
House tax	208,411	260,808
Poll tax	429,502	551,165

Customs Duties.

The Revenue from Customs duties for the year 1937 was Rs.4,925,422 for Imports and Rs.1,223,156 for Exports.

The figures for the two previous years were:—

	Import duty. *Rs.*	*Export duty.* *Rs.*
1936	4,640,335	566,369
1935	4,650,711	816,385

Customs Tariff (Summarized).

The following shows the rates of duty on the principal imports and exports on the 31st December, 1937:—

IMPORTS.

Rice	R. 0·63 per 100 kilos.	Wines in casks up to 14°.	Rs. 22·00 per hectolitre.
Dholl	Rs. 1·14 per 100 kilos.	Wines in cases up to 14° (still).	R. 0·33 per litre.
Flour	R. 0·94 per 100 kilos.	Spirits (proof) ...	Rs. 5·00 per litre.
Fertilizers ...	R. 0·11 to Rs. 1·10 per 100 kilos.	Tobacco, manufactured.	Rs. 15·00 per kilo.
Petroleum oil ...	Rs. 5·28 per hectolitre.	Tobacco, cigarettes.	Rs. 16·50 per kilo.
Petroleum spirits	Rs. 14·00 per hectolitre.	Vegetable oil, other than olive.	Rs. 5·50 to Rs. 9·00 per 100 kilos.
Soap, common...	Rs. 1·93 per 100 kilos.	Most manufactured articles.	5 to 55 per cent. *ad valorem*, with an average of about 15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

EXPORTS.

*Sugar	R. 0·46 per 100 kilos.	†Aloe fibre ...	Rs. 3·0 per 1,000 kilos.

NOTE.—*The duty on sugar is only for special purposes as under :—
R. 0·03 per cent. kilos for destruction of *Phytalus Smithi* ;
R. 0·03 ,, ,, ,, ,, College of Agriculture ;
R. 0·04 ,, ,, ,, ,, Sugar Industry Reserve Fund ;
R. 0·36 ,, ,, ,, ,, in refund of loans.

† The duty on aloe fibre is Rs. 3 per 1,000 kilos in refund of loan to the hemp industry.

Principal Preferential Rates on Imports.

	Preferential.	*General.*
Motor vehicles of all kinds, including tyres and tubes.	5·5 per cent. *ad valorem.*	36·66 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Silk manufactures (including artificial silk).	16·5 „ „ „ „ or R. 0·55 per kilo.	55 „ „ „ „ or Rs. 1·75 per kilo.
	whichever is the higher.	
Indigo	Rs. 1·10 per kilo.	Rs. 2·75 per kilo.
Cement	R. 0·30 per 100 kilos.	R. 1·00 per 100 kilos.
Cinema films	Free.	R. 0·04 per metre.
Machinery, industrial...	Rs. 1·45 per 1000 kilos.	5·5 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Cotton manufactures ...	5 per cent. *ad valorem.*	26 per cent. *ad valorem,* and also specific rates in certain cases.
Hardware	11 per cent. *ad valorem.*	22 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Coal	8 cents per 100 kilos.	42 cents per 100 kilos.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

The duty on rum for home consumption for potable use is Rs.2.75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

Three distilleries worked periodically during 1937. These three distilleries form an annex to sugar mills; in all cases spirits are distilled from molasses and the strength of the spirits produced varies from 30 to 42 degrees Cartier. The bulk is produced at 39 degrees Cartier or below and when broken down to 23 degrees Cartier, is consumed locally as potable rum, though it has the general characteristics of rectified spirit.

The remainder of the spirits produced is either exported or used after denaturation or compounding for lighting and heating and power purposes, for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs, perfumed spirits and for the manufacture of vinegar. The attempts made to find an export market for locally produced alcohol were more successful during the year under review. The quantity exported was 60,566 litres for the period July, 1936, to June, 1937, as compared with 22,267 litres for the previous corresponding period.

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for heating and lighting purposes is 4 cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 4 cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier.

Owing to the quantity of electrical power available and the organization for its distribution, comparatively little use is made of locally produced alcohol for lighting purposes. Where electrical power is not available kerosene is a more popular illuminant. The poorest classes, who require little illumination since they mostly retire at nightfall, use coconut oil or similar local product. There is little call for artificial heating of houses and most cooking is done by locally produced wood charcoal on charcoal stoves. Locally produced alcohol might be used largely for cooking purposes were a satisfactory type of stove available. The import duty on denaturated or methylated alcohol is R.0.30 per litre.

The quantity of spirits denaturated for heating and lighting during the last two years is shown below:—

	1935–36.	*1936–37.*
Litres	141,410	180,400
	Rs.	*Rs.*
Excise duty	5,764·13	7,406·16

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for use as motor fuel is 4 cents per litre or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier. Attempts on a commercial scale to utilize locally produced alcohol in various forms for power purposes have been in progress for about 20 years but have had comparatively little success. The increasing use of heavy fuel oil and compression ignition type engines make any further development in the use of the local alcohol improbable in present circumstances. Protection is given to the local industry by imposing a customs duty on imported motor spirits of Rs.14 per hectolitre.

The following statement shows the quantity of spirits denaturated during the last two years for use as industrial alcohol:—

	1935–36.	*1936–37.*
Litres	243,800	330,600
	Rs.	*Rs.*
Excise duty	9,752	13,224

The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of "alcoholats " in accordance with the formulae laid down in the British Pharmacopoeia or the French Codex or any other medicinal tinctures and drugs as notified in Gazette is Rs. 2.50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier, with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

With the exception of certain traditional local preparations, locally produced tinctures, etc., have provided little competition to the imported articles which pay an import duty at 13·2 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following table shows the quantity of alcohol used during the last two years for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs:—

	1935–36.	*1936–37.*
	Litres.	*Litres.*
Quantity	9,853	5,487
	Rs.	*Rs.*
Excise duty	1,380·10	1,295·10

The duty of alcohol delivered for the manufacture of perfumed spirits is 18 cents per litre. The position as regards locally produced perfumed spirits is similar to that of medicinal tinctures. One or two preparations are in popular local demand, but in spite of the fairly high protective import duty of 33 per cent. *ad valorem* there is little demand for other products. Attempts have been made to find an export market but without success.

The quantity of spirits issued for the manufacture of perfumed spirits during the last two years was as follows:—

	1935–36.	*1936–37.*
	Litres.	*Litres.*
Quantity	6,130	4,901
	Rs.	*Rs.*
Excise duty	3,065	2,450·50

The duty on vinegar is Rs.1·70 per hectolitre, on vinegar not exceeding 8 degrees of strength by Salleron's acidimeter, and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8 degrees.

Locally produced vinegar is manufactured exclusively by the slow oxidation of alcohol. The production figures for the past years were:—

	Litres.	*Duty.*
July, 1935 to June, 1936 ...	24,500	Rs. 419·96
July, 1936 to June, 1937 ...	23,800	Rs. 411·45

The corresponding import duty on vinegar is Rs.3·50 per hectolitre full rate and Rs.1·65 preferential rate.

According to the Excise figures, the number of litres of spirits distilled in 1936-7 (July to June) was 1,092,298 litres, as compared with an average of 961,315 litres for the past five years.

The duty on wine and other liquors (excepting rum and compounded rum) manufactured in the Colony which contain more than 4 degrees of alcohol according to Gay-Lussac's alcoholometer is as follows:—

(i) On all such liquor not exceeding 14 degrees by Gay-Lussac's alcoholometer a duty of 15 cents per litre;

(ii) On all such liquor exceeding 14 degrees a duty at the same rate and on the same scale as the Customs duty on wine payable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

Practically no grapes are grown in Mauritius and the local wine is produced from imported dried fruits, principally raisins, sugar and other ingredients. Attempts to produce wine from local fruits such as pineapples, guavas, bananas, etc., have not been successful. There has been a substantial development in the wine industry during the past year from the point of view of quantity, and considerable research work is being done in the improvement of the quality of the produce and in studying the many variations in fermentation largely caused by difference in temperature, atmospheric humidity, etc.

Local wine issued:—

	Litres.
July, 1935 to June, 1936	325,366
„ 1936 „ „ 1937	536,876

An Excise duty of Rs. 4 per kilog. is charged on leaf tobacco used for the manufacture of tobacco for local consumption.

According to the official figures, the quantity of tobacco manufactured in the year 1937 was 372,652·4 kilos, as compared with 362,587 kilos in 1936.

The Excise duty collected on tobacco during the last two financial years is given below:—

	1935–36. *Rs.*	*1936–37.* *Rs.*
Tobacco	1,247,492·40	1,306,226·80

The figures for the calendar year are:—

	Year 1936. *Rs.*	*Year 1937.* *Rs.*
Tobacco Excise	1,281,086·00	1,319,380

The Government Tobacco Warehouse, controlled by the Tobacco Board, has proved a most useful institution for the grading and general control of tobacco grown in the Colony. It ensures for the planters a ready market for their crop, and for the manufacturers an assured source of supply at controlled prices of graded leaf. In spite of its efforts the Board has so far been unable to gain any export trade.

The Stamp Laws were amended and consolidated by the passing on 23rd November, 1926, of Ordinance No. 22 of 1926.

This Ordinance was put into force on 23rd July, 1927, by Proclamation No. 32 of 1927.

Stamp duties are of three kinds:—

(1) A duty in proportion to the size of the paper used;

(2) A fixed duty; and

(3) An *ad valorem* duty.

The Stamp Ordinance No. 22 of 1926 was amended in 1932 by the passing of Ordinance No. 26 of 1932 to provide for the increase from 4 to 10 cents of the stamp duty on cheques drawn on banks in and out of the Colony, and on receipts as defined in Article 2 (5) of the Stamp (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1926.

House Tax.

Rates.—One per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs.1,000.

Yield.—The amount collected during the financial year 1936-7 was Rs.260,808.

Method of Assessment.—Any building liable to the house tax is assessed according to its full and fair value. In arriving at this figure, the valuer takes into consideration the actual or probable rent a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for such building.

Method of Collection.—For the purpose of collecting the house tax when the assessment arrived at is final for the year, notices for payment are served upon owners of buildings and the tax is paid to the Cashier of the district in which it is levied or to the Chief Cashier, Treasury.

Graduated Poll Tax.

A Graduated Poll Tax was imposed in 1934 on all taxable income accruing in, derived from, or received in the Colony during the year preceding the year of assessment, subject to specified exemptions.

The tax, which falls on residents and non-residents is peculiar to Mauritius. It is payable in half-yearly instalments by persons (including legal entities) whose income exceeds Rs.5,000.

The tax scale rises from Rs.50 (with marginal relief) on incomes exceeding Rs.5,000 but not exceeding Rs.7,000 to Rs.5,150 on incomes exceeding Rs.60,000 but not exceeding Rs.70,000. The tax on incomes exceeding Rs.70,000 is Rs.6,150.

The tax must be rendered with a Return from the taxpayer, but the Commissioner may refuse the Return and raise an assessment subject to a right of objection and appeal to the High Court.

No provision exists for:—

(*a*) Losses to be carried forward.

(*b*) Personal or depreciation allowances.

(*c*) Dominion income tax relief.

(*d*) Deduction of tax at source.

The main Ordinance was amended in 1935 chiefly to facilitate an equitable administration of the tax as regards allowances for interest paid, and to provide for reciprocation in exemption of profits from the business of Shipping.

Yield.—The amount collected since the inception of the tax has been as follows:—

	Rs.
1934–35	540,566
1935–36	429,502
1936–37	551,165

The estimated yield for 1937-8 is Rs. 550,000.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The most noteworthy events of the year were the celebrations in the Colony of Their Majesties Coronation. The festivities organized by the Coronation Committee included a combined Navy and Military parade at the Champ de Mars, which was attended by large crowds and 1,000 school children from all parts of the Colony; religious services at the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals; a race meeting at the Champ de Mars and an open air fete at the "Pleasure Grounds" in Port Louis. On the occasion, a sum of Rs.24,000 was distributed to the poor in all districts of the Colony and sports meetings were also organized in all primary schools.

The island was visited on the 17th January, 1937, by three French Aviators who landed at Mon Choisy after having flown from France via the continent of Africa, Madagascar and Reunion Islands. They left the Colony on the 20th January by the same route, taking mails with them. The Colony was also visited by H.M.S. *Norfolk* from the 1st to the 13th May, 1937, and by the French sloop *Bougainville* from the 27th September to the 1st November, 1937.

His Excellency Sir W. E. F. Jackson left the Colony on the 7th June, 1937, to take up his new appointment in British Guiana, and Mr. E. W. Evans, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, assumed the administration of the Colony on the same day. Sir Wilfrid Jackson's successor, the Honourable Sir Bede Edmund Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., arrived in the Colony on the 23rd October, 1937.

APPENDIX I

Fifty-one Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1937, the more important of which are tabulated as follows:—

No.	Title.
8.	An Ordinance to provide for the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships or at any dock, wharf or quay.
11.	An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Law on Fisheries.
14.	An Ordinance to make provision for the protection of human beings against the danger arising from the presence of game snares and wells.
15.	An Ordinance to empower the Colonial Government to raise a loan not exceeding the sum of Rs.2,000,000 for the purpose of financing the Mauritius Agricultural Bank.
18.	An Ordinance to amend the Beau Bassin and Rose Hill Ordinance, 1895.
19.	An Ordinance to amend the Quatre Bornes Ordinance, 1895.
20.	An Ordinance to amend the Curepipe Ordinance, 1889.
24.	An Ordinance to amend the District Court (Criminal Jurisdiction) Ordinance, 1888.
29.	An Ordinance to amend the Deportation (Aliens) Ordinance, 1936.
30.	An Ordinance to amend the Deportation (British Subjects) Ordinance, 1936.
32.	An Ordinance to provide for the payment of compensation to workmen for diseases contracted in the course of their employment and to amend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1931.
36.	An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law on Distilleries.
38.	An Ordinance to provide for the marking of deck lines and load lines on ships.
39.	An Ordinance to control the export of sugar.
43.	An Ordinance to empower the Board of Commissioners of Curepipe to make regulations for securing order and the preservation, upkeep and control of property in the gardens and parks of Curepipe.
49.	An Ordinance to amend the District Boards Ordinance, 1902.

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MAURITIUS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	Agents for Sale.	Price.
T'Eylandt Mauritius: Esquisses Historiques, 1698–1710.*	Out of print.	—
L'Ile de France: Esquisses Historiques, 1715–1833. By Albert Pitot.*	ditto	—
Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1886). By Baron d'Unienville.*	ditto	—
Le Folk-lore Mauricien (Maisonneuve, Paris, 1888).	ditto	—
Le Patois Créole Mauricien (Mauritius, 1880). By Charles Baissac.	ditto	—
Renseignements pour servir a l'histoire de l'Ile de France et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1890). By Adrien d'Epinay.	ditto	—
Mauritius Illustrated. By A. MacMillan.*	ditto	—
Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of Mauritius.*	His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.	2s. (approx.).
Financial situation of Mauritius; Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931.*	ditto	4s. 6d.
Mauritius Blue Book*	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	Rs. 5·84.
A School History of Mauritius. By W. H. Ingrams.*	MacMillan & Co., London.	2s. 6d.
Report on the Anophelinae of Mauritius and on certain aspects of Malaria in the Colony. By Malcolm E. MacGregor.*	Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius.	Rs. 10.
Report on Medical and Sanitary matters in Mauritius. By Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H.*	ditto	Rs. 15.
Mauritius Almanach and Commercial Handbook. By Andre Bax.*	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd., Mauritius.	Rs. 10.
L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921). By W. Edward Hart.*	ditto	Rs. 3.
Island of Mauritius. By Raymond Philogene.*	ditto	—
Ile de France—Documents pour son Histoire Civile et Militaire. By Saint Elme le Duc.*	Government Printing Office, Mauritius.	Rs. 10.
Sea Fights and Corsairs of the Indian Ocean. By H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E.	Mauritius.	Rs. 50.

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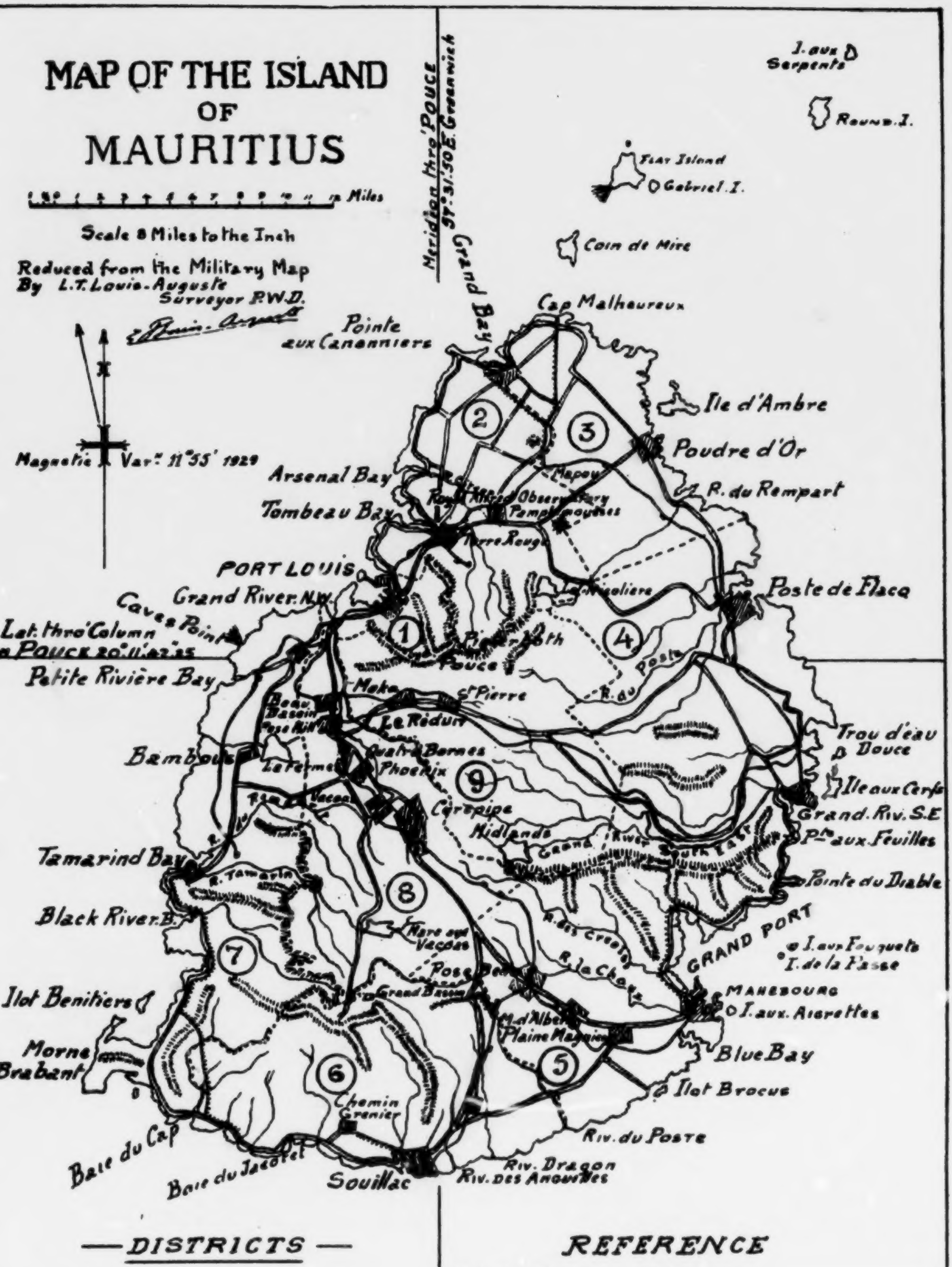
* May be consulted in the Colonial Office Library.

Title.	Agents for Sale.	Price.
La pluie a l'Ile Maurice, Lat. 20° 5′ 39″ S. Long. 57° 33′ 18″ E., By Marc Herchenroder.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd.	Rs. 5.
Port Louis—Deux Siecles d'Histoire, 1735–1935. By A. Toussaint.	The Auction Mart, Port Louis.	1st Edition, Rs. 25. 2nd Edition, Rs. 8.
L'Ile Maurice Guide Illustré. By C. Charoux.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd.	R. 1.


MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS
Scale 8 Miles to the Inch
Miles
Reduced from the Military Map By L.T. Louis-Auguste Surveyor P.W.D.
Magnetic Var.n 11°55' 1929
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°31'30E. Greenwich
Lat. thro' Column Pouce 20°11'42"35
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Canonniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Mapou
Pierre Rouge
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Petite Rivière Bay
Pieter Both
Pouce
Moka
St Pierre
Le Réduit
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
Le Ferme
Vacoas
Curepipe
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Black River B.
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R. du Poste
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Mare aux Vacoas
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Grand Bassin
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Plaine Magnien
Ilot Benitiers
Morne Brabant
Baie du Cap
Baie du Jacotet
Chemin Grenier
Souillac
Riv. du Poste
Riv. Dragon
Riv. des Anguilles
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
—DISTRICTS—
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Report and Proceedings [Colonial No. 156] 2s. ( )

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA
Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA
Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.
[Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NYASALAND: FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
Report of Commission [Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

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Economic Advisory Council. Report of Committee.

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Continued on page 3 of cover

MAURITIUS

REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1938

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. It is situated in the South Indian Ocean at about 1,400 miles from the east coast of Africa and lies between 19° 50′ and 20° 35′ S. latitude and between 57° 18′ and 57° 48′ E. longitude. The greatest length from north to south is nearly 39 miles and the widest breadth from east to west is 29 miles. The area of the island is about 716 square miles, exclusive of that of several small islets round the coast which measure about four square miles.

The dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, had a population estimated at 10,204 on 31st December, 1938. The estimated population of the lesser Dependencies on that date was 1,540.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago, to which Mauritius belongs, was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonised Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used Mauritius as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar-cane, but were frustrated by rats. Although they denuded the forests of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called maroons were formed. The combination of rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin, uncontrolled by any tribal or political system, proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population apart from maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de Labourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Fort Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops, and barracks. Labourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755, large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and when in 1825 the duty of 10s. a hundredweight, levied on Mauritius sugar entering England (in order to protect the West Indian sugar), was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 lbs. the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 lbs. in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842, Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who at the beginning of 1938 owned 38·6 per cent. of the whole area under sugar-cane. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artizan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle Phytalus Smithi was discovered in the sugar-cane.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the war brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the maintenance of many works undertaken in the better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve his recommendation that a subsidy should be given to sugar to supplement the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

The position became worse in 1931 owing to a cyclone which caused considerable damage to property and reduced the year's output of sugar by about 33 per cent. The Imperial Government guaranteed a loan of £750,000 for planters, house owners, and repairs to Government property, on condition that a Financial Commission should visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget. The Commission's report was published at the beginning of 1932 and immediate steps were taken to carry out measures of retrenchment and economy. The situation was again critical in 1934 owing to the effect of a severe drought on the sugar crop; but since then the Colony has had the benefit of substantial crops and the general situation and outlook would have considerably improved were it not for the low price of sugar.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. The next year the Constitution was amended and a Council including unofficial members was introduced. This constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, was composed of the Governor, eight *ex-officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the population: of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represent the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who are to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect is made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions. The new Letters Patent, however, provide that the Governor shall have power to enact legislation considered by him to be essential in the interests of good government. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was then composed of the Governor and four *ex-officio* members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing two unofficial members to the Council was revived.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1938, was 8,880. Every male person who is qualified as follows is entitled to be registered as a voter:—

(1) has attained the age of 21 years;

(2) is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights;

(3) is a British subject by birth or naturalisation;

(4) has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications:—

(*a*) is the owner of an immoveable property of the annual value of Rs.300;

(*b*) is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs.25 a month;

(*c*) is the owner of moveable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs.3,000;

(*d*) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications;

(*e*) is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs.600 or of a monthly salary of a least Rs.50; and

(*f*) is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs.200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary. The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called " Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis " and was instituted as were other local Municipalities, by the " Assemblée Coloniale ". These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the " Assemblée Coloniale " on 21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the " Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis " and were denominated the "Conseil des Notables". The " Conseil des Notables " was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the " Conseil des Communes " and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1850, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge " La Triple Esperance " from 21st to 23rd February in that year. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered to take measures within the prescribed limits of the townships for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility, for the prevention of fires, and for the proper paving and lighting of the town, etc.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These latter Boards are now concerned only with the provision, maintenance and improvement of water supplies.

III.—POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into: (1) The General population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans and people of African, Chinese and mixed origins; and (2) the Indian population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants.

The estimated population of the island and its dependencies on the 31st December, 1938, was 415,462 showing an increase of 2,003, the rate of increase is 4·8 per 1,000.

The geographical distribution of the population is shown in the following table:—

Districts.	*Area in square miles.*	*Census population, 28th April, 1931.*			*Population on 31st December, 1938.*		
		General population.	*Indian population.*	*Total population.*	*General population.*	*Indian population.*	*Total population.*
Port Louis	16½	29,832	24,603	54,435	31,836	24,740	56,576
Pamplemousses	69	6,847	30,000	36,847	6,521	28,627	35,148
Riviere du Rempart	57	5,518	25,274	30,792	6,054	26,874	32,928
Flacq	115	10,438	42,202	52,640	10,878	39,904	50,782
Grand Port	100½	12,484	36,135	48,619	13,131	35,027	48,158
Savanne	94½	6,645	24,456	31,101	7,043	24,266	31,309
Plaines Wilhems	78½	41,866	53,392	95,258	47,272	58,730	106,002
Moka	89	5,522	23,761	29,283	5,968	23,878	29,846
Black River	100	5,437	8,826	14,263	5,469	7,500	12,969
Total—Mauritius	720	124,589	268,649	393,238	134,172	269,546	403,718
Rodrigues	40	8,084	118	8,202	9,951	253	10,204
Minor Dependencies	47	1,354	103	1,457	1,454	86	1,540
Total—Dependencies	87	9,438	221	9,659	11,405	339	11,744
GRAND TOTAL—Mauritius and Dependencies	—	134,027	268,870	402,897	145,577	269,885	415,462

The preponderance of males in the Indian population and that of females in the General population is shown in the next table:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mauritius—General population	65,616	68,556	134,172
Indian ,, ...	138,908	130,638	269,546
Rodrigues—General ,, ...	4,815	5,136	9,951
Indian ,, ...	167	86	253
Minor Dependencies—General population ...	934	520	1,454
Indian ,, ...	71	15	86
Total	210,511	204,951	415,462

The following tables give the number of births, deaths and still-births registered in Mauritius during the last three years:—

Births.

	Number of births.			*Rate per 1,000 of population.*		
	1936.	*1937.*	*1938.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
General population ...	4,758	4,774	4,792	36·4	36·3	36·0
Indian ,, ...	9,109	9,323	8,628	34·1	34·7	32·1
Whole population ...	13,867	14,097	13,420	34·9	35·2	33·4

Deaths.

	Number of deaths.			*Rate per 1,000 of population.*		
	1936.	*1937.*	*1938.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
General population ...	3,039	3,505	3,546	23·3	26·6	26·6
Indian ,, ...	7,461	8,022	8,500	27·9	29·9	31·6
Whole population ...	10,500	11,527	12,046	26·4	28·8	29·9

Still Births.

	Number of still-births.			*Rate per 100 live-births.*		
	1936.	*1937.*	*1938.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
General population ...	300	296	279	6·3	6·2	5·8
Indian ,, ...	1,021	1,009	967	11·2	10·8	11·2
Whole population ...	1,321	1,305	1,246	9·5	9·3	9·3

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 2,181. The infantile mortality rate was 162.5 per thousand live-births registered during the year as compared with 154.5 and 142.3 for 1937 and 1936 respectively.

The marriages during the year numbered 2,113 as compared with 1,951 in 1937. The marriage rate or number of persons married to every thousand of the entire population was 10.5 against 9.8 in 1937.

The arrivals exceeded the departures by 158.

IV.—HEALTH.

The present constitution of the Medical and Health Department dates back to 1895 when under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894-95 the powers vested in the General Board of Health were transferred to the Director, Medical and Health Department.

The headquarters staff of the Department consists of the Director, the Deputy Director and the clerical and accounting staffs of the correspondence, financial and storekeeping branches.

The administrative unit of Government is the district, which is the political unit as well. Every district, with the exception of Black River is provided with a Government hospital for the reception and treatment of the sick poor. Patients from the Black River District are treated in the Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes, or the Civil Hospital, Port Louis. There are also situated in each district a number of dispensaries at which ambulant patients may receive free consultations and treatment. These dispensaries are visited on set days by the Government Medical Officer and, together with the District Hospitals, form the means of providing throughout the Colony medical relief to the sick poor.

The Medical and Sanitary Administration of each of the rural districts is entrusted to a Government Medical Officer who is in charge of the district hospital and dispensaries and is also the Health Officer for the district. To assist him he is provided with a number of subordinate officers, dressers and sanitary officers and the staff necessary for the care of the patients in the district hospital. In addition to his general medical and sanitary duties he has also statutory duties to carry out on behalf of the Police and Labour Departments.

The Government hospitals of the Colony are divided into two groups:—

(i) General hospitals, namely:—Civil, Victoria and Moka, totalling 637 beds, which are fully equipped for X-ray and major operative work; and

(ii) district hospitals where only medical and midwifery cases are admitted and where minor surgery is carried out to a certain extent.

Patients who apply to the latter hospitals and require special treatment, surgical or other, are conveyed to the nearest general hospital by motor ambulance. A mental hospital and a leper hospital are also administered by the Department.

In addition to the Government hospitals there are, in the rural districts 39 estate hospitals maintained by owners of estates under the provisions of the Labour Ordinance. These hospitals, though staffed privately, are visited from time to time by officers of the Medical and Health and Labour Departments.

The diseases responsible for major epidemics, e.g., cholera, plague, smallpox or yellow fever, have not occurred in the Colony during the year. With the exception of malaria, persons in the Colony suffer from much the same diseases as do the inhabitants of temperate climates though the Colony is fortunate in not experiencing outbreaks of acute anterior poliomyelitis, cerebro-spinal meningitis, scarlet fever or diphtheria. The first three of these are extremely rare—the last seldom shows dangerous features.

Tetanus (lockjaw) would account for an appreciable number of deaths were it not the routine practice to submit to preventive inoculation for this disease every patient suffering from wounds of the type known to be liable to this infection.

The principal diseases affecting the general health of the population are malaria and hookworm disease.

Malaria.—The means adopted by the Government for the control of malaria differ according to the region of the Colony. In the central plateau the main measure is the prevention of mosquito breeding. This is done by the institution of drainage and by a system of inspection of private premises for the detection and abatement of mosquito nuisances. The free issue of quinine and related preparations of cinchona is also widely made.

In the rural districts anti-mosquito works are uneconomic and reliance is placed principally upon making available to all sufferers from the disease appropriate remedies. These are obtainable free of charge at all Government hospitals and dispensaries, and police stations. A number of private retailers keep those drugs in their shops for sale or gift to their customers. School children may have prophylactic totaquina administered to them during the hot season, when malaria is common. By this means the debilitating effects of this condition are mitigated without at the same time destroying the personal immunity to the infection which is the ultimate protection of the rural dweller.

Hookworm Disease.—Suitable preventive action has been taken by the Government in so far as this can be done. In other words, owners of dwellings have been required to provide their property with latrines, the intelligent and consistent use of which would eradicate the disease from every member of the household. But there is evidence that the habitual use of latrines is by no means as widely practiced by the people as would ensure a marked improvement in the general situation. The infection is still practically universal in rural districts and is being maintained because the majority of the inhabitants in those areas persist in easing themselves on the surface of the ground. This causes the ground so used to be heavily infected with young hookworms which make their way through the soles of the feet of persons passing over the contaminated surface and develop into adult hookworms in due course. In order to mitigate the effects of this, mass treatments for hookworm infection are administered free to all persons willing to undergo them and during 1938 112,697 treatments were so given.

During the cool season inflammation of the kidneys and pneumonia are responsible for a fair proportion of the annual deaths. Occasional outbreaks of influenza occur during this season. One which occurred during the year under review was responsible for an appreciably greater number of deaths than have been ascribed to this disease for some years past.

V.—HOUSING.

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories: (*a*) housing on estates, (*b*) housing in rural areas not estates, and (*c*) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are, for the most part, adequately housed. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts, constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs more commonly of thatch, but frequently of corrugated iron. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult. The lines must be kept clear of weeds, and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least 10 feet round them. Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes. As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. Lighting is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

The housing in rural areas other than estates is fairly satisfactory. The Indian labourer can himself with the aid of his friends construct a satisfactory hut. He generally owns the piece of land on which he builds his hut and what is not occupied by the hut is planted with sugar cane or other agricultural produce, while room is also found for a primitive byre or a shelter for goats. The amenities of life are few, and a locality settled by a number of such persons bristles with sanitary problems arising out of poverty. Fortunately, most of them are now on a pipe-line, so that their water supply gives little cause for anxiety, though they may have to carry their water several hundred yards from the nearest public fountain.

In the towns and townships conditions vary. There are areas of overcrowding with its consequent insanitary conditions. Too many persons live in one room, though the climate is such as to obviate many of the evils attendant upon this practice.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

The total area of the Colony is 460,800 acres, of which some 180,000 acres, or 39 per cent. of the total area, is under cultivation and 81,000 acres approximately under forest. The area at present cultivated could, with proper irrigation, be increased by roughly 4 to 5 per cent.

The industries of the Colony are almost entirely agricultural and sugar forms 98 per cent. of its exports. Other industries comprise tobacco, fibre, pineapple, tea, coconut and, as by-product of the sugar industry, alcohol. Details regarding the various industries are reviewed below.

Sugar Industry.

The year was not a particularly favourable one for cane growth, and the total tonnage reaped was 5 per cent. below last year's. On the other hand, the sucrose content was very high and more than offset the deficit in cane. The Colony's production of sugar for 1938 was 321,372 metric tons, the highest on record. The distribution, by districts, and comparison with previous years is as follows:—

Sugar production in thousand metric tons.

Districts.	*1938.*	*1937.*	*1936.*	*1935.*	*1934.*	*1933.*	*1932.*
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart	76·60	82·65	63·97	69·97	30·13	57·77	62·73
Flacq	50·09	48·16	49·98	44·15	30·87	41·31	35·97
Moka	42·08	37·72	43·42	35·76	29·30	40·08	34·12
Plaines Wilhems ...	24·30	22·49	21·89	20·62	11·54	18·22	17·05
Black River ...	13·36	13·81	12·85	11·28	5·99	8·88	9·06
Grand Port ...	59·45	57·23	56·10	53·38	38·37	50·66	46·66
Savanne	55·49	51·76	52·13	45·34	32·66	44·48	41·63
Total ...	321·37	313·82	300·34	280·50	178·86	261·46	247·22

The deficit in 1934 was due to a severe drought. In 1938, the proportion of raws was 87·2 per cent. of the total; granulated whites (vesous) comprised 12·5 per cent., while low sugars approximated 0·3 per cent.

Area under Sugar Cane.—The total alienated land in the Colony is nearly 381 thousand acres or, roughly 83 per cent. of the total area of the island.

Whilst most of the alienated land of the Colony passed under private ownership by means of " concessions " during the French occupation, most of the land at present occupied by Indian small planters was acquired under the " metayage " and " morcellement " systems, whereby large estates were parcelled out to numbers of tenants who became, after a term of years, legal owners of their land. The metayage or morcellement systems are still practised, though on a much reduced scale.

At the beginning of 1938, the area under cane was estimated at 145,096 acres in excess by 1,599 acres on the figure for 1937. Estates with factory cultivated 60,331 acres; estates without factory, 44,935 acres, giving a total estate cultivation of 102,266 acres, or an increase of 1,199 acres on the figure for the previous year.

The balance of 42,830 acres, which shows an increase of 400 acres on 1937, was cultivated by small planters.

The total area under cane cultivation by Indians at the beginning of 1938 was 56,025 acres, or 38·6 per cent. of the total cane cultivation. This total is made up as follows: (1) small planters off estates, 42,830 acres; (ii) small planters, cultivating lands belonging to estates, 11,264; (iii) estates owned by Indians, 9,100 acres.

Sugar Factories.—During the year 1938 there was no change in the number of factories operating in the island, which remains at 38.

Sugar Market.—In 1938, the market for sugar was generally weak and the average price obtained at the end of December for a total sale of 183,514 metric tons approximated Rs.5.65 net per 50 kilos. The average sale price for the 1937 sugar production was Rs.6.103 net per 50 kilos.

All sugar transactions are made through the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate which controls the export of practically all the sugar of the Colony.

Disposal of the 1937-38 Sugars and Local Consumption.

The total sugar exported during the 1937-38 year (1st August, 1937, to 31st July, 1938), amounted to 303,100.2 metric tons, distributed as follows:—

	Metric tons.
Great Britain	279,300·7
Canada	22,415·4
Hong Kong	1,130·8
Other places	253·3
Total	303,100·2

The exportation for the 1938-39 crop totalled up to 31st December 1938, 147,377·3 metric tons.

The local sugar consumption for the 1937-38 year was 11,367 metric tons, as against 10,326 the year previous.

Sugar Machinery.—Machinery to the value of Rs.1,162,726 was imported during the year as compared with Rs.914,545 in 1937. The value of the tramway material imported in 1938 was Rs.237,666 as against Rs.128,059 last year.

Eleven farm-tractors and 27 ploughs to the aggregate value of Rs.41,540 were also imported in 1938.

General Agricultural Matters.

Fertilizers.—A total of 17,726,935 kilos of chemical fertilizers valued at Rs.2,127,974 was imported in 1938, as against 19,818,236 kilos, valued at Rs.2,117,295 the year previous. Of the total importation, 63 per cent. consisted in ammonium sulphate and 25 per cent. in potassium nitrate.

Insect Pests.—Hand collection of beetles of *Phytalus Smithi* has been terminated and is being replaced by intensified biological control. This will result, in the first instance, in the saving of over Rs.50,000 annually to the Planters.

To help in the biological control work, the giant toad, *Bufo marinus,* was imported from Puerto Rico and after long quarantine in greenhouses, liberation was commenced in December.

The problem of providing adequate food plants for the various parasites in the cane fields is also receiving consistent attention.

In the search for varieties of cane showing economic resistance to heavy infestation of *Phytalus,* close collaboration was maintained with the Sugar-cane Research Station.

Infestation of cane fields by Moth borers has remained nearly constant, though the abormal dry period from August to November caused severe losses in the Northern Districts. A grant from the Colonial Development Fund is being utilized to organize biological control of cane-borers.

Plant Diseases.—The main diseases of the sugar-cane continue to be Gummosis, Leaf Scald, Smut and Red Rot. There was a mild outbreak of the first in the south of the island and a more severe one on a central estate. The other diseases appeared in sporadic form and did not at any time cause anxiety. Experiment and research have been continued during the year in the Division of Plant Pathology on methods of control in the field and in the Laboratory.

Tobacco.—In 1938, the area under this crop was 302 acres. Under the law, all the leaf produced is purchased by the Government Warehouse and the amount for 1938 was 162,676 kilos of a value of Rs.149,014 as compared with 391,435 kilos valued at Rs.487,239 in 1937. The amount of leaf used by local manufacturers was 366,325 kilos as compared with 329,233 kilos, the year previous.

No export trade is as yet in existence. Experiments are still in progress with a view to producing a variety of leaf with a flavour acceptable for the export market.

Fibre.—Sale is controlled by the Mauritius Fibre Syndicate. In 1938, the market was practically non-existent: the total export was only 242 tons, as against 1,617 in 1937.

Pineapple.—During the year the area under this crop has been markedly increased and now totals 125 acres approximately. Owing to unfavourable weather conditions the yield in fruit has been below anticipation.

The anticipated turn-out of the Fruit Canning Factory for 1938-39 is 3,000 cases or, approximately, 75,000 kilos as against 3,145 in 1937-38.

The exportation in 1938 was valued at Rs.35,762 against Rs.32,451 in 1937.

Tea.—Progress continues to be satisfactory, especially in regard to the quality of the tea produced. The total production for 1938 was 64,518 kilos, as against 50,000 last year. Practically the whole production is locally consumed.

Coconut.—The export of copra-produce of the dependencies of Mauritius amounted in 1938 to 1,482 metric tons, valued at Rs.213,765 as against 1,507 tons, valued at Rs.350,012 in 1937. The export of coconut oil during the year was 1,476 litres valued at Rs.550 as compared with 5,731 litres valued at Rs.2,383 in 1937.

Alcohol.—The total quantity of alcohol distilled for human consumption amounted in 1938 to 841,610 litres as against 593,396 litres in 1937. The quantity distilled for industrial purposes was 572,380 litres as against 603,192 the year previous.

The exportation of rum during the year was 144,982 litres valued at Rs.45,264 as compared with 84,210 litres valued at Rs.27,181 in 1937.

The question of further utilization of power alcohol has been receiving consideration during the year.

Veterinary and Livestock.—Owing to scarcity of rain and consequent lack of fodder, cattle in herds have been doing rather poorly and, towards the close of the year, numerous deaths occurred, especially of old and very young animals.

The animals imported in connection with the beef improvement campaign have been received. The application of fertilizers to pastures is also being seriously considered. The plans for an experimental station in connection with beef production have now matured and the scheme will be put into force early in 1939.

At the beginning of 1938 the total bovines on estates numbered 13,121 as against 13,646 the year previous.

Importation of bullocks from Madagascar for food amounted to 3,579 head valued at Rs.238,458.

The Agricultural College.— The Agricultural College is administered as an integral part of the Department of Agriculture. Laboratories provide accommodation for teaching and research in Agriculture, Chemistry, Physics, Entomology, Botany, Mycology and Sugar Technology.

A three year course leads to the Diploma of the College. Short courses in the intercrop are given for estate employees and special courses for agricultural and sugar-house chemists.

Most of the past students of the College have been absorbed in the local sugar industry. Some have obtained situations in the local Government or abroad. The practical value of the training received at the College is now appreciated by the local sugar industry and, on several estates, the Diploma of the College has been made a *sine qua non* condition for employment.

In 1938, regular students numbered eighteen, together with seven part-time students and generally two or three research workers from estates.

The Sugarcane Research Station.—The staff of the Sugarcane Research Station, which is housed in the buildings of the Mauritius Agricultural College, has been increased by the appointment of two Field Assistants. By their help, it has been possible to lay down an increased number of field experiments, dealing particularly with cultural methods.

The chief work of the Geneticist's Division has been the raising and testing of new sugar-cane varieties. No new varieties have been released during the year, but it is gratifying to be able to record that three of the varieties already released continue to find favour with the planting community.

In the Chemical Division, further experiments have been conducted with foliar diagnostic methods. Interesting results have been obtained with potash in the field experiments, in one case the application of potash resulting in an increased yield of over 20 tons per arpent, the canes from no potash plots being much poorer in sucrose. In some lands cultivated by small planters largely increased yields have followed applications of phosphatic guano.

The Botanist is continuing his work on drought resistance of canes, together with their resistance to the phytalus pest. Other points under investigation include methods of tillering and the best time and method of application of fertilizers.

School Gardening and Nature Teaching in Primary Schools.—The work is entrusted to officers of the Agricultural Division of the Department of Agriculture. There are at present thirty-two registered school gardens. Gardening classes are held regularly when the Instructors visit the schools, i.e., about every fortnight. Classes are also held on the average twice weekly by one of the school teachers. While particular attention is given to practical work in the garden, care is also taken to see that the pupils record their observations in garden note-books. Furthermore, short lectures are delivered to the pupils on the principle and practice of horticulture.

In order to secure the interests of both pupils and school teachers, a prize scheme exists; prizes being given annually for the best gardens.

Co-operation.—During the year under review, three new societies were registered. Inclusive of the Trefles (Rodrigues) Co-operative Credit Society, there were thirty-eight societies in the Colony and its dependencies, established under Ordinance No. 4 of 1913.

The total number of members on the 31st December, 1938, was 2,178 and the total share capital Rs.68,625. But the working capital which is made up of (*a*) share contribution; (*b*) dividends undrawn by members and left in the societies as non-dividend bearing shares; (*c*) deposits of members and non-members; (*d*) Government advances; and (*e*) Reserve Fund; amounted to Rs.275,116.

The movement is under the supervision and guidance of the Government, and is run as a branch of the Department of Agriculture. The staff entrusted with the supervision of the societies is composed of: (*a*)The Registrar who is also the Director of Agriculture; (*b*) The Assistant Registrar, a whole-time officer who has undergone a training in co-operation in Ceylon; (*c*) a whole-time Inspector; (*d*) a part-time Inspector with combined duties of Agricultural Instructor; and (*e*) a Clerical Assistant.

The accounts of all the societies are regularly inspected late in the afternoon, when the members are taught co-operative principle and practice. The audit inspection is made in the months of May and June by the Assistant Registrar.

Apart from a small contribution made by the societies towards their inspection, which last year amounted to Rs.750, the cost of running the movement is borne by Government.

Other Manufacturing Industries.

No important change occurred in 1938. Engineering establishments numbered forty-nine; distilleries, four; cigarette factories, six. There were four docks (landing, etc.), three hydro-electric plants, four salt-making establishments and one match factory. Altogether, about 2,000 people found employment in the above mentioned concerns.

In addition, there exist, on a small scale, leather tanning, boot and shoe making, aerated water works, ice-making, cabinet-making, biscuit and jam making, etc., which, with the usual innumerable small handicrafts, help to render the large population of the island in some way more self-supporting and help to reduce the importation of manufactured articles.

Fisheries.

In 1926 the question of fishery control in Mauritius was thoroughly investigated by Mr. J. Hornell, F.L.S., F.R.A.I., formerly Director of Fisheries in Madras, and his recommendations in the printed report on the subject have formed the basis of the work of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committee formed in 1927. Special consideration has been given to the questions of control of net fishing, improvement of local methods of fish-curing, protection of the local dried fish trade against the imported article, and ensuring a plentiful supply of cheap fish in the markets without prejudice to the working fishermen. Net fishing with large-seines was reintroducd in December and forty licences were issued. The daily average quantity of fish on the market has increased by 75 per cent. as a result and the price decreased in about the same proportion.

The lagoons, between the coral reef surrounding the island and the beach, are normally full of excellent fish of many varieties which are taken in large quantities by means of basket traps, cast nets and lines and in the open sea outside the reefs large fish can be taken at practically all times of the year by trolling or with deep sea lines.

All professional fishing is done from small sailing craft known as " peniches " and " pirogues " which are well built and seaworthy but the business side of the industry is quite undeveloped owing to local preference for old-fashioned methods which ought to be replaced. Amateur fishermen are well supplied with locally-built sea-going motor-boats which enable them to reach the remarkable fishing-grounds round the rocky islets lying from two to fifteen miles off the northern coast of the Colony where good sport is certain at almost all seasons.

Fish-curing industries are established at Rodrigues and St. Brandon islands and produce a considerable quantity of what is one of the staple foods of the poorer classes but the dried fish of South Africa and India still commands a large sale and is imported in increasing quantities at a very low price.

Many of the rivers hold a species of gray perch (known locally as " carpe ") and in the fast water good sport may be obtained with wet fly or light spinning tackle. Fresh water mullet (known as " chite ") are abundant in some rivers.

Forestry.

This now consists of about 110 square miles of Crown Forest (forest and scrub) and about 60 square miles of private forest land (forest and scrub). Total about 170 square miles.

Those portions of Crown Forest not carrying merchantable produce have a vegetative cover, important for catchment and for protection purposes, especially where situated on the central and southern plateaux, where the high rainfall and general humidity of the air ensures that any blanks are rapidly colonized. The same may be said of portions of the private forest lands, but others are at too low levels for this cover to have such effect.

As a subsidiary form of production, forest lands are utilized for shooting and fishing—Crown forests leased for this purpose returning Rupees 16,000 in a normal year.

A second subsidiary form of production consists in the grazing that is to be had on the 4,500 acres of Pas Géométriques, or Crown land strip, 250 feet wide round the greater part of the coastline and islands, leased on tree-planting conditions. This strip of plantations gives the island one of the finest coast-lines in the world, and the combination of economic production (timber and grazing) with aesthetic value is worthy of special note.

The forest of indigenous species which produced the primary timbers have been and still are being superseded by the invasion of exotic vegetation due in the the past to the extensive removal of the overforest coupled with the destruction of the regeneration by the burning of charcoal in conjunction with this operation, the exceptionally slow regeneration and aftergrowth of the indigenous species and the very favourable conditions of climate and rainfall and the physical soil conditions awaiting the invading species. In place of the whole island area, only some few square miles of this virgin forest now exist.

Following the aforementioned general destruction, trials of many and varied exotic tree species were undertaken, many were planted between 1880 and 1918 on a large scale on Crown land, notably Eucalypts (*Eucalyptus rostrata, E. tereticornis* and a *hybrid*) and to a lesser extent the Chinese pine and Eugenias, but generally speaking these plantations were formed to reconstitute the vegetative cover and were not laid out on commercial lines. The present stocks are sometimes scattered irregular and often severely shaken and damaged whilst there are many fallen trees due to the selection of unsuitable species, to cyclone damage and to lack of past thinning and other treatment. It is from these plantations that, what major production as is possible, has at present to be effected. From 1928 onwards, however, regular and vigorous plantations, on easy extraction routes, are being provided on a scale designed to abolish imports of the cheap woods of commerce and to provide a surplus of cabinet timbers worthy of export. These plantations are the result of a careful study of the results of the past and a selection of species has been made accordingly though the species composing the mixture are changed from time to time. Full financial records are available for these recent plantations.

The chief species used by cabinet-makers are:—

(*a*) Indigenous:—*Imbricaria* (Mimusops) *petiolaris and maxima, Labourdonnaisia saxophloia, Canarium colophana* and others when available.

(*b*) Exotics:—*Tabebuia pallida, Swietenia mahagoni, Pterocarpus marsupium* and *indicus, Albizzia lebbek, Cassia siamea, Juniperus, Bermudiana, Cinnamomum camphora, Terminalia catappa* and others.

Following some falling off in regular supplies from private lands Crown forests are supplying much increased volumes of fuel and charcoal, provision being made for sustained yields. Meanwhile, plantations of softwoods are being laid down by Government, which should, in due course, supply the greater part of the timber now imported. Full use is being made by the Forest Department of private enterprise in the sale of final crops and in the first clearing of scrub land. Taungya operations or the raising of crops of trees in conjunction with agricultural crops is effected by the Forest Department, wherever possible. Crops of valuable hardwoods are being raised as far as suitable land is available. The introduction of new species for trial is a regular practice. The limiting factor to crops is the probable effects of cyclone damage. Markets for thinnings from plantations are generally available.

As large quantities of charcoal are available, consideration is being given to the importation of a modern charcoal lorry both as a matter of economy and as an example to transporters to make the island community more self-contained.

In conjunction with the Agricultural Department and the resident Magistrate, conservation of catchment areas and tree-cum-pasture shade plantations, as well as commercial tree plantations are being advanced in the island of Rodrigues. In this connection a visit by a staff officer of the Forestry Department was made, advice given and valuable plans advocated for future management and land economy.

(a) *Production*:—

Unmanufactured items.

From Crown forests (no figures available for private lands).

Product.	*Volume 1938.* Cu. ft.	*Value 1938.* Rs.
(i) Logs and Round Timber	122,510	41,033
(ii) Sawn Timber	9,547	19,665
(iii) Fuel	652,872	43,650
(iv) Minor Forest Produce	—	2,195
(v) Sales in Rodrigues	—	1,784
		Rs. 108,327

Manufactured items.

(i) Approximately 160,000 gross boxes of matches are produced by the Mauritius Match Manufacturing Company. The total value is say Rs.90,000 to Rs.100,000.

(ii) The finished articles produced by cabinet-makers numbering about 160. The products of these craftsmen are of high quality.

Minor Forest Produce.

Grass for fodder, bamboos, palm salads, thatching material and fodder seeds.

(b) *Conversion and Sales.*

Logs and round timber supplied on forest roads or sometimes delivered to buyer.

Sawn timber: sawn by hand.

Fuel: sold standing or by cord on forest roads.

The principle of limiting the out-turn to ensure a sustained yield applies to Crown forests. At present the sale of pine has thus to be limited.

(c) *Consumption of Products.*

All production is consumed locally.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The Colony is essentially an agricultural one, and yet it barely produces one-tenth of the foodstuffs required for its inhabitants and imports manufactured goods of all descriptions and practically all articles of food and drink, with the exception of sugar.

Of the principal articles of food and drink imported, rice which is the staple food of the people, as well as dholl, lentils and other grain, edible oils, spices and seeds, salted fish and ghee come from India; confectionery, preserved provisions, soya bean oil, whisky from the United Kingdom, wheat flour, fresh fruits and butter from Australia: salted fish, meat, fresh fruits from South Africa; wines from France and Spain; lard from Hong Kong; preserved provisions from China; margarine and cheese from Holland; sardines from Japan; tea from Ceylon and cattle, pistachio nuts and potatoes from Madagascar.

The main items of imports of manufactured goods are: heavy iron and steel goods for use in connection with the manufacture of sugar; cotton and woollen goods; wearing apparel, patent fuel, fertilizers, hardware, paint, soap, motor vehicles from the United Kingdom. Gunny bags for packing sugar, saltpetre, and cotton piece goods come from India.

Of the foodstuffs produced locally may be mentioned fresh fruits and fresh vegetables.

Mauritius is almost entirely dependent on one industry—the sugar industry—and so long as efforts made to develop other industries do not meet with success, its position will be more or less insecure; especially on account of cyclones or drought. In 1938 the sugar exports represented about 98 per cent. of the domestic exports. Other items of exportation are comparatively insignificant in value. They are aloe fibre, copra, poonac, rum, and coconut oil.

There has, as yet, been no outside market for local tobacco and matches. As a result of the successful development of these industries during the past few years, imports of cigarettes and matches have decreased considerably, matches almost entirely.

The following table gives the total value of imports, domestic exports and re-exports for the year under review and each of the preceding four years:—

	Imports. Value c.i.f. Rs.	*Domestic Exports. Value f.o.b. Rs.*	*Re-exports. Value f.o.b. Rs.*
1938	33,830,015	33,249,199*	778,366
1937	34,226,522	36,081,479*	832,542
1936	30,218,589	31,842,308	948,498
1935	29,891,160	28,008,615	640,640
1934	29,680,346	25,028,810	1,107,330

* Excludes the value of sugar quota certificates which, in the years 1937 and 1938 may be estimated at Rs. 4,900,000.

The following table gives the percentage of total imports provided by the British Empire and foreign countries respectively during the year 1938 and the four preceding years:—

	1938. Per cent.	*1937. Per cent.*	*1936. Per cent.*	*1935. Per cent.*	*1934. Per cent.*
Empire	76	77	75·5	78·6	74·4
Foreign countries	24	23	24·5	21·4	25·6

In the following table is given the percentage of total imports provided by the six principal countries from which our commodities are imported, for the year under review and the four previous years:—

	1938.	*1937.*	*1936.*	*1935.*	*1934.*
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom	34·4	30·4	31·7	30·3	29
Australia ...	5·1	6·0	4·3	5·0	6
India	26·7	33·8	33·0	36·7	34
France	3·8	3·3	3·6	3·7	4
Japan	3·3	3·7	3·9	3·3	4
U.S.A.	4·3	3·3	3·7	3·2	4

Table giving the percentage of domestic exports to the Empire and foreign countries:—

	1938.	*1937.*	*1936.*	*1935.*	*1934.*
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*
Empire	99	99	98·9	99	99
Foreign countries	1	1	1·1	1	1

Table giving the percentage of domestic exports to the principal countries of destination:—

	1938.	*1937.*	*1936.*	*1935.*	*1934.*
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom	98·9	92	93·5	86·8	95
Canada	—	7	5·0	12·3	3·5
Hong Kong ...	0·5	—	—	—	—
Belgium	0·1	0·4	0·3	0·1	0·1
Reunion	0·2	0·2	0·3	0·3	0·3
France	0·1	—	—	—	—

The following table gives the values and quantities of the principal imports for the year under review and the previous year, with an indication of the principal sources of supply—the total imports of each commodity are also given:—

Articles and Principal Countries of Origin.		*1938.*		*1937.*	
		Quantity.	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*
Cows and Oxen—					
Madagascar ...	No.	3,579	238,458	5,967	335,758
Butter—					
Australia	Kilos	60,596	123,697	64,819	122,274
Denmark	,,	4,787	12,868	5,120	13,697
Total Imports ...	,,	72,231	148,835	79,009	149,080
Ghee—					
India	,,	59,731	92,094	48,912	72,407
Total Imports ...	,,	60,095	92,256	49,926	73,608
Confectionery—					
United Kingdom...	,,	92,257	74,333	80,075	113,661
Total Imports ...	,,	103,027	87,490	95,032	128,141
Bran—					
Australia	,,	362,339	34,740	755,505	68,359
India	,,	729,966	59,770	613,766	46,369
Total Imports ...	,,	1,092,305	94,510	1,394,696	117,134

Articles and Principal Countries of Origin.		*1938.*		*1937.*	
		Quantity.	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*
Tinned Sardines—					
Japan	Kilos	65,896	21,655	145,350	41,417
Portugal	,,	248,865	185,264	102,074	67,174
Total Imports ...	,,	316,998	208,962	254,184	111,325
Fish salted—					
Union of South Africa.	,,	434,440	162,458	313,557	133,612
India	,,	187,398	87,940	102,189	47,860
Total Imports ...	,,	646,633	267,279	444,471	201,034
Rice—					
India	,,	32,327,818	4,174,934	67,558,431	7,076,404
Burma	,,	5,544,924	550,342	—	—
Total Imports ...	,,	38,038,144	4,751,581	67,719,337	7,101,625
Wheat Flour—					
Australia	,,	9,155,525	1,154,445	9,789,405	1,548,299
Total Imports ...	,,	9,267,330	1,168,324	9,909,109	1,566,879
Dholl—					
India	,,	3,645,110	466,342	3,617,092	424,512
Lentils—					
India	,,	2,113,310	277,664	1,865,112	233,382
Lard, Hog's—					
Hong Kong ...	,,	150,594	75,330	209,864	147,356
Total Imports ...	,,	203,951	112,873	280,254	200,331
Oil Mustard—					
India	,,	242,353	112,247	441,819	194,255
Oil, Pistachionut—					
India	,,	1,330,956	394,022	699,408	293,372
Dutch East Indies	,,	—	—	343,787	160,660
Total Imports ...	,,	1,338,227	397,528	1,098,364	475,939
Oil, Soya—					
United Kingdom...	,,	893,383	364,064	871,185	425,543
Total Imports ...	,,	1,122,202	441,141	1,292,896	609,717
Spices and Spice Seeds—					
India	,,	360,127	107,161	312,639	107,774
Total Imports ...	,,	467,670	151,629	351,893	129,844
Tea—					
Ceylon	,,	141,031	233,656	155,463	276,885
Total Imports ...	,,	148,898	244,257	160,991	295,683
Whisky—					
United Kingdom...	Litres	32,454	142,235	25,623	110,822
Total Imports ...	,,	32,487	142,411	25,623	110,822
Potatoes—					
Madagascar ...	Kilos	984,771	71,416	1,026,555	72,578
Kenya	,,	783,485	68,799	161,123	15,574
Total Imports ...	,,	1,851,151	148,351	1,253,610	97,193
Coal—					
Union of South Africa.	,,	46,659,479	739,914	40,521,920	566,031
Total Imports ...	,,	49,293,761	823,749	41,739,637	596,797
Linseed Oil—					
United Kingdom...	,,	134,735	65,025	187,940	95,019
Total Imports ...	,,	186,748	86,685	201,624	101,138
Wood and Timber—					
Australia	Cu. m.	333	28,179	1,617	118,646
Straits Settlements	,,	2,732	113,950	5,745	182,175
Siam	,,	5,461	271,753	5,654	243,690
Total Imports ...	,,	8,735	437,328	13,230	559,031

Articles and Principal Countries of Origin.		*1938.*		*1937.*	
		Quantity.	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*
Boots and Shoes—					
United Kingdom...	Pairs	10,918	49,710	12,596	64,385
Hong Kong ...	,,	78,379	76,728	71,635	99,073
Total Imports ...	,,	151,750	173,268	147,376	214,289
Cotton Piece Goods—					
United Kingdom...	Metres	5,307,535	1,535,317	2,604,963	831,899
India	,,	4,867,298	848,980	3,388,116	576,520
Japan	,,	1,051,965	231,613	835,643	203,865
Total Imports ...	,,	11,351,036	2,677,537	6,891,972	1,644,933
Jute Gunny Bags—					
India	No.	3,622,335	976,184	4,453,900	1,135,359
Total Imports ...	,,	3,622,445	976,217	4,453,900	1,135,359
Silk Manufactures—					
United Kingdom...		—	171,452	—	208,263
Japan		—	338,834	—	414,239
Total Imports ...		—	626,034	—	733,490
Woollen Manufactures—					
United Kingdom...		—	343,823	—	216,512
Japan		—	109,840	—	74,225
Total Imports ...		—	472,402	—	302,112
Machinery, Sugar—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	1,227,869	1,017,239	1,067,834	788,801
Total Imports ...	,,	1,397,282	1,144,228	1,172,352	896,725
Iron Sheets and Plates—					
United Kingdom...	,,	836,559	237,040	658,291	171,856
Belgium	,,	471,901	118,770	301,307	78,323
Total Imports ...	,,	1,665,053	445,849	1,194,776	303,153
Tramway materials of all kinds—					
Germany		—	184,185	—	150,974
Total Imports ...		—	398,656	—	266,375
Motor Cars—					
United Kingdom...	No.	228	519,503	266	604,473
Total Imports ...	,,	276	630,222	321	740,511
Cement—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	5,711,226	213,245	5,358,317	220,016
Total Imports ...	,,	5,711,226	213,245	7,074,780	239,897
Manures, Chemical—					
United Kingdom...	,,	11,147,623	1,146,035	12,567,516	1,199,913
India	,,	4,020,760	679,382	3,950,805	560,202
Chili	,,	1,006,520	115,772	1,609,516	165,331
Total Imports ...	,,	17,726,935	2,127,974	19,824,236	2,117,295
Films, Cinematograph—					
India	Metres	395,814	113,696	494,785	134,777
France	,,	497,220	69,424	470,910	94,006
Total Imports ...	,,	1,019,240	205,245	1,053,461	246,633
Petroleum Motor Spirits—					
Dutch East Indies	Litres	4,006,131	564,573	2,624,318	359,415
U.S.A.	,,	3,046,213	443,097	2,635,027	379,767
Total Imports ...	,,	7,488,366	1,070,233	6,059,265	859,945
Petroleum Lamp Oil—					
Dutch East Indies	,,	813,831	105,302	821,861	107,404
U.S.A.	,,	2,116,941	292,418	1,955,556	247,280
Total Imports ...	,,	3,134,690	425,161	2,777,417	354,684

Articles and Principal Countries of Origin.		*1938.*		*1937.*	
		Quantity.	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Value c.i.f. Rs.*
Paints and Colours—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	326,214	159,281	467,317	210,000
Total Imports ...	,,	363,217	177,060	542,283	230,193
Paper Manufactures—					
United Kingdom...		—	168,327	—	164,377
Belgium		—	22,394	—	47,090
Czechoslovakia ...		—	36,999	—	28,863
Total Imports ...		—	345,684	—	358,662
Soap, Common—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	1,502,721	579,248	1,554,934	579,379
Total Imports ...	,,	1,565,129	595,863	1,654,484	602,102
Shingles—					
India	No.	—	—	1,275,250	61,190
Burma	,,	1,007,500	52,667	—	—
Total Imports ...	,,	1,007,500	52,667	1,295,250	61,379

Quantity and value of principal domestic exports and re-exports during the years 1938 and 1937.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

Articles and Countries of Destination.		*1938.*		*1937.*	
		Quantity.	*Value f.o.b. Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Value f.o.b. Rs.*
Sugar—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	290,772,732	32,587,827	289,682,430	32,599,979
Canada	,,	—	—	22,415,417	2,570,551
Hong Kong ...	,,	2,099,830	189,255	914,494	80,077
Total ...	,,	292,872,862	32,777,092	313,012,341	35,250,607
Copra—					
United Kingdom...	,,	1,481,623	213,765	1,506,867	350,012
Aloe Fibre—					
United Kingdom...	,,	47,649	6,755	416,995	74,040
Belgium	,,	128,708	16,833	789,438	146,662
France	,,	66,185	8,172	79,068	13,868
Holland	,,	—	—	203,208	29,298
U.S.A.	,,	—	—	128,022	18,658
Total	,,	242,542	31,760	1,616,731	282,526
		RE-EXPORTS.			
Lentils—					
Reunion	Kilos	311,891	82,937	433,966	63,149
Total ...	,,	392,539	96,624	541,791	80,233
Jute Gunny Bags—					
Madagascar ...	No.	675,131	158,548	710,900	169,759
Total ...	,,	684,931	160,704	722,900	173,119
Iron, Old and Scrap—					
Union of South Africa	Tons	2,483	50,698	76	26,035
Japan	,,	—	—	3,303	66,053
Total ...	,,	2,485	51,598	3,934	147,548

In the table of imports, domestic exports and re-exports above, the values for bullion and specie are not included. The imports in 1938 were Rs.167,120 and re-exports Rs.98,990 against Rs.121,333 and Rs.174,789 respectively in 1937; Rs.50,000 and Rs.159,185 in 1936; Rs.36,866 and Rs.1,275,622 in 1935 and Rs.2,182,000 and Rs.2,419,834 in 1934.

Tourist Traffic.

During the year 1938, seven tourist ships called at Port Louis with 1,008 visitors. The number of tourists who arrived in the Colony by other ships amounted to 287. Good roads and taxi-cars at cheap rates render places of interest throughout the Colony easily accessible to visitors.

VIII.—LABOUR.

Historical.

Labourers in Mauritius fall into two groups—the Creoles and the Indians or, as the latter are frequently called, the Indo-Mauritians.

The Creoles are of African origin and consist partly of descendants of slaves who were employed on estates in the old days—and partly of descendants of other persons who came from Africa or Madagascar.

The Indians or Indo-Mauritians, who outnumber the Creoles by about three to one, consist of Indians or their descendants who were recruited from India to supply the labour requirements of the Colony. The last assisted immigration from India took place in 1922.

By religion the Creoles are Christians while the Indians are usually Hindus or Mohammedans and, although there has been some intermixture of blood, the two groups are on the whole (as far as the labouring population is concerned) clearly defined and each has its distinctive customs and habits.

The Creole is more of a town dweller than the Indian who is mainly an agriculturist and while the majority of dock labourers, mechanics, masons, carpenters, etc., are Creoles—the vast majority of workers on the land are Indians. No hard and fast line can be drawn however.

Reorganisation of Labour Department and Legislation.

Until the year 1938 the duties of the Labour Department were chiefly concerned with Indian immigrants—the head of the department being styled " Protector of Immigrants "—and its powers were limited accordingly.

As a result, however, of the labour unrest on sugar estates which occurred in 1937 it was decided that this department should be strengthened and reorganised.

To carry out this reorganisation an officer with long experience of labour in the tropics was temporarily seconded to Mauritius from the Malayan Civil Service.

This officer, who is styled " Director of Labour ", arrived in April and after studying local conditions recommended that a Deputy and an Assistant Director of Labour should be recruited from Europe and that six Labour Inspectors should be appointed locally.

These recommendations were approved and the Labour Inspectors were appointed in June, but the higher appointments had not been filled at the end of the year.

Another important step which was taken in connection with labour matters was the passing of the Industrial Associations Ordinance.

This Ordinance gives the right to employers or labourers in certain industries to form associations to enable them to protect and further their interests. Important provisions in this Ordinance are those dealing with the settling of disputes by means of conciliation boards which may be set up at the request of either party to a dispute or which may be convened by the Director of Labour on his own initiative if he considers that a dispute is likely to result in a stoppage of work.

A strike or lockout is illegal unless the conciliation board has been unable to settle the dispute within thirty days.

The Director of Labour is Registrar of Industrial Associations of which one employer's and twenty-four labourers' Associations were registered during the year.

A further important measure passed during the year was the Labour Ordinance.

This Ordinance includes within its scope all " labourers " (i.e., persons performing manual labour) and while omitting a number of provisions of the Labour Ordinance of 1922—such as those relating to assisted immigration—includes many new provisions.

The most important of these new provisions may be briefly summarised as follows:—

(i) Control by the Labour Department over all classes of labourers,

(ii) establishment of an eight-hour day,

(iii) regulations for overtime,

(iv) maternity benefits for working women,

(v) establishment of nurseries on estates in certain circumstances,

(vi) records to be kept by employers of wages paid to all labourers whether working directly under their control or not,

(vii) allotments for labourers.

Review of the work of the Labour Department.

The appointment of Labour Inspectors in the Districts provided a much needed want, and every labourer now knows that he has in his district an officer of the Labour Department to whom he can refer any complaint he wishes to make and who will investigate it without delay.

A very large number of complaints, many of which were trivial, were dealt with by the Labour Inspectors, and work during the sugar crop, with the exception of a few minor stoppages, proceeded normally.

At the end of August however the labourers employed at the docks and by the stevedores struck work and made a claim for higher wages. Although every effort was made by the Labour Department to bring home to these men (who were members of the Dockers' Association) that their action was illegal and that if they would resume work a conciliation board would consider their claims they continued on strike.

As a result paralysis of the whole sugar-industry was threatened and it was decided to declare a state of emergency. Arrangements were then made to carry on the work at the docks and after a few days the strikers resumed work. Subsequently a conciliation board was held and the dock workers obtained substantial improvements in pay and working conditions.

During the year another conciliation board was held as a result of which certain increases of pay were given to labourers employed on a certain sugar estate.

There is no doubt that the largely increased activities of the Labour Department and the result of these conciliation boards have had a considerable effect in impressing upon labourers that their claims can be put forward and if reasonable can be granted without recourse to a strike.

Wages and Employment.

On estates, wages vary very considerably according to the season, the nature of the work, the capacity of the workers, etc. During the intercrop daily paid men earn from 50 cents to R.1. daily—though the work may not be continuous—and during the crop season rates are very much higher and earnings vary from 80 cents to Rs.1.80 a day—or even more.

Labourers employed on monthly agreement earn from Rs.15 to Rs.20 a month and are entitled to free housing and medical treatment.

Skilled workmen earn from Rs.1.50 to Rs.4 a day.

There is employment for all manual workers during most of the year but the supply and demand for labour are so nearly balanced that anything in the nature of a drought or a cyclone, which reduces the amount of work available on estates, almost immediately causes unemployment.

Economic and Social.

The Commission appointed to enquire into the unrest among labour on sugar estates in 1937 recommended that a 10 per cent. increase in wages should be given and although the continued low price of sugar has caused embarrassment to many companies this recommendation has on the whole been carrried out.

Whether a further increase in wages is feasible or reasonable is under investigation but the fact remains that the earnings of agricultural labourers in Mauritius compare favourably with those of similar labourers in India.

Although there is considerable scope for improvement in the economic and social conditions of labourers in Mauritius it would not be correct to say that distress and hardship are widespread—in fact a large number of labourers own land on which they reside and keep cattle or grow vegetables.

There are cinemas in all large villages which show Indian and other films and these are very well patronized. The race meetings which are held from May to October are also attended by large numbers of labourers—in fact the vivid and picturesque colouring of the clothes worn by their womenfolk is a well known feature of these meetings.

Football has many devotees and, although the game is not organized among labourers, it is common to find a football ground near a village or an estate camp—it is clearly popular and any important match is attended by many spectators.

With regard to more serious matters such as his status in the community and his civil rights the labourer, whether Creole or Indian, is on the whole, sophisticated. He is no longer content to be told that certain things are so—he wishes to know why they are so and how they affect him.

This attitude of mind is encouraging because it shows that the reasoning and intellectual powers of the labouring classes are developing and with proper guidance will enable them to take an increasingly important part in the life of the Colony.

Statistics.

It has not been possible as yet to prepare reliable statistics regarding the number of labourers in employment, rates of wages, etc., though steps are now being taken, under the new Labour Ordinance, to obtain the necessary information.

It may be said however that approximately 11,000 labourers live on estates, and work on monthly agreement, and 70,000 work as day labourers—the majority of these are Indians.

The Ordinances dealing with labour matters, which were enacted during the year, are as follows:—

(*a*) Ordinance No. 7 of 1938 introduces for the first time in this Colony legislation intended to promote and further the formation of employers' and employees' associations with a view to settling industrial disputes and other matters affecting the relations between employers and employees and the relation of employers and employees *inter se*.

(*b*) Ordinance No. 47 of 1938 brings the law on labour up to date and provides for a Labour Code in line with modern requirements, whilst doing away with former legislation on the matter which had become antiquated.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labourers under monthly verbal contracts receive in cash Rs.10 per month, together with rations, lodgings, medical assistance. On estates, they have considerable facilities for and are encouraged in, rearing chickens, goats, milch cows. This small farming forms the most important source of supply in eggs, chickens and milk, through the medium of hawkers who act as intermediaries between the producers and the consumers.

In 1938, male labourers received during the slack season R.0.50-0.75 per day, females, R.0.30-0.40. When work was abundant, the daily rate of pay rose to Rs.1.25 or Rs.1.50 for males and R.0.50 to R.0.75 for females and "chocras". On the average for the year, the daily wages amounted to about R.0.70 for males and R.0.40 for females.

Remuneration for piecework being naturally very variable, oscillated between the same limits.

	Per acre. *Rs.*
Clearing land	20–40
Digging cane holes	18–20
Manuring	15
Weeding	8–10
Cutting canes (20 tons/acre)	12–16

The wages of artisans varied between Rs.1 and 2 per day. Those artisans paid by the month received Rs.30 to Rs.90 according to the nature of work.

The supply of domestic servants is generally abundant. Butlers, cooks, gardeners and other servants receive between Rs.10 and Rs.35 per month, with quarters generally.

Chauffeurs get on the average Rs.35 per month.

As regards salaries, conditions in 1938 have shown no appreciable change. The following indicate in broad outlines the ruling rates:—

	Rs. per annum.
Managers of sugar estates and senior Government officials	8,000–13,000
Government, bank and commercial clerks (higher grade)	4,000–7,000
Clerks and employees on sugar estates...	1,500–3,000
Junior clerks and employees	720–1,500

The demand for employment, coming from the educated classes, is at present out of proportion with the offer and the number of young men of education and promise who find themselves without work or have to content themselves with drudgery, is very large.

The cost of living in 1938 was practically the same as the year previous. Rice, the staple food of the population was indexed at 65 (100 in 1914). Other grains were about 80. Flour remained steady at 121. Oils and fats decreased from 64 to 61. Clothing oscillated between 110 and 111.

The quarterly weighted index for the total cost of living (28 items) in 1938 was as follows:—(100 being the index for 1914).

First quarter	99·2
Second quarter	96·8
Third quarter	97·6
Fourth quarter	99·0

The mean for the year was 98·1 as compared with 97·8 in 1937.

As regards the labouring classes, the following table indicates the purchasing power of wages in terms of rice since 1927:—

Year.	*Average daily wages of male labourer.*	*Average price of fair quality rice per lb.*	*Purchasing power of wages expressed in lb. of rice.*
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*lb.*
1927	1·25	0·13	9½
1928	1·25	0·10	12½
1929	1·00	0·10	10
1930	0·80	0·09	9
1931	0·75	0·08	9
1932	0·45	0·05½	8
1933	0·45	0·06	7½
1934	0·45	0·06	7½
1935	0·55	0·07	8
1936	0·55	0·06	9
1937	0·65	0·06	11
1938	0·70	0·06	12

The official index numbers do not take into consideration the improved standard of living since 1914; many items which did not exist then or were then considered as exceptional, have now becomes necessities of life. Consequently, the cost of living is generally higher than the official index would lead one to suppose.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

In the first half of the last century, it was enacted by an Order in Council that all the citizens in Mauritius could open schools for the purpose of providing education for " children of school-going age ". The position was revised shortly after 1850 and a " Council of Education " became responsible for the educational policy in the Colony. The head of the Schools Department was a Superintendent or Chief Inspector. There were then primary schools which were under the direct control of Government and Church schools which received grants-in-aid out of public funds but were under the control of Managers appointed by the owners of these institutions. In 1899, an Ordinance enacted by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council was passed to make better provision for education.

In 1932, in accordance with the recommendations of Commissioners appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to enquire into the finances of the Colony, the Training College, the Technical School and the Trade School, which were branches of the Schools Department, were closed down in order to reduce the expenditure on education. With the same aim in view a policy of centralizing schools was also adopted.

The Education Ordinance was again revised in September, 1934, to introduce certain changes which it had been advisable to make in connection with the duties and powers of the Managers of aided primary schools. The regulations for the management of Government and aided primary schools as well as aided secondary schools which were embodied in the Education Code and which heretofore had been made by the Schools Committee were henceforth made by the Governor in Executive Council and the new law provided for the establishment of a Royal College Department and Schools Department.

Primary.—Though attendance at elementary schools is not compulsory, education is provided free for all the children of the Colony and by comparing numbers in attendance at official and private schools with the number of children of school-going age, it can be inferred that if education was made compulsory in Mauritius there would be no substantial increase in attendance. Every section of the population takes full advantage of the educational facilities and parents heartily co-operate with teachers to educate their children.

The following table shows the number of primary schools, the number of pupils on roll, and the staff of teachers during the year 1937-8.

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Government ...	51	400	15,345	11,115
Aided	75	682	24,607	17,453
Total ...	126	1,082	39,952	28,568

State-aided schools are under the control of individual Managers and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Pupils must be at least five years old and must have been successfully vaccinated in order to be allowed admission at a primary school; when they are under five they undergo a preliminary training before being admitted to the lowest form.

In addition to English, French and arithmetic, regular instruction is given to all pupils in hygiene, physical drill, Nature study or elementary biology and principles of agriculture and gardening. History and geography are optional subjects taught in the higher standards for the benefit of candidates wishing to sit for scholarship examinations. Religious instruction is given to every pupil by a minister of his religion, unless there is a written objection from the pupil's responsible party. The local vernacular which is a corrupted form of French, and even Indian dialects may be used as mediums of instruction in the elementary and middle forms of primary schools. In the higher classes the teaching is conducted in English, but the use of French and " vernaculars " is allowed whenever this is found to be necessary.

There are six primary school standards or classes, viz.:—

Standard I with pupils on an average from 5 to 6 years of age.
Standard II with pupils on an average from 6 to 7 years of age.
Standard III with pupils on an average from 7 to 8 years of age.
Standard IV with pupils on an average from 8 to 10 years of age.
Standard V with pupils on an average from 9 to 11 years of age.
Standard VI with pupils on an average from 10 to 12 years of age.

There are no fixed age limits for the different standards but no pupil may be entered on the attendance registers who is under five years of age, and no pupil may be retained on the registers after the annual examination which follows his or her fourteenth birthday, exception being made for pupils following the scholarship classes.

A regular annual examination in every primary school of the Colony is held for the pupils of Standards V and VI. The lower classes are examined by way of inspection. Experience has shown that the quality of the work put in, now that examinations have been restricted to the higher classes is of a higher standard than it used to be. Much, however, is left to be done in this line. A guide or " scheme of work " was recently introduced for the teaching in the lower classes and the results obtained seem to prove its general utility. The advantage gained by the primary schools through the methods of teaching thus introduced is positively proved by the work presented by the candidates at official examinations.

So far as primary education is concerned there is no difference between the provisions made for boys and girls. In the academic subjects of the curricula for the various forms, pupils of both sexes follow the same courses and while boys do gardening work, the girls follow needlework classes.

Apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicraft but these are not, however, popular. The reasons for such unpopularity is often ascribed to the local aversion for manual work of any kind. Though it must be admitted that it has become traditional in Mauritius to regard office work as more " respectable " than manual work, it cannot be denied that artisans experience great difficulty in finding employment locally.

To allay the prejudice against manual work and to develop a class of well educated artisans, it is proposed to introduce manual training in primary schools under the form of practical agriculture, woodwork and metal work. It is hoped that it will thus be possible to eradicate the current heresy that manual work is synonymous with illiteracy.

Scholarships and exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools are awarded every year, through competitive examinations, to the best pupils attending primary schools. It is interesting to note that the majority of primary school scholars and exhibitioners take a real interest in their secondary school course.

There are gardens attached to primary schools in rural areas and they are cultivated by the elder pupils. These gardens are regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation.

Secondary.—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz.:—(1) Secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (2) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by Government.

(1) *Secondary Aided Schools.*—Government grants to aided secondary schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as in the case of primary schools, with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

The following table shows the number of institutions, the number of pupils on roll and in average attendance, and the staff of teachers during the year 1937-8.

Schools.	*No. of Institutions.*	*No. of Teachers.*	*No. of Pupils on roll.*	*No. of Pupils in average attendance.*
Aided	9	135	1,630	1,491

These institutions are classified into three grades and provide not only for elementary education such as is given in the primary schools, but also for education of such standard as may lead to the Cambridge School Certificate. They are attended by those pupils who fail to obtain admission at the Royal College or the Port Louis school.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale.

There is no difference in the elementary departments of secondary schools between courses for boys and girls but in the higher forms, girls are decidedly at a disadvantage and such subjects as science, mathematics and classics are not taught on a large scale in girls' schools. Girls cannot reach a standard higher than that of the First School Certificate whereas boys can qualify for external degrees of the London University. The question of the higher education of girls is at present receiving the careful consideration of the Education Authorities.

Aided secondary schools are visited periodically by the Superintendent of Schools who also examines the lower forms with a view to assessing the quality of the teaching and the general efficiency of these institutions. Examinations conferring proficiency certificates are held in the middle and higher forms and are conducted by local examiners selected from the teaching staff of the Royal College and the inspecting staff of the schools department.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools extend, as a general rule, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., no provision being made for evening classes.

(2) *Royal College.*—The Royal College is a Government school for the secondary and higher education of boys up to a standard equivalent to that of the Higher Certificate examinations conducted by Oxford and Cambridge Universities. It comprises two schools under the management of the Rector, the

Royal College proper in Curepipe and the Royal College School in Port Louis, where pupils who live in or near the capital are educated on the same lines as in Curepipe up to School Certificate standard. At the Royal College the teaching staff consists of the Rector, 12 Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, 11 Assistant Masters appointed locally, and a Physical Training and Gymnastic Instructor (who also attends once weekly at the school to take classes); and at the Royal College School, of the Headmaster, two Masters and 12 Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped libraries and chemical, physical, and biological laboratories; almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies. The subjects taught are English, French, mathematics, Latin, Greek, chemistry, physics, biology, geography and history; and classes are held during school hours in physical training and gymnastics. The pupils are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from 10 to 20 years. The fees are from Rs.96 to Rs. 192 per annum, and pupils may travel at quarter rate on the Government railways. Admission to the Royal College is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning one of the 20 annual primary schools scholarships and exhibitions or one of the two secondary schools scholarships awarded annually, or one of the eight class scholarships and exhibitions, which are competed for annually, and are open to all boys in the Colony. Six further class scholarships and exhibitions are competed for annually by Royal College pupils. These 36 scholarships and exhibitions are tenable at the Royal College, and entitle the holders to free tuition, free railway travelling to and from College, and also to the purchase at half price of books and school requisites, for a period of three years except the primary schools awards, which carry these privileges for the whole period of the pupil's college education.

Two scholarships, one on the Classical and one on the Modern Side, of the present value of £1,100 each (with second-class passage to and from England), tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom are also awarded annually. Besides the winners of these two scholarships a few boys whose parents can afford it go to England or France to study for a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practise. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects. Specialization begins at the Entrance class, and the division into modern and classical sides becomes complete in the Upper Middle class. At the school, pupils may undergo commercial training in place of classics or science.

Classes are held between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on five days weekly. In addition to the ordinary classes there are Saturday extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public examinations are helped in their studies. The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1938, was 313, and of the school 190 (the number of College pupils on the roll in May 1938, after the publication of the School Certificate results, was 306). 100 pupils sat in December, 1937, for the Cambridge School Certificate, of whom 70 obtained certificates. In May, 1938, the number of pupils who had passed this examination and proceeded to the highest class of the College was 38.

Besides the regular physical training classes encouragement is given to rugby and association football, hockey, boxing and gymnastics and athletics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high. As the pupils are all day-boys it is difficult to obtain much support for other social activities, but a school magazine is published once yearly.

Welfare Institutions.

There are six Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy; there are also one orphanage for boys and one for girls under the management of the Church of England and a " home " for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland.

The " Austin Home," established by Mr. A. J. Wilson in memory of his son, provides accommodation and subsistence for aged gentlefolk.

A Mohammedan orphanage was established in Port Louis in 1932 for the maintenance and education of orphans of that creed. Until 1937 this orphanage was entirely maintained by voluntary contributions but it now receives from public funds a capitation fee for the maintenance of each orphan.

There are no public Poor Law Institutions in the Colony but grants for the maintenance of aged and infirm paupers and orphans are paid to private institutions from public funds—these grants amounted to Rs.99,747·77 for the year 1938, for 1,382 persons.

Outdoor relief is granted to destitute persons whose relatives are unable to support them.

Such relief is usually of a temporary nature only and is regarded as " part relief "—persons requiring " full relief " generally being sent to an Institution.

The number of persons so relieved in 1938 was 14,103 and the amount disbursed to them was Rs.496,617.14.

The administration of relief—both indoor and outdoor is carried out by the Poor Law Commissioner who is assisted by a staff of Medical Officers, Poor Law Officers and Visiting Officers.

All institutions in which paupers or orphans are maintained are frequently inspected by officers of the Department and all applications for relief are investigated and scrutinized by the Department before relief is given.

The Poor Law Commissioner also has under his immediate control a clothing department and a laundry where 50 and 24 women respectively are employed. These women, although not all of them are entirely destitute, are all in need of assistance to maintain themselves and their families.

The clothing department supplies uniforms for a number of Government Departments and also clothing for hospital patients while the laundry does all the washing for four Government hospitals.

Relief is also provided for paupers by the Poor Law Department by way of free housing accommodation at Bell Village—a model village on the outskirts of Port Louis where there are cottages of various types and sizes available at a low rental for the poorer classes.

There are also a number of private organizations devoted to the relief of poverty—among which may be mentioned the Société de St. Vincent de Paul, the Societe Francaise d'Assistance, the Semaine de Bonté and the Oeuvre des Malades Pauvres.

The Child Welfare Committee and the Oeuvre Pasteur de la Goutte de Lait, which receive Government grants, deal especially with expectant and nursing mothers and their babies.

The amount of devoted work performed by private persons in the cause of charity and the large amounts of money subscribed for charity are a notable feature of the social life of the Colony.

Recreation, Music, Art and Drama.

Association football is the most popular form of sport. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and rugby football are played mostly by the wealthier classes.

The Mauritius Turf Club, founded by Colonel Edward A. Draper in 1812, and the Mauritius Jockey Club, which first ran horses in 1906, hold race meetings from May to October, at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis and at Floreal in the district of Plaines Wilhems. The large gathering of Indians in bright attire at the former place on the last Saturday of August, called " The Race Saturday," is a striking sight.

Regattas are held by the yacht clubs of Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay generally on Empire Day, in August, and in December.

Fly and devon fishing, in rivers, for a sort of perch *Kuhlia rupestris* (Lacp.) called " Carpe " locally; and trailing for sail and sword fish and other big game, out at sea, with heavier rods, afford excellent sport especially from October to January.

The " chasse," or the shooting of deer, is a favourite sport in Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September, and strangers of mark visiting the island at this period are always treated to chasses, some of which, like those given to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh by Messrs. Currie and Pitot in 1871, to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York (later King George the Fifth) by Mr. Leopold Antelme in 1901 and to His Royal Highness the Duke of York (now King George the Sixth) by Mr. Georges Antelme in 1927, are the occasion of splendid fetes.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies, the latter known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy Scouts movement is becoming very popular and there are several companies of Scouts and Cubs. A Sea Scout company was organized in 1937.

There is not much chance of encouragement for any of the Arts. Music is fostered principally by the parish churches and amateur singers, who sometimes give concerts. A theatrical company from France came over this year and gave performances in the towns of Port Louis and Rose Hill, which were greatly appreciated by the public. The company was assisted financially by the Municipality of Port Louis and the Township Boards. There are also cinema halls in every important village where excellent films are exhibited soon after their appearance in Europe and in India. Censorship is exercised.

The Christian Brothers also provide musical training, and apart from the police band which consists of a bandmaster and 30 bandsmen, a band styled the " Alliance Musicale " and comprising about 25 units was established in 1933. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town, to which companies come from China when conditions are prosperous. The African Creoles are very fond of music and can pick up a tune in an amazingly short time.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent now that the post of drawing master has been abolished at the Royal College.

Scientific Societies, Museums and Libraries.

The Mauritius Institute was founded in 1900 (Ordinance No. 37 of 1900) to promote the intellectual advancement of the Colony and installed in a specially erected building whose first stone was laid by Sir George Bowen on 23rd November, 1880. The Natural History Collections bequeathed to the Colony by Julien Desjardins were transferred to it in 1885. The Institute is governed by a Board of Directors appointed annually by His Excellency the Governor. It is open to the public daily, except on Sundays and Public Holidays, admission free, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is visited during the course of the year by more than 25,000 people.

The Institute now comprises—

(*a*) *The Museum Desjardins.*—For the purpose of technical organization the Museum is divided into a number of sections each of which is in charge of a voluntary helper or a member of the Board of Directors. Since the report of the Museum Reorganization Committee was published in 1928, the collections have been radically overhauled and every effort is being made to assemble as complete material as possible of the fauna and flora of the Mascarene Islands and the surrounding ocean. In arranging the exhibits their economic and ecological significance is being carefully considered.

There are now on view advanced collections of Crustacea, Echinodermata and Mollusca both land and marines. The sea-urchins have recently been enriched by the acquisition of two superb specimens of the beautiful and rare *Chondrocidaris gigantea*. The Mascarene shells include some recently described new species. A collection of tropical fish, many painted in their natural colours is also of noteworthy interest.

In the avian section there are two skeletons of the Dodo and one of the Solitaire as well as a complete collection of the endemic birds of Mauritius including the extinct Dutch pigeon Alectroenas nitidissima.

A special show case is devoted to the fauna of Round Island, a small islet 12 miles north of Mauritius.

The Botanical Section includes a herbarium of over 2,000 sheets of specimens from Mauritius, Rodrigues and some of the small Indian Ocean islands. Native and exotic timber specimens are displayed and a special section is devoted to diseases and pests of economic plants.

The Museum publishes a Bulletin from time to time containing original papers on the fauna and flora of the Mascarenes. Copies may be obtained on application to the Librarian and Curator.

(*b*) *An Art Gallery* of some 60 paintings of which 47 were offered by Mr. Edgar de Rochecouste in 1921-2.

(*c*) *A Public Library* of about 22,000 volumes classified according to the Dewey system, which is increasing at an annual rate of about 300 books. The Library also receives over 50 English and French periodicals. Books may be borrowed from the library under certain conditions.

(*d*) *The following incorporated scientific bodies.*—The Société Medicale de l'Ile Maurice including among its members most of the medical practitioners of the Colony; the Société des Chimistes, a technical body of the local sugar industry, reckoning over 120 members and studying questions of technique concerning the growing of sugar-cane and the manufacture of cane sugar; the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences. This Society, which was founded in 1829 under the title of Société d'Histoire Naturelle, was honoured with a Royal Charter in 1846. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history, science and art. Lectures are delivered by its members, now numbering 60, and also by visitors of mark under its auspices. Its valuable library has been transferred to the Institute.

Apart from the public Art Gallery at the Institute, many pictures from celebrated painters are privately owned, together with artistic collections of old china, glassware, lace, bronze and marble figures from the best artists including the Mauritian sculptor Prosper d'Epinay.

There is also a museum of naval relics, located in a building on the premises of Government House. Most of the exhibits were reclaimed by the Honourable H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E., from the wreck of battleships sunk in Mahebourg Harbour in 1810.

On the initiative of Lady Clifford the creation of a historical museum has been started in the top floor of Government House, Port Louis.

This museum already contains certain pieces of furniture having belonged to Mahe de Labourdonnais. The Mauritius Institute has loaned all their objects of a historical or educational character to that museum and members of the public have made gifts and loans of interesting articles.

Artistic photography and fine millinery and embroidery are also produced.

In addition to the Institute Library there are, at Port Louis, the Municipal, the Police and the Union Catholique libraries; and at Curepipe, the Carnegie Library.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads and Road Transport.

The Colony is well served with 500 miles of main roads maintained by Government and 192 miles of branch roads maintained by District Boards up to the 30th June, 1938. As from 1st July, 1938, Branch Road Boards have been abolished and the powers hitherto vested in, and the duties hitherto assigned to such Boards, have been transferred to Government. All roads are metalled and 177 miles of the main roads have been covered with bitumen.

The excellent roads of Mauritius are a source of constant surprise and admiration to all visitors to the Colony who are in a position to draw comparisons between Mauritius and other outlying parts of the Empire. All the principal roads are tarred and systematic steps are taken every year by the local authorities to have them widened, graded and improved by reducing dangerous curves so that the numerous places of beauty and interest in the Colony can be reached quickly and in comfort by tourists and visitors.

At the end of the year there were 3,063 motor vehicles in use classified as follows:—

Private cars	1,833
Lorries	442
Taxi-cars	422
Motor cycles	230
Omnibuses	136

Importation of motor vehicles during the year totalled 389 of which 303 were British-made.

Taxi-cars for hire in Port Louis and in the principal towns are of modern type and are kept in excellent condition as regards safety and cleanliness and the charges for hire are reasonable—viz., R.0.20 cs. per mile for short distances and special rates for long journeys or by the day. There is an excellent bus service on the 15 miles of main roads from Port Louis to Curepipe and many subsidiary lines of less importance which radiate from the main system to every town and village in the Colony. The fares vary from 2 to 5 cents per mile and buses on the principal routes are well patronized and maintained in good condition for the safety and comfort of passengers. The retail price of petrol is normally Rs.12.00 per eight-gallon case, which is equivalent to about 2s. 2d. per gallon.

The annual tax payable in respect of motor vehicles is Rs.4 per horse-power in respect of motor cycles and Rs.5 per horse-power in respect of other classes of vehicles. Lorries pay an additional tax of Rs.40 per ton gross weight and motor buses a licence duty varying from Rs.200 to Rs.500 per annum in accordance with seating capacity. Motor lorries plying for hire pay a further licence of Rs.200 per annum. Motor cars pay a licence duty of Rs.60 per annum and the cost of a driving licence Rs.5 a year.

Cars of visitors are subject to a tax at the rate of Rs.10 a month.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways comprise 110¾ miles of main line with 45¾ miles of sidings and station lay-outs of British standard 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge, and 13⅓ miles of 75-cm. gauge track known as the Bois Cheri Light Railway. The exceptional heavy gradients much of it being 1 in 26, makes the operation of the railways exceptional, restricting speed of the passenger service and limiting the weight of goods trains.

From the terminal at Port Louis, the most important section, the Midland Line rises to 1,800 ft. on its way to Mahebourg, the old port on the south-east coast of the island, 35¼ miles distant. A branch, 11 miles long, from this line, Rose Belle serves the fishing hamlet of Souillac. The North Line, 33½ miles long, is fairly level and runs from Port Louis passing through the coastal districts to the little village of Grand River South-East, on the east coast. The Moka Branch from Rose Hill, on the Midland Line, 950 ft. above sea-level to Montagne Blanche, is 14¾ miles long and rises on this length to 1,500 ft. Tamarin and the Black River district are served by a branch off the Midland Line at Richelieu, 12¼ miles long, for goods traffic only. The Montagne Longue branch from Terre Rouge on the North Line, is 3½ miles long, and in common with the Black River Line has no heavy gradients.

Particulars of revenue and expenditure for six years are given below:—

REVENUE.

	1932–33.	1933–34.	1934–35.	1935–36.	1936–37.	1937–38.	Increase or Decrease of 1937–38 over 1936–37.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers	419,181	524,818	510,728	466,307	433,446	416,479	– 16,967
Parcels	62,163	65,776	61,019	63,515	59,954	59,235	– 719
General goods	1,174,046	1,255,729	928,850	1,288,120	1,375,022	1,424,877	+ 49,855
Road traffic (railway lorries) ...	—	—	—	400	7,548	57,012	+ 49,464
Miscellaneous	57,412	53,809	52,102	52,886	50,556	59,017	+ 8,461
Net revenue	63,554	36,738	43,809	47,204	32,187	23,215	– 8,972
Total	1,776,356	1,936,870	1,596,508	1,918,432	1,958,713	2,039,835	+ 81,122
Goods tonnage	362,642	385,541	279,646	422,811	454,622	487,292	—

EXPENDITURE.

	1932–33.	1933–34.	1934–35.	1935–36.	1936–37.	1937–38.	Increase or Decrease of 1937–38 over 1936–37.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Working expenditure including renewals.	1,516,631	1,606,730	1,808,354	1,877,048	1,896,216	1,943,636	+ 47,420
Net revenue expenditure ...	260,955	190,308	233,015	218,917	207,415	180,686	– 26,729
Total	1,777,586	1,797,038	2,041,369	2,095,965	2,103,631	2,124,322	+ 20,691
Capital expenditure	304	—	26	11,604	25,711	—	– 25,711
	1,777,890	1,797,038	2,041,395	2,107,569	2,129,342	2,124,322	– 5,020

All previous records were again broken in 1937 by the sugar crop reaching a total of 313,820 tons.

Of the total quantity of sugar produced in the Colony, 12,630 tons or 4·02 per cent. were carried otherwise than by the Railway Department, i.e., by road or by sea.

The increased size and speed of buses as well as the use of communal taxis has again reduced the normal passenger revenue of the railway by about Rs.3,000.

The fleet of railway lorries consists of four 6-ton lorries and trailers and three 3-ton lorries.

The revenue accruing to the railway from the transport of sugar and general goods to and from the factories and for the transport of Government goods by railway lorries amounted to Rs.57,012 and represents 34,534 tons of traffic, and the transport of all Government goods is now undertaken by the Railway Department either by road or by rail. After paying all expenses including 12½ per cent. on the earnings of the contractor, the gross profit from railway lorries (excluding depreciation) amounted to Rs.26,032 as compared with Rs.7,548 earned during the previous year.

Tramways.

In 1938, 1,755 kilometres of rail were in use on estates. There were 216 locomotives and about 8,000 trucks. Farm tractors numbered 68 and motor-lorries 117.

Posts, Telegraphs and Wireless.

The usual facilities in regard to correspondence, parcels and remittances are available. Of the 57 offices and postal agencies, 53 are telegraph offices. With the exception of a few outposts in outlying localities, the offices are on the railway lines. The outlying offices and localities far from the railway stations are served by postmen on bicycles or by motor mail contractors.

There is a regular monthly service from Rodrigues, the largest dependency of Mauritius, by K.P.M. steamers; the service to Rodrigues is every two months. A connection is made every four months with the other dependencies; communications by other sailings are also available.

Mails to and from Europe are carried regularly twice every month by the French Messageries Maritimes steamers and twice in transit through South Africa by the Dutch K.P.M. steamers. Irregular sailings by Clan Line and Union-Castle Line steamers are also available.

Mails between Mauritius and India, Ceylon, the Far East and Australia are despatched by the Messageries Maritimes steamers via Dar-es-Salaam or Aden, or by K.P.M. and other steamers via Durban.

The average time taken for the transmission of first-class mail by air transport and ship to and from England by the M.M. steamers via Dar-es-Salaam is 18 days, and by the Dutch K.P.M. steamers via South Africa 15 days. It takes about 32 days by the former route and between 26 and 50 days by the latter route for second-class mail. First-class mail is also despatched to Europe via Tananarive and Batavia by air transport and ship. The average time of transmission is 18 and 25 days respectively.

Parcel mails from Great Britain are only received by the Cape route when direct despatch is not available. The other route is via Marseilles. Parcels for continental Europe are as a rule received by the latter route.

Remittances are made by both money-orders and postal-orders. There are direct exchanges with the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Ceylon, Aden, Seychelles, Hong Kong and Australia. Remittances to almost any place may be made through these offices. Remittances by telegraph may be made to the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Seychelles and Rodrigues.

The telephone service is owned and managed by Government. The headquarters are in Port Louis with which the rural districts are connected.

Overseas telecommunications is maintained by Cable and Wireless, Limited, whose local station is in Port Louis. Cablegrams to and from rural telegraph offices are transmitted on the Government telegraph lines. Rodrigues is communicated to Mauritius by that Company's cable system.

Communication with the outside world is also provided by a Government wireless station. The station can transmit within a limited range to ships. There is also a service with Reunion Island. The station has a 24-hour watch. Radio-telegrams are received for transmission at every telegraph office. During the cyclonic season, from the 11th November to the 15th May, the station transmits to all ships and stations within its range at 08.45 G.M.T. daily a detailed weather report including observations made at Reunion, Rodrigues, Seychelles and Durban. A fairly large number of weather reports are intercepted from ships at sea and sent to the Director of the Observatory. When a cyclone is in the vicinity, the Government tug *Maurice* stationed in the harbour, is manned and inland weather reports are transmitted by wireless telegraphy from the tug to all vessels in the port for the guidance of their masters. The wireless apparatus in the *Maurice* also acts as a stand-by in the event of an accident to the aerial system of the Rose Belle wireless station. The Rose Belle station is provided with a modern valve set in conformity with the Telecommunication Convention. The range of the station is 1,000 miles.

Harbour.

Port Louis, the capital of the Colony, lies on the north-west coast of the island, and provides a safe and convenient harbour for ocean-going ships. Grand Port Harbour on the south coast is very much larger and deeper, though more exposed to the prevalent winds, and, being nearly 40 miles distant from the capital, is seldom used. A wide break in the ring of coral reefs that surround the island, caused by the meeting of several rivers and streams, the Lataniers, La Paix, Le Pouce and Creole, has created a natural entrance channel into Port Louis Harbour. The harbour has now been dredged so as to provide deep-water accommodation for 9 ships lying at open berths and drawing from 24 to 31 feet of water. The widening and deepening by dredging of the berths and channel by Government plant are in continuous progress. The harbour is flanked on the north by Fort George, a military post, and on the south by Fort William, now abandoned. The mountain peaks in the range behind Port Louis are named: Pouce, 2,661 feet, and Pieter Both, 2,690 feet, and are guiding beacons to ships by day. The lighthouses at Flat Island, the Colony's quarantine station, 6 miles north of Mauritius, and Caves Point, 5 miles south of Port Louis on the cliff's edge, and the gas buoy to the north of the outer entrance, direct ships approaching the port by night. A tide gauge has been in operation for 6 years. The maximum rise of tide at ordinary springs is 3 feet. At ordinary neap tides, the rise is seldom more than 2 or 3 inches.

In 1930 the Government completed the contruction of a deep-water quay, 500 feet long with 32 feet of water alongside. This quay is capable of discharging about 100,000 tons of cargo per annum, though actually only about 45,000 tons, chiefly petroleum products, railway coal and sleepers, etc., are discharged by Government annually at the quay.

Another quay, 300 feet long with 15 feet of water alongside but capable of providing 25 feet, has also been built for the landing of cattle. So far this quay has been used mainly by small vessels discharging guano and salt fish from the dependencies.

The Government of Mauritius is the Harbour Authority. The Government has from time to time sold or leased to two lighterage companies various areas of land bordering the harbour. These two companies, the New Mauritius Dock Co. Ltd. and the Albion Dock Co. Ltd., own between them 93 lighters of a total capacity of 2,645 tons, with the necessary tugs, and *inter alia* undertake the storage and lighterage of all the sugar produced in the island. The British India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. also own 31 lighters and two tugs. This company mainly handles grain from the east, though the discharge of general cargo is fairly evenly shared between the British India Company and the two other dock companies.

A Government granary, capable of storing 300,000 bags of rice, was put into commission in 1932 mainly as a protection against the spread of plague in the Colony. The average monthly stock in the granary is about 200,000 bags, but a total of 414,000 bags have been stored under exceptional circumstances in 1937.

Shipping.

There are three lines of passenger steamers connecting Mauritius with the United Kingdom.

The Messageries Maritimes steamers perform the service between Marseilles and Mauritius and give a three weekly service for four months of the year and a fortnightly service for the remainder of the year; the time taken over the voyage varies between four and five weeks, on an average, including a stay of about a week in Reunion either on the outward or the homeward voyage.

Vessels of the K.P.M. (Dutch Line) leave Mauritius monthly for Durban and Cape Ports, connecting with the Union-Castle Line steamers from the United Kingdom, and once a month for Mombasa.

Vessels also leave Durban once a month direct for Mauritius, a 4-day voyage.

In 1938, the K.P.M. Company introduced three new motor vessels on the Java-Mauritius-Africa Line; these vessels have a gross tonnage of about 16,000 and a speed of about $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots. The voyage to England via K.P.M. and Union-Castle Lines averages 30 days. The same voyage by the Messageries Maritimes Line via Marseilles takes from 31 to 36 days. The outward voyage via the Cape can be done in 3 weeks.

Vessels of the Bullard King Company call occasionally, from the United Kingdom, via Durban and Cape ports with tourists.

During the sugar shipping season, from October to March, cheap passages to the United Kingdom may be secured, the voyage averaging 40 days.

Fares from Mauritius to England vary as follows:—

(i) per Messageries Maritimes steamers from £32 to £76;

(ii) per Union Castle Intermediate steamers from £40 to £92;

(iii) per K.P.M., with transhipment at Durban from £44 and £48 to £92 and £117;

(iv) per Bullard King & Coy's steamers from £53 to £59, according to classes and types of steamers.

Government servants are allowed a rebate of from 15 to 20 per cent. by all the above companies.

A free ticket from Marseilles to London is granted by the Messageries Maritimes Company to Government servants.

The number of vessels and total tonnage entering and leaving the port during the past three years were as follows:—

Inwards.

		1936.		*1937.*		*1938.*	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	206	641,150	205	633,927	207	782,650
	Sailing ships	1	88	1	88	—	—
	Totals	207	641,238	206	634,015	207	782,650
Coasting	Steamers ...	11	9,045	13	5,811	7	5,529
	Sailing ships	14	1,465	9	423	15	959
	Totals	25	10,510	22	6,234	22	6,488

Outwards.

		1936.		*1937.*		*1938.*	
		No.	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
Foreign	Steamers ...	205	645,315	203	635,170	210	788,622
	Sailing ships	1	88	1	88	—	—
	Totals	206	645,403	204	635,258	210	788,622
Coasting	Steamers ...	12	9,924	13	5,187	7	5,529
	Sailing ships	14	1,465	9	423	15	967
	Totals	26	11,389	22	5,610	22	6,496

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Government buildings, the sewerage of Port Louis, roads and bridges, the survey of Crown lands, water supplies and State irrigation.

Buildings.—Some of these, such as a time-ball tower in the Port Office, are of historical interest, dating from the time of the French Governor, Mahé de Labourdonnais, in 1740. The Government House in Port Louis was then in project and was built between 1740 and 1767. Apart from the addition of a second storey, it now stands exactly as it was originally constructed. It contains the Governor's offices, in which are to be found the table on which the instrument of capitulation of the island was signed in 1810, a throne room, a council room, the council offices, a library and quarters for the Governor and officials. The former and present residences of the Governors at "Mon Plaisir," Pamplemousses, and "Le Reduit," Moka, respectively, also date back to the French occupation. The value of the Government buildings is approximately 15 million rupees.

There are in the island one mental and eight general hospitals and one leper asylum. An old hospital, the Grand River North-West Hospital, built in 1769 for seamen, is used when necessary as a quarantine station for plague.

Damage is caused to a considerable extent by white ants which are particularly active in the low-lying districts of the island. An experiment is now being made in Mauritius by Mr. D. Ignace, the Representative of Messrs. Thomas Cowan & Co. of Hong Kong, with a view to testing the efficacy of his treatment for the destruction of white ants.

Severe cyclones, which happily are not frequent, are responsible for a good deal of damage to water works, roads and buildings.

Sewerage Works of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922, the scheme was revised by Messrs. Mansergh & Sons, and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connections, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

Bridges.—There exists 335 bridges on main and branch roads, the longest having spans of 150 feet. Only a few timber bridges remain and these are being gradually replaced by ferro-concrete structures for double line of traffic and heavy loading.

Water Works.—The water supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from Grand River North-West at a distance of about 4 miles from the town at a level of 250 feet. This supply was handed over by the Municipality to the Public Works Department in 1922. The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated. The capacity of the main leading to the filters is 5 million gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of two million gallons. The revenue is approximately Rs.60,000 and goes to the Municipality of Port Louis.

The water supply of Plaine Wilhems and of part of Moka and Black River districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare-aux-Vacoas, at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons. The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands. The whole of this water supply is filtered through sand filters at "La Marie," about two miles below the reservoir, whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being effected by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being 5½ million gallons. The population served by this supply is approximately 120,000 and the average daily consumption 4½ million gallons.

The Mare-aux-Vacoas water supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. The supply is limited to 900,000 gallons per day. The water is chlorinated after filtration and the revenue is approximately Rs.156,000.

The water supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from 27 different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest. The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000 and is comprised mostly of the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains. The revenue is approximately Rs.90,000 and goes to the District Boards.

Irrigation Works.—There are no works in progress at present. The works executed up to now provide for the irrigation of about 2,500 acres under sugar cane and tobacco plantations in the district of Black River from La Ferme Reservoir, and for a few hundred acres in the district of Pamplemousses from La Nicoliere Reservoir.

The question of developing the irrigation scheme in Mauritius has been revived and Mr. Hutchinson of the Irrigation Department of India visited the island in June with a view to exploring the possibilities of successful irrigation. The question is, however, still under consideration.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The Supreme Court, which sits in the Capital, Port Louis, consists of one Chief Judge and two Puisne Judges. It has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters and also as a Court of Admiralty; it also decides appeals from the Supreme Court of Seychelles, the Judge in Bankruptcy, the Master and Registrar and the inferior Courts of Mauritius.

In 1938, the Supreme Court dealt with 249 civil cases out of 301 entered before or during the year 1938. In the course of the same year, twenty-six persons were brought before this Court and tried on criminal charges, eighteen of them being convicted to various terms of imprisonment, two sentenced to death, one released upon furnishing recognisance and one remanded to the next Session.

Criminal cases are tried by a Judge and a Jury. Civil actions in which the sum involved does not exceed Rs.3,000, matrimonial causes and bankruptcy matters are heard by one

Judge. Civil actions in respect of claims over Rs.3,000 are heard by two Judges. Where, however, the magnitude of the interests at stake or the importance of the questions of fact or law involved make it desirable, a case is heard by three Judges. The full Bench of three Judges sit on a *proprio motu* decision of the Judges or on motion by interested parties.

There is a Bankruptcy Division presided over by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court or by the Master and Registrar sitting as Judge in Bankruptcy.

In 1938, trade conditions remained unfavourable and 67 cases were entered before the Bankruptcy Court. Of these 59 were actually heard. Twelve traders were adjudged bankrupt and two absconded.

The total liabilities appearing on the balance sheets produced in Court amounted to Rs.138,813.23.

After enquiry in open Court, six traders who had committed offences against the Bankruptcy Laws, were, on the recommendation of the Accountant in Bankruptcy, referred by the presiding Judge to the Procureur General for prosecution. They were either fined or sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from seven days to six months.

It is noticeable that very nearly 50 per cent. of the traders against whom bankruptcy proceedings were entered are Chinese. The apparent reason for this is that the retail trade of the island is almost entirely in the hands of that section of the population.

Magistrates.—There is a Magistrates Court in each of the nine Districts, the Courts in Port Louis and in Plaines Wilhems each sitting in two divisions.

The jurisdiction of a Magistrate sitting alone is limited:—

(*a*) in civil cases, to actions wherein the sum of money or matters in dispute, do not exceed Rs.1,000 in value;

(*b*) in criminal matters, to offences for whose punishment the penal and other laws of the Colony provide imprisonment with or without hard labour not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding Rs.1,000 (except in particular cases expressly provided for in any special enactment).

Certain offences not triable by a Magistrate sitting alone, and at the request of the Procureur-General whenever he may consider it expedient to do so, nearly all offences triable by a Magistrate sitting alone, are tried by a Bench of three Magistrates, whose jurisdiction is made to extend to the imposition of penal servitude not exceeding 3 years and a fine not exceeding Rs.3,000.

An appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court within the limits stated above, both in fact and law, the several modes of reviewing the decisions being the same as in English Law. There is no system similar to the French Assistance Judiciaire but facilities are given to very poor litigants, both before the Supreme and the Inferior Courts to obtain leave to sue in *forma pauperis*. In supreme Court cases, counsel are ever ready to accept a pauper brief at the request of the Chief Judge, while in Assize cases counsel is always appointed without fee, for undefended prisoners. The Dependencies are visited periodically by a Magistrate.

The Dependency of Rodrigues is administered by a Magistrate who has the same jurisdiction in Rodrigues as a District Magistrate in Mauritius and whose duties are to a considerable extent administrative.

The Magistrates heard 6,524 civil cases and 11,107 ordinary criminal cases and petty offences, and held:—

181 coroners' inquests;

33 preliminary enquiries into crimes and serious misdemeanours.

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force has an establishment of 21 Gazetted Officers and 596 other ranks most of whom are locally-born, and there are at present only 9 members classified as " Home-born " serving in the Force. The majority of the latter are officers posted from England or transferred from other Colonial forces.

As a result of increased responsibility in the maintenance of internal order the Department has been reorganized and is gradually being converted into a semi-military Force. A large proportion of the strength has been trained in the use of arms and there is also a Gas section, in consequence of which a certain number of the personnel have been taught the use of gas masks. In addition to the above and owing to the introduction of local wireless communication a unit of selected details has been trained in the use of wireless telegraphy. Each District is now provided with sections of armed police which may be mobilized at short notice.

The establishment is divided into Headquarters Staff, District Police, Criminal Investigation Branch, Revenue and Motor Vehicle Control Branch, Fisheries Branch, Clerical Branch, Training School, Harbour Police, Railway Police, Rodrigues Police and the Police Band.

Police Headquarters is situated at Line Barracks, Port Louis, and the District Police are distributed in 55 Stations of varying size and importance.

Crime.—The total number of offences of all kinds reported to the police during the year 1938 was 24,351 which shows an increase on the figure for 1937 which was 23,052 and also on the average of 23,751 for the past three years.

More than half of these offences are of a minor character or refer to statutory and revenue contraventions.

The more serious offences are classified as follows:—

Offences against the person	11,120 in 1938
Offences against the person	10,348 in 1937
Offences against property	3,510 in 1938
Offences against property	3,713 in 1937

The number of persons prosecuted in connexion with these 24,351 offences was 8,969 of whom 7,949 were convicted, 514 otherwise disposed of and 506 pending trial at the end of the year.

Corresponding figures for the previous year were 8,310 persons prosecuted, 7,354 convicted, 591 otherwise disposed of and 365 pending trial at the end of the year.

Prisons.

Organisation.—The Mauritius Prisons Department has an establishment of four Gazetted Officers, who are appointed from England, and 108 other ranks recruited locally.

The Department is placed under the charge of the Commissioner of Police, who holds the appointment of Superintendent of Prisons, and is responsible for the management and control of the two penal institutions of the Colony, Port Louis and Beau Bassin Prisons.

Port Louis Prison provides separate cell accommodation for 154 male prisoners, association cells for 40 women in a special block, and contains the offices of the Department and quarters for two chief officers and two matrons.

Every male convicted prisoner is sent to this prison and on admission is classified as (1) adult felon, (2) adult hard labour, (3) adult misdemeanant, (4) juvenile felon or hard labour, (5) juvenile misdemeanant, or (6) special.

Felons are prisoners sentenced to penal servitude and misdemeanants are those sentenced to imprisonment without hard labour or for failing to pay fines.

Groups (1), (2) and (4) are subdivided into first offenders and recidivists.

Prisoners classified in group (1) and recidivists of group (2) sentenced to 14 days and upwards normally serve their sentence at Beau Bassin which contains 756 separate cells for males only while all misdemeanants, special class and well-conducted adults and juvenile first offenders are accommodated at Port Louis.

Debtors, women and waiting trial prisoners are also given separate accommodation at Port Louis Prison.

Labour.—Hard labour consists of quarrying, stone breaking, cutting firewood, and agricultural work outside the prisons, and tailoring, boot, sail and mattress making, tin-smith work and black-smithing, carpentry and cabinet-making, blind, mat and basket making and baking inside the prison's workshop.

Population.—The number of persons admitted to Port Louis Prison during the year was 2,824, which is 265 more than in the previous year and 41 less than the average for the preceding five years. Of the 2,824 persons, 1,568 were convicted, of whom 1,050 were sentenced to imprisonment for one month or less. The convicted prisoners comprised 1,514 men and 54 women. The daily average population was 412·29 compared with 419·82 in 1937 and the number of persons in prison on 31st December, 1938, was 401 compared with 363 in 1937 and 379 in 1936.

Of the 401 persons in prison 389 were serving sentences and comprised 381 men and 8 women.

The number of persons who served sentences of imprisonment in lieu of paying fines was 672 including 19 women.

Health.—There were nine deaths in hospital as compared with ten in the preceding year.

Industrial School.

The Barkly Industrial School for boys is an institution for the training of juvenile offenders and vagrants, boys living in criminal surroundings, and those who cannot be controlled at home or in orphanages, etc.

The school is under the supervision of the Commissioner of Police and has a resident staff of one chief officer and 12 instructors and assistants. It occupies a group of buildings formerly used as a hospital and comprises large grounds which are fully cultivated as gardens, etc.

The number of boys in the school at the end of the year was 143, compared with 118 in 1937 and 91 in 1936. The number of admissions was 55 and discharges 30 for the whole year.

A visiting committee, established by law, looks after the general welfare of the inmates of the school and exercises a beneficent influence on the institution. The committee concerns itself especially with the difficult question of the employment of adult boys on discharge and the problem of after care of juveniles.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Fifty-two Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor between the 3rd of May and 31st of December, 1938.

The majority of these Ordinances deals with matters of domestic concern amongst which the following are of considerable importance.

Law and Order.—(i) Ordinance No. 8 of 1938 amends Ordinance No. 22 of 1874 and gives to the Governor additional powers of supervision over the affairs of Friendly Societies.

(ii) Ordinance No. 12 of 1938 amends the Conditional Release of Offenders Ordinance 1934 (No. 22) by excluding from the operation of the latter cases of violence against police officers, so as to ensure a greater measure of respect for members of the local police.

(iii) Ordinance No. 13 of 1938 gives the Governor in Council power to decree the total or partial cessation of lighting in the Colony on occasions of emergency or public danger.

(iv) Ordinance No. 17 of 1938 provides for the protection of the public against the inconvenience of unnecessary noise.

(v) Ordinance No. 21 of 1938 provides for measures of control over indiscriminate collection of funds where the persons collecting are remunerated for their services.

(vi) Ordinance No. 24 of 1938 amends the Gun Ordinance, 1922, and provides for the stricter control over firearms in the Colony, and more especially over their use in times of strikes or industrial unrest.

(vii) Ordinance No. 36 of 1938 provides for measures of protection for the members of the legal profession from disloyal and unfair competition of touts and other unauthorised persons.

(viii) Ordinance No. 43 of 1938 gives the Medical and Health Department a complete control over the stocks of dangerous drugs existing in the Colony.

Finance.—(1) Ordinance No. 14 of 1938 provides for the raising of an additional loan of Rs.1,600,000 for the purpose of further financing the Mauritius Agricultural Bank.

(2) Ordinance No. 42 of 1938 amends the Port Louis Sewerage Ordinance, 1905, and substitutes a definite rate of annual contribution to be paid by owners of premises in the town of Port Louis for the rate which heretofore varied in each particular case.

All these Ordinances have in view the social and economic progress of the population of this Colony and attempt to work to that end.

A list of the more important Ordinances is given in Appendix I to the report.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are three private banks in the Colony, viz.:—

(*a*) The Mauritius Commercial Bank,
(*b*) The Mercantile Bank of India, and
(*c*) Barclays' Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838, and has a paid-up capital of Rs.2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs.200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1938, was Rs.7,194,660. The Mercantile Bank of India Limited took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius Limited on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid-up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1938, amounted to Rs.2,765,084. Barclays' Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid-up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local Bank on 31st December, 1938, amounted to Rs.2,881,722. This Bank which is affiliated with Barclays' Bank, Limited was founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836) and the National Bank of South Africa Limited. A branch of the last named bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays' Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1938 was 40,551 compared with 39,382 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs.6,815,120 as against Rs.6,554,221. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank, which was established under Ordinance No. 1 of 1936, commenced operations on the 5th January, 1937. The capital of the Bank (Rs.10,000,000) is provided by Government which raised loans at 3½ per cent. per annum for this purpose. Of these loans, the sum of Rs.3,600,000 was raised locally, the balance being raised in London. On the 15th April, 1938, a sum of Rs.20,000 as drawn bonds was refunded out of the Rs.3,600,000 raised locally. The annual interest and sinking fund charges amounting in all to Rs.368,740 for 1938-39 are met by the Bank.

The Bank, which is neither a Government institution nor a Government department, has been introduced to lower interest charges on agricultural advances which, it is considered, impose an undue burden on the sugar industry and unduly depress wages. Subject to the provisions of the ordinance which constituted it a corporate body, the Bank has completed discretion as to the conduct of its business and the nature and account of its loans. The consent of the Managing Director, who is appointed by the Secretary of State, is necessary to the grant of any loan. A measure of Government control, however, exists and is exercised by the following methods:—

(*a*) The members of the Board of Directors, other than the Managing Director, are appointed by the Governor, who determines the amount of their fees.

(*b*) While the Board appoints its own servants the amount of their salary is subject to the approval of the Governor.

(*c*) The funds of the Board are derived exclusively from the Government.

(*d*) The methods of account, the books to be maintained and the nature of the auditor's certificates are prescribed by the Government and the form of balance sheet is prescribed by the Treasurer.

Currency.

In March, 1934, an Ordinance was enacted to make provision with respect to the currency notes of the Colony and to place the issue of such currency notes upon a permanent basis. By this Ordinance the Currency Commissioners are required to issue, on demand, currency notes in exchange for sterling lodged with the Crown Agents in London, and to pay on demand sterling in London in exchange for currency notes lodged with them. The rate at which these exchanges are to be made is fixed at one rupee for one shilling and sixpence sterling, and the minimum transaction is £5,000 or its equivalent.

The Currency Commissioners are entitled to charge commission not exceeding one and three quarters per centum in addition to the cost of any telegram sent in connection with any transfer.

The effect has been to substitute for the Indian rupee a new paper rupee based on sterling and to limit official exchange fluctuations to a maximum spread of three and half per centum.

Local commercial practice is such that the effective rate of exchange is the rate at which the banks sell sterling and not the mean between the buying and selling rates. At the time the Ordinance was introduced the rate was Rs.13·70 for £1 by telegraphic transfer, or approximately one rupeee for one shilling and five pence halfpenny sterling. With a view to avoiding any sudden fluctuation in the actual rate of exchange, the commission which the Currency Commissioners were authorised to charge when selling sterling was fixed, in the first instance, at the maximum of one and three quarters per cent.

making the effective official exchange rate Rs.13·57 for £1 in respect of amounts of £5,000 or over. The rate charged by the Currency Commissioners when buying sterling has been fixed at one quarter per cent.

The value of the currency is maintained by a Note Security Fund held by the Crown Agents and invested in Government Securities (other than those of the Colony). Profits arising from currency transactions and income from the investments of the Note Security Fund must be applied in the first instance to maintaining the Security Fund at the value equal to the face value of currency notes in circulation. If the value of the Note Security Fund reaches one hundred and ten per cent. of the face value of notes in circulation, all profits then accrue to the revenue of the Colony.

Subsidiary silver coinage was introduced under an Ordinance passed in September, 1934. The coins are not normally redeemable but the seignorage on the issue is invested.

The value of the currency notes of five rupees, ten rupees and one thousand rupees, in circulation on 31st December, 1938, was Rs.8,547,485 and that of Mauritius silver coins on the same date Rs.2,255,000.

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius rupee, equivalent to 1s. 6d. sterling, divided into 100 cents.

The coinage in circulation is the silver rupee, half rupee, quarter rupee and 20-cent and 10-cent pieces and the bronze 5-cent, 2-cent and 1-cent pieces.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use; the following special French and local measures are, however, still to be found:—

Measures of Length and Area:—

1 ligne Francaise = 2·258 millimetres or 0·088 inch.
12 lignes = 1 French inch.
12 French inches = 1 French foot.
1 French foot = 1·06 English feet.
1 lieu = 2½ English miles (approx.).
1 gaulette = 10 French feet.
1 arpent = 40,000 square French feet or 1·04 acres.
1 toise = 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches.

Measures of Capacity:—

1 barrique = 50 gallons (cane juice, etc.).
1 tiercon = 190 to 192 litres (molasses).
1 velte = 7·45 litres (coconut oil).
1 bouteille = 800 cubic centimetres (liquid).
1 chopine = ½ bouteille.
1 corde = 80 French cubic feet or 96·82 English cubic feet (firewood).

Measures of Weight:—

1 gamelle = 5·250 kilogrammes.
1 livre = 500 grammes or 1·10 English pounds.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the year ended 30th June, 1938, amounted to Rs.17,259,849 and was Rs.1,699,249 more than the Estimates and Rs.1,336,065 more than that of the previous year.

The expenditure for the same period was Rs.26,640,996. Of this total, a sum of Rs.10,790,721 represents special expenditure in the form of stocks and advances written off, not foreseen at the time of the preparation of the Estimates. A sum of Rs.15,850,275 remains for comparison: this amount was Rs.265,010 more than the original estimate and Rs.343,843 more than the expenditure 1936-37.

The revenue during the financial year 1937-38 exceeded the normal expenditure by Rs.1,409,574. Taking into consideration the amount of stocks and advances written off as special expenditure and the depreciation on investments (Rs.28,599) the General Revenue balance was Rs.8,853,809.

Of the expenditure for 1937-38, Rs.5,012,242 was spent on "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.21,628,754 on "Other Charges". The corresponding figures for 1936-37 were Rs.4,956,561 for "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.10,549,870 for "Other Charges".

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	*Revenue.* *Rs.*	*Expenditure.* *Rs.*
1933-34	16,567,110	14,634,339
1934-35	(*a*)22,964,244	20,650,954
1935-36	15,350.986	14,694,644
1936-37	15,923,784	15,506,431
1937-38	17,259,849	(*b*)26,640,996

(*a*) including Rs. 7,382,380—Special Revenue.
(*b*) including Rs. 10,790,721—Special Expenditure.

The Colonial Government pays a military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its total revenue (inclusive only of net excess of revenue on railways, irrigation, Mare aux Vacoas and other water works but exclusive of land sales and special export duty on sugar) towards the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesy's Government in the United Kingdom.

The amount paid as contribution in 1937-38 was £57,818 of which £48,000 was in respect of the estimated cost of the garrison for 1937-38 and £9,818 arrears of contribution of 1936-37.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 30th June, 1938, was £3,093,768. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £1,481,028 compared with £1,857,369 on 30th June, 1937.

Statement of Balances as at 30th June, 1938.

Liabilities.	*Rs.*	*Assets.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*
Other Governments ...	41,784	Advances ...		497,318
Remittances	11,343	Cash Balances,etc.	9,895,234	
Deposits	726,396	Deduct :		
General Revenue : Balance	8,853,809	Balances of special funds, etc., in hands of Treasurer	759,220	
				9,136,014
	Rs. 9,633,332			Rs. 9,633,332

Description of the Main Heads of Taxation and their Yield.

The main heads of taxation with their yield for the current year as compared with the preceding year are the following:—

	1936–37. *Rs.*	*1937–38.* *Rs.*
Customs—Import duties	4,631,890	5,132,278
„ —Export duties	1,129,011	1,183,376
Excise duty on rum	1,728,393	2,023,520
Licence duties	1,078,375	1,094,929
Tobacco excise	1,306,227	1,340,729
Taxes on vehicles and animals ...	446,089	414,126
Poll tax	551,165	562,087

Customs Duties.

The revenue from Customs duties for the year 1938 was Rs.4,848,716 for imports and Rs.1,143,427 for exports. The figures for the previous years were:—

	Import duty. *Rs.*	*Export duty.* *Rs.*
1937	4,925,422	1,223,156
1936	4,640,335	556,369

Customs Tariff (Summarised).

The following shows the rates of duty on the principal imports and exports on the 31st December, 1938:—

IMPORTS.

Rice	R. 0·63c per 100 kilos.	Wines in casks up to 14°.	Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per hectolitre.
Dholl	R. 1·— per 100 kilos.	Wines in cases up to 14° (still).	R. 0·30c per litre.
Flour	R. 1·— per 100 kilos.	Spirits (proof) ...	Rs. 5·— per litre.
Fertilizers ...	R. 0·10c to 1·— per 100 kilos.	Tobacco, manufactured.	Rs. 15·— per kilo.
Petroleum oil ...	Rs. 5·25 per hectol.	Tobacco, cigarettes.	Rs. 16·— per kilo.
Petroleum motor spirit	Rs. 14·—per hectol	Vegetable oil, other than olive.	Rs. 5·—to Rs. 10·— per 100 kilos.
Soap, common...	Rs. 2· to 3·— per 100 kilos.	Most manufactured articles.	5 to 50 per cent. *ad valorem*, with an average of about 15 per cent.

EXPORTS.

*Sugar ... R. 0·46c per 100 kilos.

†Aloe fibre ... Rs. 3·— per 1,000 kilos.

NOTE.—*The duty on sugar is only for special purposes as under :—
R. 0·03 per 100 kilos for destruction of *Phytalus Smithi* ;
R. 0·03 ,, ,, ,, ,, the College of Agriculture ;
R. 0·04 ,, ,, ,, ,, the Sugar Industry Reserve Fund ;
R. 0·36 ,, ,, ,, in refund of loans.

† The duty on aloe fibre is in refund of loan to the hemp industry.

Principal Preferential Rates on Imports.

	Duty.	
Articles.	*Preferential.*	*General.*
Motor vehicles of all kinds, excluding tyres and tubes.	6 per cent. *ad valorem.*	36 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Tyres and tubes of all kinds.	5 ,, ,,	33⅓ ,, ,,
Silk manufactures, including artificial silk.	15 ,, ,, Or 50 cents per kilo. whichever is the higher.	50 ,, ,, Or R.1·50 per kilog, whichever is the higher.
Indigo	R.1 per kilo.	Rs. 2·50 per kilo.
Cement	R. 0·30 per 100 kilos.	R. 1 per 100 kilo.
Cinema films	Free.	R. 0·04 per metre.
Machinery, Industrial	Free.	5 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Cotton manufactures	5 per cent. *ad valorem.*	25 per cent. *ad valorem,* and also specific rates in certain cases.
Hardware	5 ,, ,,	30 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Coal	10 cents per 100 kilos.	50 cents per 100 kilos.

The margin of preference on the following goods has been conventionalized:—

Asphaltum and bitumen ;

Disinfectants, when proved to the satisfaction of the Collector of Customs to have been imported for use as such ;

Electrical :—

(*a*) Stoves and household appliances ;

(*b*) Wireless apparatus and parts and electrical goods of every other description except bulbs ;

Fruits :—

(*a*) Apples and Pears ;

(*b*) Other dried fruits ;

(*c*) Bottled, tinned, canned or otherwise preserved, except dried or crystallized, but including pulp and candied peel (not in sugar) ;

Fungicides, when proved to the satisfaction of the Collector of Customs to have been imported for use as such ;

Blacking and Polish ;

Clay, pipe and fire (unprepared).

Rosin ;

Insecticides, when proved to the satisfaction of the Collector of Customs to have been imported for use as such.

Typewriters ;

Amophos ;

Bacon and Hams (not tinned) ;

Accessories, component parts and spare parts other than tyres and tubes for motor vehicles and chassis (except tractors, motor cycles and side-cars) ;

Mineral Oils :—

(*a*) Oils, lubricating ;

(*b*) Lubricating greases ;

Rubber, other manufactures of ;

Tobacco :—

Unmanufactured, not butted or stemmed ;

Varnish ;

Motor tractors, spare parts and accessories thereof, when proved to the satisfaction of the Collector of Customs to have been imported exclusively for agricultural purposes.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

The duty on rum for home consumption for potable use is Rs.2·75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents. per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

A new distillery opened in September, 1938. Four distilleries worked periodically during the year. These four distilleries form annexes to sugar-mills; in all cases spirits are distilled from molasses and the strength of the spirits produced varies from 30 to 42 degrees Cartier. The bulk is produced at 39 degrees Cartier or below and reduced to 23 degrees Cartier, and is consumed locally as potable rum, though it has the general characteristics of rectified spirits. The remainder of the spirits produced is either exported or used after having been denatured and compounded for lighting, heating and power purposes; for the preparation of medicinal tinctures, drugs, perfumed spirits or for the manufacture of vinegar. The attempts made to find an export market for the locally-prepared alcohol were more successful during the year under review.

The quantity exported was 96,923 litres for the period July, 1937 to June, 1938, as compared with 60,556 litres for the previous period.

The duty on spirits to be denatured for heating and lighting purposes is 4 cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier, and an additional duty of 4 cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier.

Owing to the quantity of electrical power available and the organization for its distribution, comparatively little use is made of locally produced alcohol for lighting purposes. Where electrical power is not available kerosene is a more popular illuminant. The poorest classes, who require little illumination since they mostly retire at nightfall, use coconut oil or similar local product. There is little call for artificial heating of houses and most cooking is done by locally-produced wood charcoal on charcoal stoves. Locally-produced alcohol might be used largely for cooking purposes were a satisfactory type of stove available.

The import duty on denatured or methylated alcohol is R.0·30 cents per litre.

The quantity of spirits denatured for heating and lighting purposes during the last two years is shown below:—

1936–37.		*1937–38.*	
Litres.	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*	*Litres.*	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*
180,400	7,406·16c.	199,600	8,227·48c.

The duty on spirits to be denatured for use as motor fuel is 4 cents per litre at any degree Cartier. Attempts on a commercial scale to utilize locally-produced alcohol in various forms for power purposes have been in progress for about twenty years but have had comparatively little success. The increasing use of heavy fuel oil and compression ignition type engines make any further development in the use of the local alcohol improbable in present circumstances. Protection is given to the local industry by imposing a customs duty on imported motor spirits of Rs.14 per hectolitre.

The following statement shows the quantity of spirits denatured during the last two years for use as industrial alcohol:—

1936–37.		*1937–38.*	
Litres.	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*	*Litres.*	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*
330,600	13,224	417,200	16,688

The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of " alcoholats " in accordance with the formulae laid down in the British Pharmacopoeia or the French Codex or any other medicinal tinctures and drugs as notified in Gazette is Rs.2.50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier, with an additional duty of ten cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

With the exception of certain traditional local preparations locally-produced tinctures, etc., have provided little competition with the imported articles which pay an import duty at 12·5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following table shows the quantity of alcohol used during the last two years for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs:—

1936–37.		*1937–38.*	
Quantity.	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*	*Quantity.*	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*
Litres 5,487	1,295·10c.	Litres 4,831	1,823·30c.

The duty on alcohol delivered for the manufacture of perfumed spirits is fifty cents per litre. The position as regards locally-produced perfumed spirits is similar to that of medicinal tinctures. One or two preparations are in popular local demand but in spite of the fairly high protective import duty of 30 per cent. *ad valorem* there is little demand for other products. Attempts have been made to find an export market but without success.

The quantity of spirits issued for the manufacture of perfumed spirits during the last two years was as follows:—

1936–37.		*1937–38.*	
Litres.	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*	*Litres.*	*Excise duty.* *Rs.*
4,901	2,450·50c.	5,415	2,707·50c.

The duty on vinegar is Rs.1.70 per hectolitre on vinegar not exceeding 8 degrees of strength by Salleron's acidimeter, and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8 degrees.

Locally produced vinegar is manufactured exclusively by the low oxidation of alcohol. The production for the past years were:—

	Litres.	*Amount of duty.* *Rs.*
July, 1936 to June, 1937	23,800	411·45c.
„ 1937 „ 1938	18,938	321·96c.

The corresponding import duty on vinegar is Rs.5 per hectolitre full rate and Rs.2 preferential rate.

The number of litres of spirits distilled in 1937-38 (July to June) was 1,337,923 litres, as compared with 1,092,298 litres in 1936-37.

The duty on wine and other liquor (excepting rum and compounded rum) manufactured in the Colony, which contain more than 4 degrees of alcohol according to Gay-Lussac's alcoholometer is as follows:—

> On all such liquor exceeding 14 degrees a duty at the same rate and on the same scale as the Customs duty on wine payable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance. Practically no grapes are grown in Mauritius and the local wine is produced from imported dried fruits principally raisins, sugar and other ingredients. Attempts to produce wine from local fruits such as pineapples, guavas, bananas, etc., have not been successful. The wine industry has not prospered to the extent anticipated two years ago on accocunt of too keen competition, resulting in inferior quality, and this together with the increased spending power of the populace has resulted in a transfer of popular taste from wine to rum. Efforts continue to be made in order to improve the quality and in studying the many variations in fermentation largely caused by difference in temperature, atmospheric humidity, etc.

Local Wine Issued:—

	Litres.
July, 1936 to June, 1937	536,876
" 1937 " 1938	355,647

An excise duty of Rs.4 per kilo is charged on leaf tobacco used for the manufacture of tobacco for local consumption.

The quantity of tobacco manufactured in the year 1938 was 385,020·2 kilos as compared with 372,752·4 kilos in 1937.

The excise duty collected on tobacco during the last two financial years is given below:—

1936–37. *Rs.*	*1937–38.* *Rs.*
1,306,226·80	1,340,729·40

The Tobacco Warehouse, controlled by the Tobacco Board, has proved a most useful institution for the grading and general control of tobacco grown in the Colony. It ensures for the planters a ready market for their crop, and for the manufacturers an assured source of supply at controlled prices, of graded leaf. In spite of its efforts, the Board has so far been unable to gain an export trade.

The Stamp Laws were amended and consolidated by the passing on 23rd November, 1926, of Ordinance No. 22 of 1926.

This Ordinance was put into force on 23rd July, 1927, by Proclamation No. 32 of 1927.

Stamp duties are of three kinds:—

(1) A duty in proportion to the size of the paper used;
(2) A fixed duty; and
(3) An *ad-valorem* duty.

The Stamp Ordinance No. 22 of 1926 was amended in 1932 by the passing of Ordinance No. 26 of 1932 to provide for the increase from 4 to 10 cents of the stamp duty on cheques drawn on banks in and out of the Colony, and on receipts as defined in Article 2 (5) of the Stamp (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1926.

House Tax

In June, 1937, an Ordinance was passed to abolish as from the 1st of January, 1938, the House Tax of 1 per centum per annum levied on all buildings assessed over Rs.1,000.

The tax was abolished in order to afford some measure of relief from direct taxation to a number of tax-payers.

The amount of tax collected from the 1st of July to the 31st of December, 1937, was Rs.60,540.

When the law imposing the tax ceased to operate on the 1st of January, 1938, arrears amounting to Rs.153,157 were still outstanding and it was accordingly decided to retain the organization necessary for the collection of these arrears of which a sum of Rs.76,462 was written off as irrecoverable in May, 1938. The amount collected from the 1st of January to the 30th of June, 1938, amounted to Rs.21,454.

Graduated Poll Tax

A Graduated Poll Tax was first imposed in 1934-35 on all incomes derived from or received in the Colony, a non-resident being therefore chargeable to the extent that his income is derived from the Colony. It is an unusual form of tax but similar in many respects to an income tax. The amount payable is graduated according to income on a scale set out in the Ordinance. It rises from Rs.50 on incomes exceeding Rs.5,000 but not exceeding Rs.7,000 to Rs.5,150 on incomes exceeding Rs.60,000 but not exceeding Rs.70,000. The tax on all incomes exceeding Rs.70,000 is Rs.6,150.

The law regarding the computation of the assessable income is largely based on English Income Tax Law but no allowance is made for wear and tear nor can losses be carried forward and set off against profits of succeeding years. The basis of assessment is the income arising in the year preceding the year of assessment.

Companies are treated as persons and pay tax on the same scale as is applicable to individuals but dividends paid are allowed as an expense in computing the taxable profits of local companies.

No additional allowance is made for wife, children or for similar personal allowances.

One-half of the tax must be tendered with a return from the tax-payer on the 31st of October of each year, the other half being payable six months later. The Commissioner may refuse the return and raise an assessment subject to a right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

Yield.—The amount collected in each year of assessment since the inception of the tax has been as follows:—

	Rs.
1934–35	540,565
1935–36	429,502
1936–37	551,165
1937–38	562,087

For 1938-39 the estimated yield is Rs.665,000.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS

The Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, accompanied by Mr. J. W. D. Locker, M.B.E., of the Colonial Office, paid a short visit to Mauritius from the 28th January to the 8th February, 1938.

The island was also visited on the 23rd February by the Fourth Division of Cruisers of the French Navy composed of the *Georges Leygues, Montcalm* and *La Gloire* under the command of Rear-Admiral R. E. Godefroy. The division left the Colony on the 26th February.

The Colony participated in a " Foire-Exposition " held in the neighbouring French island of Reunion during the months of September and October, 1938. Four delegates under the leadership of the Chief Judge were appointed by the Governor to represent the Colony at the exhibition.

During the year, His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the award of the King's Police Medal for gallantry to Mr. E. E. Cesar, Superintendent of Police, and Mr. A. E. Stafford, Assistant Superintendent of Police. The insignia of Member of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire was also conferred upon Mrs. Maingard de la Ville-es-Offrans.

APPENDIX I

Fifty-two Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1938, the more important of which are tabulated as follows:—

No.	Title.
7.	To make provision for the formation, registration and regulation of employers' and employees' Industrial Associations; for the prevention and settlement of disputes between such associations; for the remuneration and regulation of conditions of employment, and for the formation, registration and regulation of associations of Government employees.
8.	To amend Ordinance No. 22 of 1874.
12.	To amend the Conditional Release Offenders Ordinance, 1934.
13.	To provide for the total or partial cessation of lighting in the Colony by Regulation of the Governor in Council on occasions of emergency or public danger or by way of experiment or practice for such occasions.
14.	To empower the Colonial Government to raise a loan not exceeding the sum of Rs.1,600,000 for the purpose of financing the Mauritius Agricultural Bank.
17.	To secure the protection of the Public from the inconvenience of unnecessary noise.
19.	To provide for the protection and preservation of ancient monuments.
22.	To consolidate and amend the law regulating the importation of textiles.
24.	To amend the Gun Ordinance No. 36 of 1922.
27.	To regulate the manufacture of Medicinal Tinctures and Drugs in the Colony.
28.	To amend the Law on Fisheries.
30.	To provide for the establishment and organisation of a Department of Electricity and Telephones.
31.	To control the use of Telephones in the Colony.
33.	To consolidate the laws on Vinegar.
34.	To regulate the law as to Perfumed Spirits.
35.	To consolidate the law on Denatured Spirits.
36.	To prohibit the practice of touting and intermeddling with justice.
43.	To control and regulate the maintenance and disposal of stocks in respect of Dangerous Drugs in the Colony.
47.	To consolidate and amend the law on Labour.
49.	To amend the Pensions Ordinance, 1936.
52.	To prescribe the Tariff under which duties are now levied on goods imported into or exported from the Colony.

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MAURITIUS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	Publishers or Agents for Sale.	Price.
T'Eylandt Mauritius: Esquisses Historiques, 1698–1710.*	Out of print.	—
L'Ile de France. Esquisses Historiques, 1715–1833. By Albert Pitot.*	ditto	—
Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1886). By Baron d'Unienville.*	ditto	—
Le Folk-lore Mauricien (Maisonneuve, Paris, 1888).	ditto	—
Le Patois Créole Mauricien (Mauritius, 1880). By Charles Baissac.	ditto	—
Renseignements pour servir a l'histoire de l'Ile de France et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1890). By Adrien d'Epinay.	ditto	—
Mauritius Illustrated. By A. MacMillan.*	ditto	—
Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of Mauritius.*	His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.	2s. (approx.).
Financial situation of Mauritius; Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931.*	ditto	4s. 6d.
Mauritius Blue Book*	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	Rs. 6 (approx.).
A School History of Mauritius. By W. H. Ingrams.*	MacMillan & Co., London.	2s. 6d.
Report on the Anophelinae of Mauritius and on certain aspects of Malaria in the Colony. By Malcolm E. MacGregor.*	Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius.	Rs. 10.
Report on Medical and Sanitary matters in Mauritius. By Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H.*	ditto	Rs. 15.
Mauritius Almanach and Commercial Handbook. By Andre Bax.*	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd., Mauritius.	Rs. 10.
L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921). By W. Edward Hart.*	ditto	Rs. 3.
Island of Mauritius. By Raymond Philogene.*	ditto	—
Ile de France—Documents pour son Histoire Civile et Militaire. By Saint Elme le Duc.*	Government Printing Office, Mauritius.	Rs. 10.
Sea Fights and Corsairs of the Indian Ocean. By H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E.	Mauritius.	Rs. 50.

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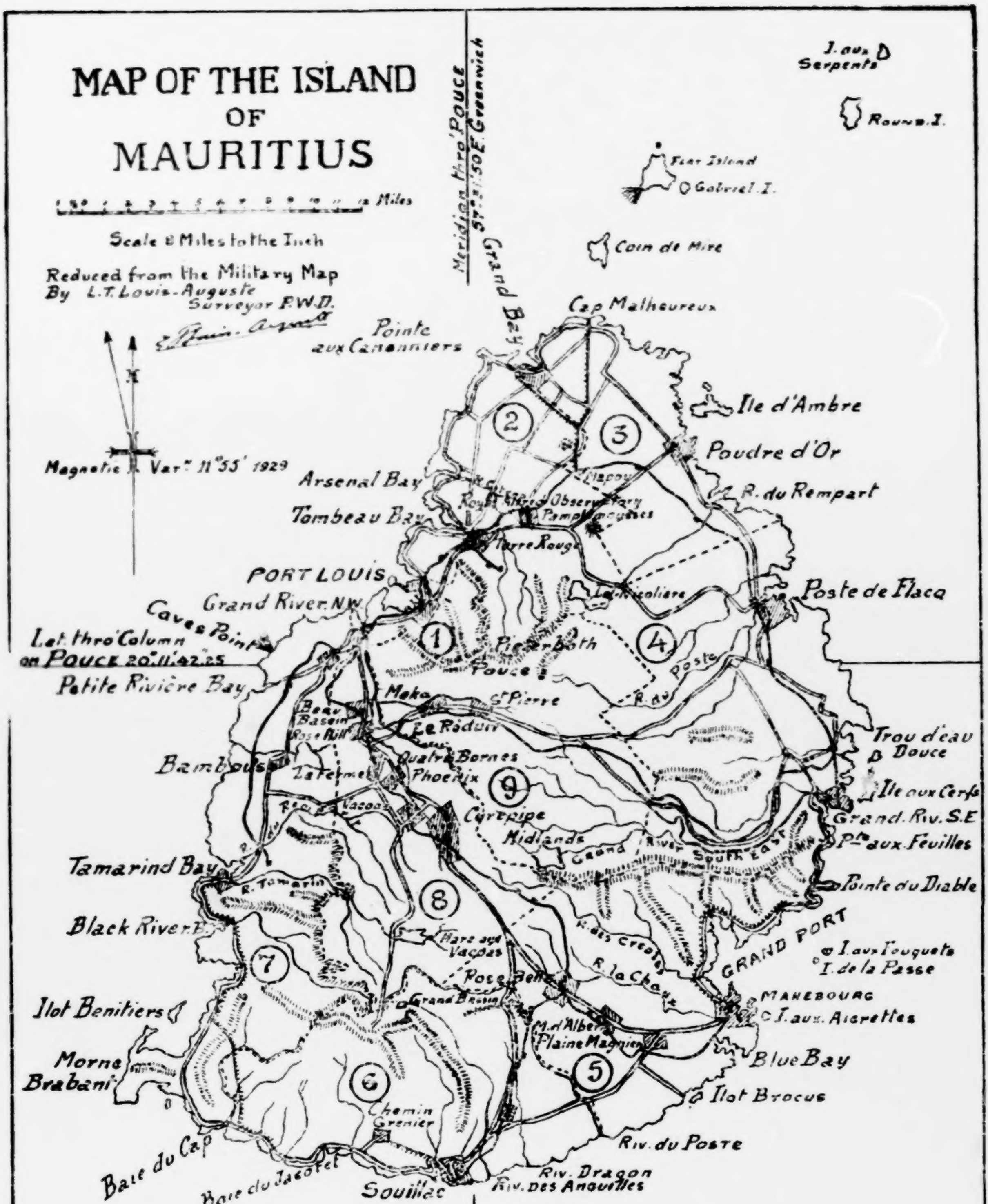
* May be consulted in the Colonial Office Library.

Title.	Publishers or Agents for Sale.	Price.
La Pluie a l'Ile Maurice, Lat. 20° 5′ 39″ S. Long. 57° 33′ 18″ E., By Marc Herchenroder.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd.	Rs. 5.
Port Louis—Deux Siecles d'Histoire, 1735–1935. By A. Toussaint.	The Auction Mart, Port Louis.	1st Edition, Rs. 25. 2nd Edition, Rs. 8.
L'Ile Maurice Guide Illustré. By C. Charoux.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd.	Rs. 1.
Report of the Commission of Enquiry into Unrest on Sugar Estates in Mauritius, 1937.	Government Printing Office, Mauritius, and Crown Agents for the Colonies.	Rs. 5.



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

Scale 8 Miles to the Inch

Reduced from the Military Map By L.T. Louis-Auguste Surveyor P.W.D.

12 Miles
Magnetic Varn 11°55' 1929
Meridian thro' POUCE 57°31'50"E Greenwich
Lat. thro' Column on POUCE 20°11'42"25
I. aux Serpents
Round I.
Flat Island
Gabriel I.
Coin de Mire
Cap Malheureux
Grand Bay
Pointe aux Canonniers
Ile d'Ambre
Poudre d'Or
R. du Rempart
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Royal Alfred Observatory
Pamplemousses
Terre Rouge
PORT LOUIS
Grand River N.W.
Caves Point
Petite Rivière Bay
Pieter Both
Pouce
Moka
St Pierre
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Le Réduit
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
La Ferme
Vacoas
Curepipe
Midlands
Bambous
Tamarind Bay
R. Tamarin
Black River B.
Ilot Benitiers
Morne Brabant
Baie du Cap
Baie du Jacotet
Souillac
Chemin Grenier
Mare aux Vacoas
Rose Belle
Grand Bassin
M. d'Albert
Plaine Magnien
R. des Creoles
R. la Chaux
Grand River South East
R. du Poste
Poste de Flacq
Trou d'eau Douce
Ile aux Cerfs
Grand Riv. S.E.
Pte aux Feuilles
Pointe du Diable
GRAND PORT
I. aux Fouquets
I. de la Passe
MAHEBOURG
I. aux Aigrettes
Blue Bay
Ilot Brocus
Riv. du Poste
Riv. Dragon
Riv. des Anguilles
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
— DISTRICTS —
1 Port Louis
2 Pamplemousses
3 Riv. du Rempart
4 Flacq
5 Grand Port
6 Savanne
7 Black River
8 P. Wilhems
9 Moka
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Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

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Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.
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Report of Commission [Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

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Report [Cmd. 5949] 7s. 6d. (7s. 11d.)

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Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.
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Report of Committee [Cmd. 3554 (1930)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

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